



# St Paul's Church, Rondebosch

## Parish Newsletter

# CARITAS

December 2017

## HOPE

There are many signs. Something is going to happen. There is also a sense of mystery. There is movement. We are all "expecting" but not knowing what lies in the future.

### **WELCOME TO THE NEW CHAPLAIN to U C T**

The Revd Isaiah Chachine is an African, born and bred, from his childhood in Mocambique to Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia and South Africa. His doctorate in Ethics, so appropriate for *academia* at this time, is from Uppsala in Sweden. He comes now from the College of the Transfiguration in Grahamstown to serve the University of Cape Town where serious unrest has taken a hard toll on student lives and where student counsellors are so busy that it is hard to get an appointment, even for an emergency.

The partnership between the chaplaincy and St Paul's is informal. The bonds of serving the same Lord, although perhaps in different ways, may prove to be stronger than any rules. The past is past. We look to the future with hope.

Fr Isaiah was welcomed at the student service on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November. He will stay, at first, in the curate's house belonging to St Saviour's church. He, his wife (Hilda) and two daughters, who are both enrolled at St George's next year, will find it hard to adjust to the constant traffic of Bowwood Road. We welcome the family, and all of us here at St Paul's will be praying for their new ministry.

**WELCOME** to three new people - Celine Bailey, Ryan Heber and Nsika Madonsela were confirmed by Bishop Gregorowski on November 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a wonderful day for everyone. Thank you, Michael Bester, for your care and earnest prayers for them. We remember our own Confirmations, renewing our own promises.

**Because the Rectory has been repaired** (this was a decision of "the diocese" without full consultation with the people of St Paul's parish some of whom are reluctant to continue paying for a large house requiring constant maintenance when townhouses in tune with the area could have been preferred. Who pays for this?) and there is now a large house, all renovated and clean, ready for a rectory and we can hope for a Rector to be appointed . . . .

watch this space[                    ]

Advent is a time of expecting, of preparation . . . like an expectant mother who has sudden spurts of energy and dashes off to spring-clean the house, give the nursery a special coat of paint, prepare a cot, a layette, and food for the freezer. Everyone, friends and family, anticipates the coming of a new baby, a new life, bringing new hope even though in the background, hardly admitted, there are tremors. Will the birth be OK? Will the baby have a full complement of fingers and toes?

Advent Sunday is rather like a liturgical Baby Shower! Although the real work has yet to come, there is great rejoicing and much speculation. We have a special

**ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**  
**SUNDAY 7 P.M.**  
**December 3**  
**COME AND SING**

A new baby brings new hope. What will he/she be like? Beautiful? like mother? Brainy, like father? Or perhaps another Einstein? What will **this** Child be like?

He is God's Son - God not just "on" earth but "in" earth, "in" flesh, incarnate - this hope goes beyond earthly life because God's plan is not confined to Earth.

There is another, a second, coming of Christ which is beyond earth and time.

We are to reconsider the revelations of Christ's time in the midst of OUR time.

The coming birth requires us to do some spiritual spring-cleaning and, just as it can be hard work getting into all those corners behind the bookcases and under the fridge, we must look into places in our own lives which we like to avoid (ugh) because they are not nice! Confession features largely at this time. Beware avoiding it.

Fr Ivan writes – “Do not take God's Incarnation in vain this Christmas. God came to save us from the consequences of our sins. The least we can do is confess them sincerely and receive God's forgiveness.”

*“The ancient people of God, the Jews, looked forward to the coming of God's Kingdom, when there would be a **new order** of justice and righteousness. The early Church saw that the Kingdom had been anticipated and experienced through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ but still prayed “Thy Kingdom come”, looking forward to a second coming and the final consummation of all things.”* Advent Carol Service preamble – St John's College

The four Sundays of this penitential season of watching and waiting provide the opportunity for sustained meditation on the themes of judgement and our ultimate destiny. We cannot consider ourselves isolated just because we live in Rondebosch and feel small. We are part of the whole. The political inferences about “Kingdom” are vital at the moment when we consider the plight of both Zimbabwe and South Africa and pray for their leaders and people. God bless Africa.

*“No event in the history of mankind has had a deeper and more lasting effect than the Nativity. It has influenced people in every walk of life . . . its impact on the creative geniuses of the world has been particularly profound. The world's greatest paintings, the world's most famous music, and masterpieces of prose have been directly inspired by it. . . . In some the story of the advent of Christ on earth has inspired deep spirituality and devotion, in others pensiveness and brooding, and in yet others gaiety and joy even though, in essence, all of them are merely retelling in their own way and in their own fashion the one eternal story of peace on earth, good will toward men, and glory to God in the highest.”*  
(Eric Posselt introducing The World's Greatest Christmas stories)

A merry travelogue . . .

## of TEMPLES, ORCHIDS and PRINCE CHARLES

Hilda and Len wanted to visit places they had never been to before and booked a cruise! (these places names are difficult to spell) Da Nang, Ho Chi Mwa City (but these are OK) Malacca, Penang and Singapore. At our first stop in Hong Kong we stayed at a four star hotel - in an awful road with dozens of glazed ducks hanging in shop windows! The only things to buy were flowers and fireworks. Our guide told us "We do not cook anything. Everything is take-away" - must be the heat and humidity. Then it was Vietnam: Da Nang had a lovely lantern market in the evening but in Ho Chin Ninh City, where 6 million people live, half of them own motorbikes. It was common to see a man and a woman and two children riding on one bike! Just imagine 3 million motorbikes! Although there are some Christian churches, everyone worships idols. The temples are beautiful buildings,

Singapore must be the cleanest city in the world but we saw no houses, only blocks of flats. We visited a botanical garden full of orchids, the beautiful national flower of Singapore, not knowing that very special visitors were there at the same time – Prince Charles and Camilla. We were quickly ushered behind some bushes but we managed to get photos and, when we got back to the ship, everyone wished they had been with us. (The Teasdale Travelogue)

\*\*\*\*\*

In the commercial world, the pagan rituals of Halloween with its pumpkins and wicked tricks became, overnight, the season for Jingle Bells and glitter. We are swamped by traditions which have lost all reason except money. By contrast

Do you remember the old Collects?

"Stir up" Sunday, the last of the Trinity season, was the day for making the Christmas pudding. Every member of the family had to give it a stir. It had plenty of brandy in it and was left for weeks to mature. (Was this collect written for Lesley Monroe and Joan Freislich?)

**STIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Throughout Advent there is this magnificent prayer – the Armour of Light -

**ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.**

## THANKS GO TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE

- Made a Thanksgiving Offering (the full amount is not known to Ed.)
- Completed your Parish registration card
- Pledged financial support

THANK YOU to all the breakfast makers whose final fling of pancakes, eggs and bacon for 2017 is on November 25<sup>th</sup>. The faithful friars (sorry, friers) pancake tossers, servers and washers will be glad to have a break until the end of January although the people of the parish will miss the companionship of those Saturday mornings . . . how shall we all do without them for the next two months?

Please believe how much your work is appreciated. Thank you all.

DUE WARNING IS NOW GIVEN that Muriel Clay, who has been doing the Sacristan work for nearly seven years, will be leaving early next year. Her friend, George Green, returns to Bulawayo early in December and we wish him well there, especially now that there is such a welcome change in leadership.

St Paul's needs people who are willing to learn the Sacristan work and are 100 % reliable. The work itself is not difficult although it can be time-consuming, repetitive, and meticulous. If you can serve in this way, please offer.

HELP will be needed to decorate the church before Christmas. If you are new to this parish and would like to help, please look out for the details of when this will happen and what is needed. With Christmas Eve on the Saturday, it may be that some of the work will be done on Friday.

TO ALL STUDENTS AND LEARNERS who are still due to write examinations, may you have clear minds, peaceful hearts, and the company of Our Lord in the exam room when you write.

## ADVANCE NOTICE OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Christmas Eve      Midnight Mass 11 p.m.**

**Christmas Day      8 a.m. Eucharist  
                                 9.30 a.m. Eucharist**

There will, as usual, only be one service on Sunday, New Year's Day – at 9 a.m.

Interim Rector: Revd Jim Harris, who will be happy to visit you

Assistant Priest: Revd Darron Misplon, a full-time teacher during school term

St Paul's office: Ph 021 6894720 email: [stpauls@netdial.co.za](mailto:stpauls@netdial.co.za))

Contributions received with thanks at the A/C St Paul's, Standard Bank, Rondebosch, 71488928