



St Paul's Church, Rondebosch

Parish Newsletter

CARITAS

February 2017

“Don't be afraid little flock!”

Jesus Himself said this, breaking into some serious teaching when everyone was a bit muddled by His hard talking. It was Luke, the beloved physician who, with good clinical judgement, recalled and recorded this phrase . . . and Dean Ted King once gave a great sermon on this “Don't worry. Be happy!”

Following all who have served St Paul's, we are blessed with the ministry not only of Father Darron-the-gentle but also Father Jim-the-teacher who has immediately begun the pastoral work of the church.

No, it is not Farming! It is not whether the olive trees have been planted too close to each other or the pruning of our church garden. It is about our people-sheep. They are not only people whom we already know but also the people “out there” whom we do **not** know but whom God knows.

The canned carols and tinsel trees of December do not reflect the true Cape Town. See the runners pounding the streets in the early morning, or ordinary folk rising at 5 a.m. to pack buses and taxis to get to work in time, or the crowds at Newlands cheering the cricket in relentless heat - and look at all the wonderful good works which are happening outside the church! Most people seek God in their friends and families, in their work, in sport, in nature. There is so much life out there. Like the Greeks of Paul's time, they worship an unknown God. They serve like Christ, selflessly, but admit no allegiance to Christianity or the church. Surely Jesus Christ is already there to meet them.

He told us to reach out beyond the institutions of religion, to go out as He did, to all sorts and conditions of people who exist today just as they did then. [It is tempting, especially when we get older, to relax into comfy habits on a sofa! But sofas were definitely not mentioned in the Gospel.]

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES AT 7 P.M. will begin again after Easter!!

These are for anyone and everyone, not just for students. It is possible that the “sermon” will be open, leading to discussion, more informal than the morning services, but there will be Holy Eucharist.

Meanwhile there is a full programme. Holy Eucharist will be celebrated on **Tuesday mornings 9.30 a.m.**

Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Lady Chapel during Lent (from March 1st)

Friday mornings 7 a.m.

and the church is open for prayer 1-2 p.m. on Wed/Thurs/Fri

Saturday “Parish breakfast” days : 8 a.m. Feb 26/March 27

Plus the usual **Sunday services at 8 a.m. and 9.30 a.m.**

Sung Evensong: Sunday 27th February and Sunday 26th March 7 p.m.

a beautiful service on the last Sunday of the month.

Please continue to remember UCT in your prayers this year. Pray for the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, the deputies and admin. staff that they may be fair but firm, calling for help immediately it is necessary. Pray for the lecturers and other academics, that they may be spared the insults and extra work of last year. Pray for the students, that they may be clear about their purpose in life, especially regarding their studies. Pray for the parents and those who pay the fees, that they may have patience. Most of all we pray that the State will actually pay its fair share in good time without political posturing. We pray for the whole institution which must adjust to a huge shift in the annual timetable.

The new UCT term is upon us. There will be students everywhere, in residences and flats, in shops and cafes, looking for food and company - for the body (in the supermarkets), for the mind (UCT mostly provides that) and the soul! That is where St Paul’s can show the love of God Himself. As my hero, Hercule Poirot, would say, “we need to make a leetle plan”.

If you were a new student, wouldn’t you be feeling rather insecure after the events of last year? Students face a challenging 2017. We want to offer people who are new to Rondebosch a place where they can replenish the spirit. How can we reach them? In these days of tight security it is not easy to gain access to flats and residences - often even the post-boxes are locked away - but we do want to welcome newcomers to our services, our breakfasts and other functions.

Reaching out into Rondebosch!

If you attend St Paul's and live in a residence or block of flats in the area, please offer yourself as a contact person so that information about St Paul's can be delivered there.

[Tell Margaret 072 998 1588]

You might even like to be a "contact" there for the parish so that if anyone needs special help, you are available.

There might be people who live near you who would like a contact with the church. Perhaps they are new to the area. Perhaps they work during the day and would like the friendship of a drop-in visit in the early hours of the evening. You, the neighbour, might know. Could you be the visitor? Or another?

Tell Fr Jim 084302540

Small groups are good, behind closed doors as it were – just a little regular gathering to share our experiences of Jesus in our own lives, a little prayer, a bit of reading. It could be every week, it could be in the day, or in the evening, maybe a cuppa tea or a bowl of soup . . . or just a meeting and not for very long.

Who do you know who might join you to begin a new group? Or would you like to be introduced to a group that already exists?

Tell Val 021 6716862

You don't have to be "clever"! only wanting to listen and perhaps share. Groups are usually quite small and do not work well if there are too many people, literally "when two or three are gathered together". If you are already in a group, please say if you would welcome others to join you.

A good way for us to meet socially is to join the congregation for Tea and Coffee in the Hall after the 9.30 service. We might even talk about the sermon! Veronica was always there, pouring out, clearing up, dependable, but now she has left and we miss her sadly.

Can you take turn with tea duty? There is a list in the kitchen where you could add your name. Could you take charge and arrange a roster?

Tell Carol 0832479133

Some children love to come to church but cannot manage the whole service. They like to have their simple worship in the hall and draw pictures and sing choruses. Eva Lwabona used to mother these children but has returned to Tanzania. Val Heighway will come back to look after the children again but . . .

it would be good to have another teacher-mother for the children during the 9.30 service so that the two of you can take turns.

Tell Val 021 6716862

TT

A lovely Google,
a new dimension to your faith might open with the daily meditations from
Father Richard Rohr.

He is a Franciscan priest in New Mexico who expresses the recent re-awakening of Christian mysticism. The practices of contemplation and self-emptying which he teaches also express compassion for the socially marginalized. He is academic Dean of the Living School for Action and Contemplation and their mission is to produce compassionate and learned people who will work for positive change in the world based on awareness of our common union with God and all beings.

His meditations, treasured by many people who seek to know more, can be followed on free emails. Sign up on google or @RichardRohrOFM on Twitter.

Comment from K:

"I had heard about Fr Richard and have read some of his books – the earlier ones are rather deep theology and quite hard to understand but the later ones were easier. I heard him speak when he visited Cape Town some years ago, and I often follow what he writes in his daily meditations. He teaches self-weakness rather than self-strength for anyone who seeks to enter contemplation. His teaching opens, as it were, another dimension for contemplative Christianity and the universe itself: God as loving relationship."

NOAH'S STORY (Why the floods came.)

And the Lord said unto Noah: 'Where is the ark which I commanded thee to build?'
And Noah said to the Lord: 'Verily I have three carpenters off ill. The gopher-wood supplier hath let me down - yea, even though the gopher-wood hath been on order for nigh upon twelve months. The dampcourse specialist hath not turned up. What can I do, O Lord?'

And the Lord said unto Noah: 'I want the ark finished even after seven days and seven nights'.

And Noah said: 'It will be so'. And it was not so.

And the Lord said unto Noah: 'What seemeth to be the trouble this time?'

And Noah said unto the Lord: 'Mine sub-contractor hath gone bankrupt. The pitch which Thou commandest me to put on the outside and on the inside of the ark hath not arrived. The plumber hath gone on strike.' Noah rent his garments and said: 'The glazier departeth on holiday to the Land of Nod – Yes, even though I didst offer him double time. Shem, my son who helpeth me on the ark side of the business, hath formed a pop-group with his brothers Ham and Japheth. Lord, I am undone.' And lo! It was not fulfilled.

And Noah said unto the Lord: 'The gopher-wood is definitely in the warehouse. Verily and the gopher-wood supplier waiteth only upon his servant to find the invoices before he delivereth the gopher-wood unto me.'

And the Lord grew angry and said: 'What about the animals? Of fowls after their kind and of every creeping thing of the Earth after his kind, two of every sort have I ordered to come unto thee to keep them alive. Where, for example, are the giraffes?'

And Noah said unto the Lord: 'They are expected today'.

And the Lord said unto Noah: 'And where are the clean beasts, the male and the female; to keep their seed alive upon the face of the earth?'

And Noah said: 'The van hath broken down but cometh on Tuesday; yea and yea, it will be so.'

And the Lord said unto Noah: 'What about the unicorns?'

And Noah wrung his hands and wept, saying: 'Lord, Lord, they are a discontinued line. Thou canst not get unicorns for love nor money.'

And God said: 'Where are the monkeys, and the bears, and the yaks, and hippopotami, and the zebras and the hartebeests, two of each kind? And the fowls of the air by sevens, the male and the female thereof?'

And Noah said unto the Lord: 'They have been delivered to the wrong address, but should arrive by Friday having been re-directed; all save the fowls of the air by sevens for it hath only now been told unto me by the supplier that the fowls of the air, the male and the female thereof, are sold only in half-dozens.'

And Noah kissed the earth and said: 'Lord, Lord, Thou knowest in Thy wisdom what it is like these days with delivery dates'

And the Lord in His wisdom said: 'Noah, my son, I know! Why else dost thou think that I have caused a flood to descend upon the Earth?'

(the above bears no relation to the work needed on the Rectory)

FUND-RAISING

The most important part of this is Planned Giving which ensures our parish income for the regular office and maintenance bills. As anyone who runs a household will know, these expenses are greater than in the past. Although our churchwardens are totally committed to recycling, even they cannot re-cycle old bottles and newspapers to pay the electricity A/C! Planned Giving alone, however, does not meet all our expenses so we have to raise funds and, if possible, coordinate this with the work of the church.

Shrove Tuesday

Lent is almost a month later than last year, so

**PANCAKE SUPPER is on February 28th
6 – 8.30 p.m.**

Most popular of all, where people really meet, greet and eat, are the

Parish breakfasts: on the last Saturday of each month at
8.30 - 11 a.m.

Preceded by Holy Eucharist in the Lady Chapel at 8 a.m.

The price at present is R30 for bacon and egg, coffee/tea, toast and marmalade, pancakes. Often there are a few things for sale too – cakes, biscuits, sweets, jams, chutneys, even perhaps books. The best part is the company, of course!

Everyone welcome!

Best of all, though for “soul-raising” not Fund-raising!

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN LENT

6.30 p.m. Holy Eucharist in the Lady Chapel

7.00 p.m. Soup and rolls in the Hall

7.30-8.30 FILM: **SHADOWLANDS** the C S Lewis story
will be the basis for group discussion.

Thank you to all who help pay for the car-guards. We have to keep them for the time being.

Two large containers of beaten copper, used for flowers on the big festival days of Easter and Christmas, have vanished. They were on top of the cupboard in the vestry. Now they are not. Did someone slip in and swipe them to sell for tik? Vagrants sleep on the Hall stoep and can see when the church door is open and unattended. It would have been easier than stealing the candlestick from the sanctuary! The security gate must be locked if nobody is in the vestry.

There is no progress regarding the management of vagrancy although the problem has been given further publicity by the plight of Trafalgar High School above District 6. More beggars appear each week. The City Council has taken no responsibility for the destruction of the fence on the Main Road. Pedestrians using the short-cut paths through our church grounds are disgusted by, sometimes afraid of, the unsavoury people hanging around. Every day is a clean-up day with Jeyes Fluid. What happened to these souls? What answer can there be?

Our St Paul's property is truly in the heart of Rondebosch and could be a beautiful green space instead of a rubbish tip. Look at Keurboom Park - it has no fences, it is clean and almost free of vagrants. This has been achieved by people from the community who worked together. Could the people of Rondebosch do the same for the green hill of St Paul's if we asked for their help? If anyone has suggestions, please offer them. (And, by the way, how can the fence be fixed?)

There are many stories behind that "intercession list"!

Ingrid, who has been on our prayer list for some time, works with the Groote Schuur Community Improvement District. One of her tasks is to go around the streets in the middle of the night, looking under bridges and in subways. She tries to understand the vagrants, to get them to clean up, encouraging them to join the cleansing teams. She estimates that there are between 70-80 homeless people in Rondebosch and she knows them all. Her working hours include two or three nights a week, beginning at 11 p.m.!!! she became ill – with TB. She is actually much better now. She is a committed Christian. Thank you for your prayers.

The end is nigh for all of us. May Professor Roy Keeton, a truly gentle man who was greatly loved by his colleagues and students at Medical School and who himself loved this church, go gently into his new life and find again his wife Blanche and, best of all, his Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

Whatever we personally choose for our "Lent rule", this old Collect sets the tone. It was used at Quinquagesima, marking the beginning of Lent, and is one of the loveliest in the Prayer Book :

“Lord who has taught us that
all our doings without love are nothing worth,
Send your Holy Spirit and
pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
the very bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before thee.
Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ’s sake.
Amen”

Message from Fr Jim!

“Dear people of God at St Paul's

Thank you for being so gracious in receiving me as your interim priest. I have thoroughly enjoyed being with you all at worship and in visiting.

The next few weeks leading into Lent and Easter are going to be very busy. I am grateful for the huge assistance of Fr Darron, our retired clergy, many lay folk, and the Wardens for their hard work and guidance. Obviously I am building on what has gone before and what others have done. Above all else, of course, is both the faithfulness of God and your faithfulness to God expressed in so many different ways and ministries in Rondebosch.

While I have no idea just how long I will be with you, I do want to sustain the essentials of Word, Sacraments, and Pastoral Care. This is my main focus and guided by the mindset of the interim ministry: to hold, to heal, and to bring hope. So, bear with me for this period, please. Thus, baptisms are by arrangement, as are weddings, after some counselling.

Confirmation preparation will begin after Easter with the Confirmation service hopefully early in 2018. Also, after Easter, we will begin an informal evening service. Given that we have a regular Evensong on the 4th Sunday each month, I am thinking of structuring the month to balance Evening Prayer with Eucharist. Please note this is an addition to Sung Evening Prayer not a replacement. I am aiming at diversity of service styles.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via the Parish Office. Arlene has kindly agreed to facilitate my visits.

Sincerely
Fr Jim”

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

Assistant Priest: Revd Darron Mispion, a full-time teacher durin

St Paul’s office: Ph 021 6894720 email: stpauls@netdial.co.za)

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

