



## **St Paul's Church, Rondebosch**

### **Parish Newsletter**

# **CARITAS**

### **YOUTH CALLING DAY 16th JUNE**

**Every month there will be one service at 9 a.m.**

**This is the first.**

Mid-winter in Cape Town = cold dark mornings, often wet, students and school-children on holiday, people going away, north-west winds and as much rain as we can get! This is when we need fires to keep us warm, light to show us the way and, if possible, friends for cosy company.

On a cold wet dark Sunday morning in the middle of winter nearly 70-80 people leave their warm homes to come to St Paul's to pray to God, to learn about Him and to worship Him - while most other people are still curled up in bed! Why? Is it just habit, some kind of tradition? Is it a longing to seek the truth of God, a need to worship Him, to be taught about Him, or to be in His company? Something has such a huge influence upon them that they come in spite of rain and cold and darkness and often in spite of the dismissive remarks of their own family. Who or what drives them?

Whit Sunday = White Sunday = Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit.

There is confusion here . . .

The Holy Spirit, Holy Ghost, the Comforter, Paraclete . . there are so many names for Him (or Her) and none of them are sufficient. Anyway God is beyond names - "He who cannot be named".

The idea of a Ghost being Holy has confused many of us because we are afraid of ghosts and things-that-go-bump in the night. In the last century the word "Ghost" was replaced by "Spirit" - but that is not much easier because it is still linked to mysteries in the middle of a dark night. The word Comforter has many meanings and, to an English-speaking person, it could be a hot water bottle or a woolly scarf! It is impossible to describe God in human terms - that's the problem. All we can do is get different perspectives, the different shades of meaning, of Him - like fire, a rushing wind, a still small voice, a blessing, an inspiration, a flash of understanding - all these things and more, but here is another understanding . . .

An American, Eugene Peterson, in a modern translation of the Bible called “The Message”, often uses the word **Friend**, especially when Jesus is teaching His disciples in that wonderful discourse on His last night. This one word gave them, and gives us, a new perspective.

*“When the Friend comes, the Spirit of the Truth, he will take you by the hand and guide you into all the truth there is. He won’t draw attention to himself, but will make sense out of what is about to happen and, indeed, out of all that I have done and said. . . . He will take from me and deliver it to you.”*

Friends are special!

Friends laugh with you and they laugh at you. They tell you the truth, especially about yourself. They may comment on what you wear, how you talk and behave. They comfort, they are interested in you and what you are doing and thinking. They share and you don’t have to explain everything to them because they know you. We listen to the opinions of our friends, we can take criticism from them and praise from a friend is the best of all. We don’t have to keep secrets from our best friends, and when you have a friend you are never lonely. Many Christian people who spend long hours alone have found wonderful company in this Friend who “walks with us and talks with us along life’s narrow way”.

FIRE, WARMTH, COMFORT, FRIENDSHIP, LIGHT – all gifts of the Holy Spirit, the very one who inspired you to come to church on a cold Sunday morning?

### **IS HE CALLING YOU?**

LISTEN and REPLY. God does not wait until you are grown-up until He calls you. Most people are called when they are young, even children - like Samuel, like anyone in their early teens, even earlier. But you have to listen and go on listening. He speaks clearly. The danger is that you think He is talking to “someone else”. No, He speaks to you and you should reply.

**Who ? Me?** I can’t do it because I am at school/too young/too old/too stupid.

NO! because I don’t have the money/the time/the training/ability

Ask someone else – I can’t possibly manage it. My parents wouldn’t like it.

### **JUST LISTEN**

When you plan your life you have reasons, you look for causes to drive you. You also have ends to aim for, which will pull you towards them. It is said that we must have both a beginning cause and a final cause.

**and REPLY**

Thank you, Ivan Weiss, for this:

### ***I KNEW HE HAD CALLED ME . . . .***

In the early 30s there was a “railway family” living in the Free State, moving from one little town to another. Their lives depended upon where the railway went and where father was needed most. They were constantly moving, the whole family, with not much money and the children often having to change school. Grandfather was a farmer in Aberfeldy and kept chickens – and Ivan collected enough eggs to buy his first cricket bat. It was in Bloemfontein that young Ivan was “called” by God to serve Him – he was a choirboy at St Margaret’s, and the call was so clear that a priest who knew him telephoned him next day to say that he knew of Ivan’s call! Of course he had to finish school but at church he helped with the children and youth clubs and even as a lay minister. Finally the family moved to Durban where Ivan matriculated.

Money was short. His first job was to earn money as a door-to-door salesman (cosmetics *nogaa!*) and that was how he learned to knock on doors, ready for rejection or welcome. He says “*God was preparing me for the ministry*”. And here is a secret - “He learned to do facials”. He says he has forgotten how to do them so don’t ask him now! He earned enough to pay nearly all his university fees for 4 years! He was sent to the Society of the Sacred Mission at Kelham in Nottinghamshire for training, a centre in the monastic tradition.

His working life was spent mostly in the Free State, travelling from one small town to the next. For three years he lived in a caravan, which equalled “home” for himself and his new wife as they travelled the dusty roads of the Free State visiting all those little places with names which seem forgotten – Zastron, Bethulie, Springfontein, Koffiefontein . . . places which still bore the scars of farm-burning of the Anglo-Boer War. It was an exhausting hard life, followed by his appointment as Rector in Welkom, and later, in complete contrast, to his appointment as Chaplain to Rhodes University in Grahamstown.

A deep friendship between Ivan and Bill Burnett was one reason why he was called to Cape Town because when Bill became Archbishop he called Ivan to be his chaplain and they worked together for several years at Bishops court. That was a controversial time because both Archbishop Bill and Fr Ivan were possessed by the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues and preaching in a different way, laying on hands and healing people. Their preaching and example became a contentious issue, dividing the Anglican Church. When Abp Bill retired, Ivan was deployed first to Vredehoek and then to revive the parish in Green Point. These were inspiring times, with plenty of hard work. Indeed, when St Cyprian’s in Retreat had no priest he looked after both Green Point and Retreat at the same time, breaking the speed limit to and fro for Sunday services!

Anyone who knows Fr Ivan also knows that he is a truly holy man, touched by God Himself. The people in the last parish of his working life simply loved him - All Saints’, Durbanville - and he loved them. They still remember his birthday after many years of retirement. After his wife died he came to live in Rondebosch and now comes to St Paul’s. One of his two sons is a priest living in Cape Town with his family, and is chaplain at St Cyprian’s school. Ivan, who was in his time both a cricketer and rugby player, gets “hooked” on watching cricket and other sports on the TV (he will give you a blow by blow account of the whole match and he seems to know all the players/rules/gimmicks of the games) - but he also loves to visit old and sick people, both at home and in “homes”, even leading a Bible Study each week.

Thank you, Fr Ivan, for joining us at St Paul’s.

## **Taizé – Pilgrimage of Trust, 25-29 September 2019, Cape Town**

<https://www.taize.fr/article25583.html>

Several thousand young adults will gather from South Africa, other African countries, and other continents, celebrating Christ, source of peace and true reconciliation, praying, singing, being in silence and sharing faith with thousands of other young people.

**Discovering people of different cultures and their lives.**

**Experiencing the Church as a ferment of unity and communion in the human family.**

**Accommodation with local families.**

Can you welcome two or more young people in your home for the 4 nights of this meeting? Welcoming someone is not so difficult! They are pilgrims (18 to 35 years old) not tourists and they can easily sleep on the floor. It is a warm welcome that counts, not the level of comfort. They need only a simple breakfast (e.g. Weet-Bix) and will then leave the house for the whole day to take part in the programme - beginning with morning prayer (8 or 8:30am) in a local church. (If your own church is too far to walk to, **either** they walk to another participating church nearby **or**, if you prefer, you can transport them to your church.) The organisers provide lunch and supper at the central venue (Rondebosch). After evening prayer there, your guests will return home around 8:45pm. On the final day (Sunday), there will be time to share lunch with those whom you are welcoming, if this is possible for you.

Use the Accommodation Form (Arlene and Margaret have the forms) if you can help. The local preparation teams in each neighbourhood will organise the distribution of guests to the hosts. Your local team will make contact with you to confirm details.

### **The Taizé Community and the Pilgrimage of trust on earth**

The interdenominational Taizé Community in France, was founded by Brother Roger in 1940. They try to live as a sign of reconciliation and peace.

Since the 1960s, large numbers of young adults from all over the world have come to meet in Taizé. Every year the community holds at least one international meeting on another continent, like this one in South Africa.

**If you can offer accommodation, please get in touch either with Arlene (689 4720) in the office or Margaret (072 9981588 or 021 671 4573). THANK YOU.**

## THE BELL

A generous donation has made repair possible – but we still have to find out exactly what is wrong.

A cherry-picker, one of those long ladder-like cranes with a basket at the top in which someone sits, has been used so that the damage-up-there can be inspected - and it must be used again so that photographs may be taken for better diagnosis. The report is awaited and then arrangements for repair (or not) will be made.

This has taken a long time but it will be worth it in the end.

### Meanwhile

Please remember to pray earnestly for guidance for our President and his newly appointed officials, in the Cabinet and other posts. Listen to that bell-in-your-head and pray often. There are serious demons out there on the political scene and in the political parties, demons who seek their own advancement at any cost, demons who live on greed and luxuries and gossip.

## TWO ADMINISTRATIVE NIGHTMARES !!!

Many people who come to church quite regularly, and even to the breakfasts too, are **not on our Parish Roll**. This is quite ridiculous.

It is difficult to identify *absentees* if we do not have your names in the first place.  
It is difficult to visit someone when we do not have your name and address.  
It is difficult to pray for you if we do not know about you, not even your name.  
In fact, it is impossible.

If you have not given us your details, and preferably your email address too, please do so as soon as you can.

And secondly  
several of you who pledged, have not actually fulfilled your pledges.

We know that times are hard, that sickness can play havoc with your budget, that all kinds of problems happen at home which need your money urgently, but then please let us know because we have bills to pay too and have to budget accordingly .

**So if you can pay your pledge, please do so regularly**, just as you pay your rates and electricity (and DSTV?). If you can't, please inform the church office.

**WHAT KIND OF DISCIPLE ARE YOU?**  
WHAT IS YOUR JOB? In the world? In the church?  
***Look it up yourself!!***

Friends and companions of Jesus: The plan was that they would be with him, and he would send them out to proclaim the Word . . . Mark 3:14

Helpers: Jesus sent off Peter and John saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us so we can eat it together." Luke 22:8

Supporters: Thomas, the one called the twin, said to his companions, "Come along. We might as well die with him." John 11:16

Stewards: "He gave the bread to the disciples, and the disciples in turn gave it to the people. He did the same with the fish. They all ate their fill. The disciples gathered twelve baskets of leftovers. More than 5000 were at the supper." Mark 6 vv 40-44

Go-betweens: "some Gentiles approached Philip . . and said to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus. Philip went and told Andrew and the two of them went to tell Jesus.'" John 12:20-22

Learners: the word "disciple" comes from *discere = learn*

Missionaries: Jesus called the Twelve to him and sent them out in pairs. He gave them authority and power to deal with evil opposition . . . You are the equipment. No special appeal for funds. Keep it simple. And no luxury inns. Get a modest place and be content there . . . If you are not welcomed, not listened to, quietly withdraw. Don't make a scene. Shrug your shoulders and be on your way." Mark 6 vv 5-12

Teachers: "Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life . . . . . instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you." Matthew 28 vv 19-20

Politicians: "Is this any way to run a country? Is there an honest politician in the house? . . . It's worth it to play by the rules . . ." Psalm 58 vv 1-2

Choir singers: "All together now – applause for God! Sing songs to the tune of his glory, set glory to the rhythms of his praise." Psalm 66 v1

Cook: "Martha was pulled away by all she had to do in the kitchen . . . The Master said, 'Martha, dear Martha, you're fussing far too much . . and worked up over nothing. .'" but of course they had to eat! Luke 10 vv 49-50

. . . and so many more: carers, nurses, doctors, thinkers, philosophers, financiers, architects . . . but always with Christ at the centre, NOT "I".

Here is your bit of nonsense –

**There was once a little girl** who, when her kitty died, asked her brother to help her with the funeral. Together they collected a spade from the shed and went down to the far end of the garden where they dug a really deep hole.

“Now what?” said the brother. “We must pray” said the little girl. “In the name of the Father and of the Son and into the hole he goes!”

And another

**Extract of letter from one old lady to another:**

*“You ask me what I have been doing since I last wrote. Well, my dear, I’ve been quite busy. I seem to have collected quite a few boy-friends in my old age. When I wake up in the morning Will Power helps me out of bed. Then I go to see John and find that Arthur Itis has already arrived to spend the day with me. But he is so restless, never satisfied to stay in one place but likes dashing around from ‘joint to joint’ until he absolutely exhausts me and I long for the night time when I can go to bed with Johnnie Walker.*

*The Reverend came to see me the other day and he said I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him not to worry, I think about it all the time. Whenever I go to fetch something, whether it’s up to the attic or down to the basement or wherever I go, when I get there I say to myself “Now what am I hereafter?”*

*You know they say that old people are useless but really, when you come to think of it, we are quite valuable. We’ve got gold in our teeth, silver in our hair, gas in our stomachs and lead in our feet.”*

Let us pray now for young people: they inherit a messy country of poverty-stricken people in shacks, of broken railways and airways, of taxis and traffic jams, of violence and gangs and an impossible murder rate, of drugs and murder and loss of standards everywhere. Brick walls and defensive behaviour are the norm.

How can Christ break through?

Let us love all art, and music, growing things, lovely things, honest work and honest pay, sharing what we have. This is not the teaching of modern Education which makes ME FIRST - that kind of Egotism is not Christian.

Teaching in schools, in the secular world, is all about fulfilling one's self. That is not the way. The only way is to give up THE SELF. We are not the centre. God is the centre.

The truth is that we must not try to put ourselves in the centre of life. Things do not revolve around us – each of us is no more than a single cell in a whole body and yet that single cell must fulfil its function and must do it well because each of us is a “cell” in the Body of Christ. That is what we believe when we take that Holy Sacrament and He becomes part of us, integral to our bodies and minds and souls. Each of us has only a small and humble part to play but that tiny part is essential.

Join together, people of St Paul's. It is more than just holding hands on a Sunday. That is a beginning but, if you are not part of this body, if you feel alone, please get in touch and someone will find a group for you. We need the small groups. We need to support each other. Don't try to go it alone because it does not work. We all need each other. That is how bodies work. The liver cannot do the work of the spleen, nor the heart that of the lungs. We are all different but we need each other. And we need to work together.

Of course we offer our services, but we need to coordinate – to trust and enjoy each other. God is not confined to “the Church” – there are many wonderful people doing God's work who are not attached to the church - but the Church is still the backbone of His work in/on earth.

**We are all part of the one Body, the Body of Christ.**

Rector: Revd Reeva Mulder 072 3987483

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