



St Paul's Church, Rondebosch

March-April 2016

The shadow of a Cross arose,
upon a lonely hill Love died.
The Bible is fiction, just a paperback. The church is a
building, four walls and a roof, and that body upon the
cross, broken and wounded to death, will be hidden deep in
a cave behind a huge stone, a relic to be found by
archaeologists. Why bother to live? For this is Holy
Saturday, a hollow day.

Die, my heart, for there is nothing left - Our Love has gone!

There was no other like Him nor could there ever be and, after centuries of time,
our little penances and extra prayers seem ridiculous. There is not even a body in
the tomb. Are we left with nothing but the stories of an earthly life, like shells upon
the beach? and then

in the empty darkness the first light comes,

Jesus is there, immediately, with us.

He calls us by name.

“The light shines in the darkness and
the darkness cannot overcome it.”

**Almighty God, through your only Son Jesus Christ you have overcome death
and opened the gate so that we can enter everlasting life. Humbled, we ask
you to go ahead of us. . . .**

(from the Collect for Easter, slightly paraphrased)

Would any journalist today have got the Resurrection story past the editor?

HALLELUJAH Hail to Jah (Hebrew)

Praise God.

A thank you Litany

Bless you, kind visitors, who bring us riches new and old.

Thank you servers faithful in the chancel – we need more like you!

Singers in the choir, with the organ, making lovely music, thank you for your harmony.

Thank you cooks and washers-up.

Thank you stewards, thank you readers.

Thank you, saintly sacristans, who prepare the vestry elements. Thank you generous and talented flower arrangers.

Thank you, devoted cleaners - you did a splendid job. (It isn't easy especially the brass.

Someone else does it now, properly)

Thank you breakfast makers, a true parish outreach.

Thank you Arlene in the office, keeping everyone in order!! Ha ha!

Thank you, Erica and Carol, for the Lent course - and James for getting the projector to work. Great soup too! We learned not to make assumptions. We thought about dying, caring, how we make decisions – some a bit doubtful! Best of all, we met each other, real people, and could share some of our faith. Most of us are reluctant to talk about the real reasons why we are Christians. Some feel that they do not really qualify to be called Christian (what would Christ say to that?) and others don't like to seem holier-than-thou (and what would He say to that?). Our faith takes different forms but we all have faith of some kind or we would not be here. Hooray!

The season of Lent has taught us that this is not a parish of books, or property, or paper, or lists ! We are people, real people, who have learned to love our Lord Jesus Christ. Because we are all different, we enrich each other when we share our faith.

ALLELUIA.

Did you know that

the little band of faithful students on Sunday evenings can sing! In unaccompanied harmony, using the words and music from home, they offer their beautiful worship. Other students might like to join you, and so might some of our older folk. There is a steady devotion in these evening services - quiet moments when the world seems to stand still, simply waiting for God.

But

after Easter the “student service” will be held at 5 p.m. not 7 making the most of daylight because, this year, attacks on students have been worse than ever before and they have been more vicious.

Whether you come to the service or not, please pray for our students because not only are they challenged by their studies but also by great social pressures and problems.

HARD WORK AHEAD!

The Ven Archdeacon Keith de Vos installed members of the new Parish council immediately after the **Vestry meeting on March 13th**. He could not say when a Rector might be appointed.

Churchwardens: Carol Hartley, Valerie Heighway (Alternate) Lesley Munro

Councillors: Trevor Christian, Olivier Kalenga, Wim Korpel, Eva Lwabona, Benjamin Marais

This is a small Parish Council, six fewer than last year, but they have much more to do than in the past because we have no Rector. We have loyal part-time staff who work beyond their duty: Arlene (Secretary), Russell (caretaker), Agnes (cleaner), Colin (gardener).

It will not be an easy year, although it may be exciting. The Council may need to co-opt helpers so, if you are asked, please say Yes!

Services and priests to officiate have to be arranged. Regular sick visits and Avondrust services must be continued.

- **A caretaker.** If we hope to attract someone good, we may have to provide accommodation on the property. This has to be planned, passed and done.
- **The Rectory.** Should we redevelop the whole property and let out some of it to give us some income? Will the Diocese help?
- **Vagrants.** Their litter and excrement create a serious problem, so bad that Russell and Colin wanted to resign! Enquiries were made.
- **The Olive grove has to be fenced** and maintained. The church grounds are private property and a Heritage site, although allowed to be a public thoroughfare.

Watch this space

We meet Jesus in shared meals –

in crowds sharing their picnics, or grilling fish on the beach early in the morning, meeting for supper in an upstairs room or, after a long walk, having a good meal with friends in Emmaus. Eating together is a very important part of our religion.

Recipes and cookbooks are as popular as prayer books because everyone has to eat and all of us enjoy eating. Good company comes with good food. Perhaps the new form of “church” will be based on shared meals instead of liturgies and buildings.

So join us, therefore, you and your friends, at

THE FOOD FAIR

on Friday 8th April

6 – 9 p.m.

First we need the food. Please bring what you can. Savoury, sweet, pickled, sliced, vegetable, meat, fish . . . your favourite recipe is usually the best. Most of us who come make a meal of it, trying out the tastes of other people’s cooking with anticipation and pleasure. Because many of the people living in Rondebosch are students or old folk living on their own, take-aways are popular and need packeting.

The most important ingredient is the good company! Those of you who know the breakfasts have learned that good food and wine goes down best with friendship and laughter.

To those of you who live alone, we know that baked beans, soup packets and noodles become very boring, so this can be fun.

To those who cook, take-away portions and packs are useful!