



St Paul's Church, Rondebosch

Parish Newsletter

CARITAS

October 2016

It was a small group of disciples who followed Jesus,
people just like us

ordinary folk trying to survive decently in a country throbbing
with politics, prejudices, corruption, social problems, and religious differences.
It is very easy to be distracted from the real reason that we belong to St Paul's - we
are looking for our Lord whom we love so that we can follow Him.

O Holy Jesu, most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother

May we know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and

follow thee more nearly day by day . . . (prayer of Richard of Chichester)

So let us take a breath. Everyone has worked hard, especially the housekeepers of the parish, those who arranged the Brass Band evening, the breakfasts, the monthly feeding of the poor of the parish. Thank you all. It is as though we have a "jig-saw rector" who is made up of many little pieces - church wardens and councillors, lay ministers and servers, Arlene in the office, sacristans, the music-makers, Len with his tools fixing things . . . and of course, the visiting clergy. Without all of them nothing would happen and they are doing a great job, together. Not once has there been a Sunday when there is no-one to celebrate or no-one to preach. Your report card at the end of the year will not read "should try harder", or "could do better", but "well done". Now Jesus says – "come with me for a little while, into a quiet place" because souls get thirsty with so many good works. That is why

a QUIET DAY 9 a.m.– 4 p.m.

has been planned for **12th November, a Saturday**, so that those who have weekly work can come. The venue, Little Streams in Klein Constantia, is in a valley of trees among vineyards, a property which belongs to the YMCA - a beautiful retreat. The **Revd Nicky Ing**, beloved at St Thomas's, still works hard in retirement - she will lead us. Father Ivan will be there too. A booking has been made for 20 people – slightly more or less won't matter – and this includes two tea/coffee breaks and a good mid-day lunch for R100 each. If you cannot pay, the church will. The important thing is to come. Please leave your name and phone number on the list at the church or phone in order to check transport, whether you are vegetarian, etc. (Margaret 072 998 1588 or 021 671 4573)

At this time of year we usually hold in prayer all those students who are writing examinations. Lists of their names, their exams and the dates they are writing are posted in the Lady Chapel. This year, that wall will be empty, a sign of really serious trouble. Each empty space represents someone who weeps, and probably behind that is a father and mother, an uncle, a friend, some benefactor who not only gave the money for that student to attend UCT but also gave generous good wishes, loving thoughts, encouragement, prayers. Often those gifts were made at great personal cost. We weep for those empty spaces

St Paul's is so close to UCT campus - can we offer any significant support or comfort or counselling?

**COME AND PRAY
ST PAUL'S CHURCH WILL BE OPEN
ON WEDNESDAYS AT 1 P.M. AND 6 P.M.**

Dr Max Price, senior staff and other negotiators have tried every possible avenue to keep the peace, to prevent violence and to understand what the students are trying to say - often at their own personal risk. Protesting students do not represent the student body. The voices of students who want to study and write exams have not been heard. Students in catered residences cannot cook in their rooms, it is far to the shops, there are long queues to exchange their tokens and they are hungry. Do they see all their study for this year being wasted? Are they desperately disappointed? Some wish to leave altogether, perhaps to try another university. Have their bursaries been won for nothing?

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| There must be many stories to be told by students and staff who have suffered from or participated in the strikes. It would be good to hear at first hand what they have to say. |
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Some personal comments (but open for debate)

- **It is not the first function of a university to prepare people for jobs.** A University is, as the word implies, intended for comprehensive learning with research. Professionals who have been given a wider vision by their university background are expected to have a broader understanding of their work and life.
- **It is wrong to destroy or defile property, to prevent others from studying, to intimidate those who are peaceful, or to threaten those who have differing opinions.**
- **Not everyone has to go to university**, however good they were at school. There are many professions for which a university education is a waste of time.
- **The Government has not subsidised realistically** - an annual 10% increase in fees compounds the problem. There should be a huge increase in the subsidy in order to keep fees at the same level for as long as possible.

How wonderful it would be if the President, the Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament had their salaries pegged at R50 000 per month with no extra allowances for spouses, children, travel, houses, cars etc.! Use the money saved to help pay student costs!

IN RESTORATIO CANDLESTIXIO

Myrna McGhie has given us a pair of candlesticks for the altar – God bless her.
Remember that one of ours was stolen and never found! Thank you, Myrna.

IN MEMORIAM FONTIS AD ORBEM SPINARUM 1891 – 2015

Translation by John Atkinson of “Fountain of the circle of thorny bushes. The original name may have been “Het Ronde Doornbosjen”. Dutch *rond* = round, but *ronde* = circle.

For one hundred and twenty-four years the Fountain was a well-known Rondebosch landmark situated on a small island dividing the east/west lanes of Belmont Road. At a meeting of the Rondebosch Council in May 1891, George Pigot Moodie of Westbrooke (now Genadendal) proposed that a drinking fountain, plus troughs, be erected at the roadside. This would enable horses and cattle, passing between Cape Town and Wynberg, to have access to clean water. He offered to donate the fountain provided the Council prepared the pavement and arranged for the disposal of waste water. He also pioneered the use of electricity for street lighting; a cable ran from his home especially to light the decorative cast-iron lantern. A shield bears the date 25th September 1891.

In October 1892 the Council decided to erect the fountain at the junction of Belmont and Main Roads. Moodie had chosen a cast-iron fountain from a catalogue put out by Walter MacFarlane. In March 1892 the Water Company offered to supply water to the fountain and, by April, the fountain was in use.

The upkeep of the fountain was the Council's responsibility. It was first painted in 1896, but a report in 1898 stated that it was in a filthy condition. An outbreak of glanders among horses in the same year spurred the Council in to action and by November the fountain was cleaned and disinfected twice daily to decrease the risk of spreading disease. On 10th April 1964 Rondebosch fountain was declared a national monument.

The coming of the motorcar gradually phased out horse-drawn vehicles and roadside water was no longer needed. The island was turned into a small flower garden, with the fountain as a focal point. Unfortunately, a traffic accident caused by a speeding car on 18 August 2015 shattered the brittle cast-iron fountain beyond repair. The site was cleared and will remain a garden, but without the eye-catching main feature of the fountain.

Comment: A fragile Fountain would not stand a chance of survival now. Small taxis fill every space on the Main Road, overflowing on to yellow and red lines and double-parking. They make U-turns ignoring other traffic and white lines. Pedestrians ignore designated crossings. It is not surprising that at the end of September a car destroyed two large sections of our church fence below the Olive Grove. A Fountain would not last long.

THE BOOK FAIR
Friday 24th- Saturday 25 November
The Cathedral bookshop, St Paul's Church, CAFDA, Help-the-rural-child

PLEASE LOOK OUT ALL YOUR OLD

Books

Magazines

Cards

Because you are probably already “cleaned out” from last year, please ask your neighbours and friends, especially those who are down-sizing, telling them about the Fair and the breakfast on Saturday morning.

The book team: Marj Bull, Margaret Elsworth, Shane Hinchliff, Peter Derham, Jean Wellman.

The catering team will make sure that there is good food available!

Pat Ellis of the Cathedral Bookshop has arranged for a Guest Speaker –

Dr Tim Noakes

but you do not have to be either fit or slim in order to come and listen to him. Just normal.

PLEASE HELP US WITH PUBLICITY FOR THIS EVENT.

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CAR GUARDS have become necessary! Since the Basels' car was damaged and other cars are at risk, Russell and Colin have taken turns to watch outside the church each Sunday. They also clear up fouls and litter left by vagrants – a great help even though there are fewer vagrants than before. The watch is an extra expense, but worth it! Thank you, Councillors.

Sadly the cost is beyond our already stretched budget. If you can contribute something, please put it in the collection marked “Car Guards”. Do not tip! Thank you.

The Parish Council says THANK YOU to those who give to the church. “We are grateful for every donation: the money you give enables us to pay salaries and bills; it helps us to hold worship services, not only on Sundays, but also Tuesdays, Fridays and monthly on Saturday; it enables us take communion to those who are ill or house-bound, and also reach out to the less fortunate in our community.”

“Many people pay their offerings electronically now because it is more convenient for them. There are, however, both electronic payments and cash donations in the plate on Sundays which are made anonymously. That is fine if that is your choice but it does mean that the wardens cannot send you a note of thanks - which they like to do.

“We hope to have another Thanksgiving Service later this month, as we did last year. If you pledge but have not received a thank you letter, please tell one of the wardens.”

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