

# ST CYPRIAN'S CHURCH

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27 January 2017

Dear Friends

## RECTOR'S LETTER

A new year! What will 2017 hold in store for each of us? I am sure we all have plans, made resolutions, besides the normal concerns and responsibilities of life. There is always a natural human desire for things to be better going forward, to improve, to achieve and accumulate.

Sometimes things don't go according to plan, or we feel we have let ourselves or others down. At times we may feel disheartened especially if we have not kept our resolutions of self-improvement.

In my own reflection and thoughts for a new year and looking to the future I found the following "A Daily Morning Resolve", which can be used as a prayer, helpful, inspirational and motivational.

### "A DAILY MORNING RESOLVE"

I will try this day to live a simple, sincere and serene life, repelling promptly every thought of discontent, anxiety, discouragement, impurity and self-seeking; cultivating cheerfulness, magnanimity, charity and the habit of holy silence; exercising economy in expenditure, generosity in giving, and carefulness in conversation, diligence in appointed service, and fidelity to every trust and a childlike faith in God.

In particular I will try to be faithful in those habits of prayer, work, study, physical exercise, eating and sleep which I believe the Holy Spirit has shown me to be right.

And as I cannot in my own strength do this, I look to thee, O Lord God my Father, in Jesus my Saviour and ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit Amen.

I pray that together, we as members of St Cyprian's may uphold one another in prayer, our Parish, our country and our world.

### ***Honour the Lord with your wealth (Proverbs 3:9)***

The mark of the Christian faith and community throughout its history is that of generosity. Generosity to the church and to the poor; We at St Cyprian's are not a big community, but we are certainly a generous community.

- **Food Table:** The food purchased from the table at the entrance to the Church goes mainly to support ĩ Care (thank you letter included) the Bartle Road Methodist Church soup kitchen, people who come to the Parish Office and

parishioners in need. In 2016 a total of R11 727 was purchased from the Food Table. Thank you!

*"Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor."*  
(Proverbs 22:9)

- **Bible Society:** Enclosed is a calendar bookmark from the Bible Society together with a money box for change, to support the provision of bibles. These can be returned to the Church when full and will be forwarded to the Bible Society. Last year parishioners contributed R1 116 to the Bible Society. There are extra money boxes at the entrance to the Church.

*"... and serve each other according to the gift each person has received ..."* (1 Peter 4:10)

- **Parish Finances:** The accounts for the 2016 financial year are currently being audited in time for the annual Vestry meeting. Running a Parish is costly from salaries to electricity; water; telephones; candles; Diocesan Assessment; audit fees; insurance; security; travel refund, cleaning materials etc. In 2016 this amounted to R692 013.

Further to this our Specific Funds for major expenses such as maintenance; organ; car replacement; mission and ministry; vestments and furnishings; Church roof fund etc. were boosted by R95 000 from our 2016 fundraising efforts, the biggest being the Fete.

None of this could be achieved were it not for the generosity of financial commitment and giving and the incredible support given to our fundraising efforts. Thank you everyone and may God bless you for your generosity to His work.

*"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver and God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."* (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

## EVENTS AND SERVICES

- **Supper Club:** Professor John Robbs, an internationally recognised vascular surgeon, is the speaker at our first Supper Club for 2017 on Tuesday 07 February at 6.30 p.m. Professor Robbs has recently moved his rooms to Hillcrest Hospital and will be speaking about advances in medical science specifically related to less invasive surgery.

The Supper Club started 20 years ago in 1997 and is an important part of our Parish life providing an opportunity for fellowship over a meal and the privilege of listening to our outstanding speakers that are invited to address these evenings. The cost is R50 for fish and chips, ice cream and chocolate sauce. There is a cash bar. To book a place the list is at the entrance to the Church or phone the Parish Office.

- **Parish Vestry:** Will be held during ONE service on Sunday 26 February at 8.30 a.m. It is important for every member to attend. At Vestry we account for the

stewardship of the finances, elect our Churchwardens and Parish Councillors, raise issues related to the Parish etc. This will be my 25<sup>th</sup> Vestry having been installed as Rector of the Parish 25 years ago on 29 January 1993. I would value your presence and interest at Vestry. The nomination lists for Parish Councillors and Churchwardens will be in Church on Sunday 05 February.

### **FUN, FUN, FUN**

- The Shrove Tuesday Parish Pancake Party for everyone in the Parish is on 28 February at 6.30 p.m. in the Hall. If you can help with making pancakes on the night (men), fillings, batter etc. please fill in the list in Church or phone Edith at the Parish Office. There is also an attendance list for catering purposes.

### **LESS FUN PLEASE**

- Lent 2017 begins on Ash Wednesday 01 March with three Masses (6.30 a.m.; 9.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.) and the imposition of ashes in order to meet the obligation! Please return your palm crosses from last year to be burnt for this year's ashes.

During Lent there will be a Mass and Meditation on Saturday mornings from 7.00 a.m. - 8.00 a.m. either around the fountain adjacent to the Parish Office or in the St Augustine's Chapel.

### **PARISH FETE**

This year's Fete is on Saturday 24 June! Already the White Elephant are busy sorting and marking. Books, jewellery, white elephant etc. can be brought to the Church, Office or collected if you phone the office. Please help with prizes for the main raffle and donations of spirits and/or wine for the liquor hampers.

### **I GOT IN EARLY!!!**

Two years before Fr James retired at Easter in 2014, I asked if he would join St Cyprian's as Assistant Priest following his retirement and was exceptionally pleased when he agreed.

I am sure that we all appreciate Fr James's ministry and exuberance at St Cyprian's. Fr James gives freely of his time, learning, teaching and travel without remuneration from the Parish. It would be appropriate to express our gratitude and hence if you would like to contribute to a cash gift for Fr James which will be presented to him at Vestry, please put your contribution in the enclosed envelope and hand it in at the Office or collection bag by Sunday 19 February or alternatively an EFT with the reference Fr James.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Contributions received for 2016 are acknowledged and included at the end of this letter, should there be any discrepancy, please contact the Parish Office. We are only able to acknowledge amounts received through the bank account and planned giving envelopes. Many parishioners contribute in the collection bag; this total amount is recorded after each service by the sides person on duty in the Offertories Record file. Thank you to everyone for your generosity whether it is received directly in the bank account, planned giving envelopes or collection bag.

If you would like Planned Giving envelopes for 2017 please speak to the sides person on duty, Edith or Fr Dane. For EFT's the bank account is:

Bank Standard Bank  
Account Name St Cyprian's Church  
Account Number 05 11891 35  
Branch/Number Gale Place 042526

### FINALLY

A favourite verse of scripture among many is from Psalm 24 vs 1. *"The earth is the Lord's and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it."*

These words should be displayed in every country, city, town and home to remind us that God is omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent. That every person has a space and a place, that together we belong, to care for this amazing gift of mother earth "and all it contains" How disobedient our world is in its wanton disregard, greed and destruction of life.

In this New Year let us commit in the power of God's Spirit to do the best we can in every way to live out the values of good stewards in the care of His Church, our society and our planet.

Let our gratitude for the gifts of life reflect in the action of our faith.

With every blessing



FR DANE

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Parish of St Cyprian's, Durban gratefully acknowledges the amount of R\_\_\_\_\_ Received in 2016 for the functioning of the Parish and the work of Christ in our community.

Received by EFT/Planned Giving Envelopes

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