

ST CYPRIAN'S CHURCH

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05 April 2019

Dear Friends

RECTOR'S LETTER

REPAIRS TO THE CHURCH

There is certainly visible progress being made in the repairing and restoration work to the Church. Thanks to the pews in the Church being removed for storage and refurbishment, we have been able to move the Sunday services to the St Augustine's Chapel. There will, however, be a few Sundays when we will need to return to the Hall while the Chapel is painted and the floors sanded.

A constructive meeting was held in March with the assessor, contractor and sub-contractors, myself, Graham Muller, Phillip Everitt, Derek Harverson and Shirley Balladon, to discuss the repairs, time frame and the excess amount. The current repair bill is R2.2 million. The excess has not yet been fully determined.

While I think the time frame given by the contractor is a bit too optimistic i.e. end of May, it appears it will be later than that. However, our patience will be rewarded with a fine new beautiful Church.

LENTEN APPEAL

Thank you to everyone for your support for the Lenten appeal for the restoration, repair and refurbishment of the chapel at St Martin's Children's Home. If you have not yet returned your donation, please do so by Good Friday.

RHUMBELOW THEATRE

Have kindly and generously given us the theatre for a fundraising show towards the excess for the repairs to the Church.

This is on Wednesday 17 April. The venue has a Cash Bar, there is food on sale or you can bring a picnic basket. The theatre opens at 6.00 p.m. and the show starts at 7.30 p.m. Tickets cost R150 per person and there are tables of 8 or 14.

The show is by Barry Thomson of The Reals, featuring popular hit songs from Fleetwood Mac, Dire Straits, Rodriguez, The Eagles, Neil Diamond etc. If you are able to fill a table or to support the Show, please contact the Parish Office or write your name on the list in the Chapel.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

This most profound, emotional and beautiful week is a precious gem in the liturgical calendar of the Church and in our journey of faith. The drama begins on Palm Sunday 14 April and which leads into the Triduum being:

Maundy Thursday 18 April

6.00 p.m. Mass, Feet Washing and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday 19 April

12.00 Noon - 3.00 p.m. The Celebration of the Lord's Passion including the Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday

6.00 p.m. The Service of Light

The climax is Easter Sunday, from death to life, from despair to hope, from grief and sorrow to joy and celebration.

Easter Sunday 21

7.00 a.m. Mass

9.00 a.m. Sung Mass

EASTER OFFERING

The annual Easter Offering is set aside for the Parish Priest as a thank offering for his ministrations and as a supplement to the Priest's stipend.

Clergy appreciate being appreciated and the Easter Offering reflects that appreciation. I have for longer than I can remember allocated your gift to a need within the Parish. This year will be no different and it will go towards the excess on the repairs.

It is important that the discipline of contributing to the Easter Offering is continued as there will come a time when St Cyprian's will have a Rector who will value the generous gift of the Easter Offering to supplement his stipend. An envelope is enclosed to be returned on Easter Sunday or by the end of the month. For EFT'S please use the reference Easter Offering.

THE PARISH FETE

On 29 June, is less than three months away! The Fete is a wonderful social community event that raises funds for our Specific Funds to cover major expenses that we are unable to pay for from the normal course of our contributions to the Parish.

We have a few challenges this year, with a number of people away. Please phone the Parish Office or speak to me or our Parish Secretary, Edith, if you can help with the following:

- To assist at the Tea Garden for an hour or two.
- We do not have a Curry Den - either to run the Curry Den or to cater for some other suitable meal.
- The Raffles, both the main one and liquor hampers need people to run them on the day of the Fete.

- Volunteers are required to mark the books prior to the Fete and help is required on the day.
- Bakers and Preserves are needed to supply for the Cake and Preserve Stalls.
- Tombola requires items for their stall i.e. non-perishables, children's interest etc.
- White Elephant, Books, Jewellery, Jumble etc. can be brought to the Parish Office, Church on Sundays or collected if you phone the Parish Office.
- Prizes are required for the main raffle and donations of wine and spirits for the liquor hampers.

Your support is needed and appreciated.

PARISH FINANCES

The general income of the Parish is under strain due to deaths, relocations, emigration and a drop in numbers following the damage to the Church. While I can assure you that we are prudent, current income is less than fixed and determined expenses. Wherever and whenever we can add to our contributions let us do so willingly and gladly.

SUPPER CLUB

Professor George Devenish, constitutional lawyer, lecturer, author and prolific writer for the newspapers is our speaker on 30 April at 6.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. With the election just days away he will give a reflection of how the "land lies" and what and where he thinks we are headed and an overview of the different political parties.

The cost is R55 for Fish and Chips, Ice Cream and Chocolate Sauce and there is a Cash Bar. To book, please contact the Office or write your name on the list in the Chapel.

THE MEN'S WEEKEND

This year is slightly longer from Friday 26 to Monday 29 April at the Babanango Game Reserve. The cost for the three nights' accommodation, food, transport and a game ride is in the region of R1000. There are a few places available. The list is in the Chapel or contact the Parish Office.

PRAYER IS LIFE CHANGING

It is difficult to be positive, to be happy, to feel secure and safe and to have hope in the current climate in South Africa. I am acutely aware of the negative impact this has on my thoughts, words and feelings.

The revelations of state capture, nepotism and corrupt manipulation that has affected every South African through higher prices, particularly for electricity, water, sewage, rates, vat, fuel, basic food, together with poor service delivery, incompetent service, let alone the horrific levels of crime etc. etc.!! South Africa is currently experiencing its highest level of emigration. On top of this we have the election a month away with shocking rhetoric that is destructive, polarising and misleading.

The issue for the Church, for Christians and ourselves is, while we cannot, not, react to the above we must not allow it to change and control us to the point of despair and hopelessness. We have a faith, we believe in Christ Our Lord and Saviour. In the midst of all this we must continue to care, to show compassion and to express our faith in God. The best way to release the negative and to be immersed in the presence of God is through prayer. Prayer is life changing.

*Lord God in the midst of this turmoil
That has invoked anger and fear, prejudice and hatred.
Remove us to your presence of holiness and strength.
Give us the gift of fortitude to stand firm
To do your will and to fulfil your will to love
So that in all things we may be recognised as followers of Our Lord
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour Amen*

With Every Blessing

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'FR DANE', written in a cursive style.

FR DANE