

ST CYPRIAN'S CHURCH

603 Umbilo Road DURBAN 4001

P.O. Box 17065

RECTOR: FR DANE ELSWORTH

Congella

4013

Email: saintcyprian@telkomsa.net

www.saintcyprian.co.za

11 March 2016

Dear Friends

RECTOR'S LETTER

With Easter upon us and two weeks remaining of Lent including Holy Week and the months leading up to the annual fete, there is as always much to report on in the life of our Parish.

I hope this Lent is a helpful time of renewal and rebuilding in a renewed and strengthened faith as well as personal growth and development. At one of the Mass and Meditation mornings we were reminded of the unmerited overwhelming love God has for us, in a poem of George Herbert's called Love, which Fr James used for our reflection:

LOVE

Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
If I lacked anything.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:
Love said, you shall be he.
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,
I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?
My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love and taste my meat:
So I did sit and eat.

EASTER OFFERING

An envelope is included with this letter for the Easter Offering which traditionally is given to the Parish Priest as a supplement to his stipend and as an appreciation of his ministry.

I have preferred that the Easter Offering be given to the Parish to assist with its running expenses. This is a contribution over and above our normal giving to the Church. I would ask that you consider a generous contribution as a thank offering to God for the gift of God's Church to us as a community and for the many blessings we have and continue to receive.

PALM CROSSES

We need people to help on Saturday 19 March with the making of palm crosses as well as donations of palm branches. Please bring a pair of scissors with you. Tea and hot cross buns will be provided.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday 20 March

7.00 a.m. Mass

9.00 a.m. Sung High Mass with Procession

Maundy Thursday 24 March

6.00 p.m. Sung Mass and Feet Washing

Good Friday 25 March

9.00 a.m. Stations of the Cross

12 Noon - 3.00 p.m. Three Hour Devotion

Holy Saturday 26 March

6.00 p.m. Service of Light

Easter Sunday 27 March

7.00 a.m. Mass with Hymns

9.00 a.m. Sung High Mass

TEEN CHURCH

Tania Brauninger with the help of a few others will re-start the Teen Church which will meet on Sundays in the Parish Office for our teenagers. Teen Church will not meet on Sundays that fall in school holidays or when there is a High Mass. The first meeting will be on Sunday 10 April.

SUPPER CLUB EVENINGS

Dear friends these are evenings that we should all make an effort to attend for so many good reasons. The importance of fellowship together over a meal (at cost), being exposed to other people's experience given by the many outstanding speakers who are invited which are so often educational, personally challenging and faith building. These are really enjoyable evenings. The cost of R45 includes grilled fish and chips, ice cream and chocolate sauce and there is a cash bar.

The next Supper Club is on Tuesday 26 April at 6.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The speaker is Dr Leonora Jackson, a recently retired senior lecturer at the University of KZN whose discipline is Classical and New Testament Greek. I

have asked her to talk on the New Testament, why it was written in Greek? Where did the texts come from for our English translations and their reliability?

The Supper Club evening in May was arranged on a “quid pro quo” (something for something) basis when our new Bishop, Bishop Dino, phoned to “ask” me to resume as the Link Officer for the Diocese of Natal with the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham in the U.K. as well as to be the chaplain to the retired stipendiary clergy in his region of the Diocese. Having agreed he could hardly refuse to be a speaker at one of our Supper Club evenings.

Hence Bishop Dino is our speaker on Tuesday 31 May. I have asked him to tell us something about himself, his family, his journey of faith, role as Bishop, his experience in the Diocese of Natal and his hopes and dreams for the Diocese of Natal.

To book in for these evenings there is a list at the entrance to the Church a few weeks beforehand or you can phone or email the Parish Office.

THEATRE

For the past number of years we have held a Parish fundraiser at the Rhumbelow theatre, this year we have done a block booking at the Sneddon Theatre for “Into the Woods” for Friday 15 April at 7.30 p.m. The tickets cost R180 (normal price is R200) to book there is a list in Church or contact the Parish office. The show is not suitable for children 8 years and younger.

Into the Woods follows the trials and adventures of a collection of well-known fairy-tale characters, including Cinderella, Rapunzel, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Red Riding Hood. They all go into the deep, dark woods on separate quests, and their paths cross and intersect with sometimes amusing, sometimes alarming results.

Into the Woods is directed by Steven Stead, with musical direction by Drew Rienstra (American musical theatre expert), set design by Greg King and costume designs by Neil Harris.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU

For all the amazing, generous and kind support for:

The Durban Hospice for Women’s shelter, Kerr House, for “Women in Crises” with donations of R100 and more for the “One in a Thousand” campaign. Flyers are available in Church.

Support for the Sunday feeding scheme which helps so many people from parishioners to Umbilo Methodist Soup Kitchen, ĩ Care and others.

Waste paper/cardboard that is sent for recycling. Aluminium can tops that raise funds for dogs to be trained to assist blind people. The plastic bread tags that raise funds for wheelchairs.

The Bible Society money boxes for small change, available in Church that go to providing bibles.

The weekly donations for the Church Roof Appeal and for Tommy our Car Guard.

A mark of the Christian community/faith throughout its history has been its generosity of spirit, deeds, charity and giving. Our St Cyprian's community is truly wonderful in all it does.

THE PARISH FETE

This is on Saturday 25 June from 8.00 a.m. Besides a necessary fundraiser for the major part of the income for the Specific Funds e.g. Organ, Car Replacement, Major Maintenance etc it is also a huge community event thanks to everyone's hard work.

Our current needs are:

- White Elephant, books and jewellery which can be brought to Church or collected if you phone the Parish Office.
- Prizes for the main raffle.
- Donations of spirit and wine for the Liquor Hampers.
- The Preserve, Sweet and Cake stall will need people to help provide for these stalls.

VESTRY 2016

This was held on Sunday 07 February 2016. Our elected Churchwardens and Parish Councillors are: Shirley Balladon (Churchwarden) Andrew Ambrose (Churchwarden) Reg Isaac (Alt Churchwarden)

Parish Councillors: Felicity Hartley; Karen Read; Edith March and Avril Robbs. The Parish is most grateful to them for their willingness to serve as our Churchwardens and Parish Councillors.

Vestry agreed to the following combined services to be held at 8.30 a.m. Vestry, Patronal Festival, and Remembrance Sunday and whenever New Year's Day (as it does on 01 January 2017) falls on a Sunday.

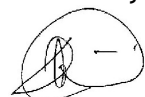
Thank you to everyone who attended the Vestry meeting, next year's will be on 05 February 2017.

Alleluia Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia

This is the Easter acclamation! It is an acclamation of fact, of immense joy, of hope for us, our community, our nation and the world. It is our faith into the future and the unknown, our rock and our salvation. It is our strength and perseverance in difficult times and always our overwhelming awareness that Christ is with us as our guide and compass.

May this Easter be your joy as we greet one another with this strong, powerful and beautiful acclamation!

With every blessing



Fr DANE