

ST CYPRIAN'S CHURCH

603 Umbilo Road DURBAN 4001

P.O. Box 17065

RECTOR: FR DANE ELSWORTH

Congella

4013

Tel: 031 2053710

email: saintcyprian@telkomsa.net

08 February 2019

Dear Friends

RECTOR'S LETTER

VESTRY

The annual Vestry meeting is on Sunday 17 February. There will be ONE service at 8.30 a.m. with Vestry to be held immediately after the Mass.

As members of the St Cyprian's Parish Community it is important that we all attend the Vestry. Not only to elect our Churchwardens and Parish Councillors, but to account for the stewardship of the finances i.e. your contributions and other income received from rentals, fundraising, donations, interest and investments, to ensure that there is no "Bosasa" activity. Further and more importantly Vestry is an opportunity for issues to be raised/discussed relating to the Parish, its ministry and mission. Please be at the Vestry! As your Parish Priest, I need you to be in attendance.

YOU MAY OR YOU MAY NOT!!

Remember that in August of last year there appeared in the pewslip Smiley Emoticons with the caption "The Rector is thinking" The point of which was, for you to ask what is he thinking about? A few parishioners have persistently asked me if I am still thinking. Well! Yes! And Vestry will be the opportunity to show you what I have been thinking about with a revised structure and content of the Mass which will be an item on the Agenda for discussion.

DAMAGE TO THE CHURCH AS A RESULT OF THE THEFT OF COPPER FROM THE ROOF GULLEY/GUTTER BETWEEN THE PITCHED ROOF AND PARAPET WALL

The insurers, who initially refused to cover the cost of the damage to the roof as there was no forced and violent entry, have now agreed to cover the cost of the repair less the excess. The insurers will cover the cost of the internal damage again, less the excess. To date the excess is R51 899.59 which relate to the repairs to the roof, the replacement of the ceiling and the painting of the interior of the Church. There will be additional excess amounts on the following quotes submitted:

- Repairs to the Organ.
- The upliftment of the entire parquet flooring, repair and refitment.
- The repair, sanding and varnishing of all the pews, altar rail and furnishings in the Chancel and pulpit.

- Quotes still to be submitted relate to the Bell Tower and Bell Tower ceiling; electrics and replacement of Prayer Books, Bibles and Hymn Books. This all will carry an excess for the account of the Parish.
- The roof has been repaired with a UV stabilised fibreglass gutter. There are however, a few places where there are leaks. The internal work will begin when this is resolved.

PLEASE BE PATIENT/FAITHFUL

The repairs to the Church will take most of this year. In the interim we have no choice but to hold our Sunday Services in the hall. Of concern is the large and noticeable drop in attendance at the 9.00 a.m. Mass. The consequence of which is a drop in income. Whereas our income for January 2018 was R65 340, this January reduced to R63 607 and is R6 012 below budget. All I can do is appeal to everyone to be supportive and faithful during the time it takes to repair and restore the Church and to be generous in our financial support to the Parish.

SECURITY

Another sizable expense is going to be the security of this huge Parish plant. Subsequent to the copper being stolen, thieves were again on the building stealing the copper heads of the drains, the drain pipes and the Rectory was broken into at 3.00 a.m. in the morning and two bicycles stolen.

THANK YOU

To everyone who supported the Christmas Appeal towards the excess repairs to the Church. We don't yet know the final figure which we will need to pay off over time. This year's Easter Offering will go towards this cost and if we all give up/reduce something for Lent and contribute the saving to the excess amount, it will be covered fairly soon. Thank You!

THE YEAR STARTED WITH A BANG

That is our well supported and enjoyable Supper Club Evenings. 65 people attended the January Supper Club at which Dr Keith Pettengell gave a very entertaining overview of his journey in medicine and his specialised profession as a Gastroenterologist.

Coming up on 26 February is a talk by Graham Muller:

“Graham will talk about his 3 week trip to Western Zambia this past November. This was a land trip in a Landrover Defender from Durban via Botswana and the Caprivi Strip starting at Mongu in Western Zambia. The party comprised ten tourists in five 4x4s plus a back-up team of four young Saffas in two 4x4s. The group mostly travelled in convoy and visited the Barotse Floodplain, Liuwa Plain, Kafue National Park and Livingstone. The territory visited has no fences, roads, telephones, cellphone networks or Wi-Fi. There is also almost no human habitation. Graham will tell of a visit to one of Africa's last true frontiers. This is Africa as it used to be before the colonials and post-colonials mucked it up. The talk will be illustrated with some stunning photography”

On 30 April Professor George Devenish, a Constitutional lawyer, will help us think through the elections to be held in May and the various dynamics at play.

Supper Club evenings cost R55 for Fish and Chips, Ice cream and Chocolate sauce. There is a cash bar available. To attend, either phone or email the Parish office or write your name on the list at the entrance to the hall.

SACKCLOTH AND ASHES BUT NOT BEFORE...

A party on Shrove Tuesday 05 March in the Parish Hall. The list for pre-cooked pancakes, fillings, batter and pancake cookers is at the entrance to the Hall. This is a fun evening for everyone in the Parish before Lent begins.

Lent follows the following day on Ash Wednesday 06 March. There will be three Masses at 6.30 a.m. and 9.00 a.m. in the St Augustine's Chapel and at 6.00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Please return your palm crosses to the office or hall.

PLEASE PRAY...

For our Parish and Parish community that we may hold together during this year as we worship in the Hall.

I am sure that when we are back in our "new" Church we shall have a greater appreciation for this beautiful and sacred space which is our spiritual home.

With Every Blessing

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

FR DANE