



April / May 2018

The Habit

Reaching out in the Community



Dear Habitual Friends

HAPPY EASTERTIDE TO YOU ALL

Are you entering this new Easter Season a changed person or will 2018 be same old same old for you spiritually? If we don't consciously work on our marriages and other human relationships they slowly die. If we take our spirituality seriously – as we should – we have had various opportunities for growth this past Lent. Some parishioners have already expressed their delight at the spiritual growth they have experienced over the Lent period.

God is good, faithful and ever-present for us, but also never-changing. He is the God of today, yesterday and forever. So every day is 'today' for God.

I loved Fr Mike's quotation on Good Friday, "God keeps loving us back to life." This is so true. Whenever you feel that your 'batteries' are going flat, ask God to 'recharge' you and love you back to life. If you missed enriching your spiritual life this past Lent, then the wonderful seven weeks of Eastertide lie ahead as a new opportunity – all the way to Pentecost Sunday, which also commemorates a spiritual new-life outpouring like at Easter.

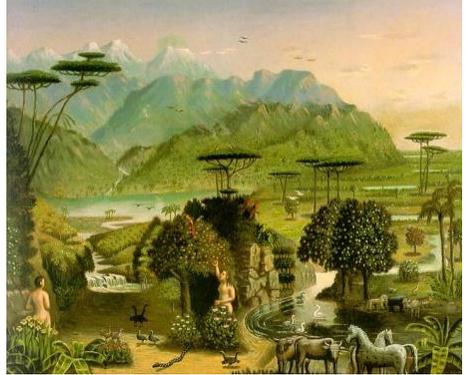
I am so grateful to Fr Mike for offering to take all the Sunday services, except the Youth Service on 29 April while I am on leave. He will also preside at the Ascension Day service on 10 May at 19:00. We have all had the privilege of hearing Fr Mike teach and I am sure you can look forward to his 'Easter sermons' over this Eastertide. Although Ann and I are back in the Parish from 14 April, I will only officially be back in the office from 28 May.

I promised to print my Easter Poem for you. The 'movie' in my head was that of Jesus rising from the tomb on Easter morning, like the sun rising and then spreading light into the darkness. I move from the darkness of the night, facing the sun, and meet Jesus. The poem speaks of Jesus making all things new as he rises from the dead, me 'shedding' the darkness of my past as I meet Jesus face to face and being renewed by him, and the unspeakable joy I experience. I wish everyone to have the same experience.

Blessings, *Reggie*

Easter Joy

The Son rises at pascal dawn
Strolling into the cool freshness of his new creation
Dark chaos cowers
then hastily
finally flees his radiance
revealing magnificently coloured
vigorously frolicking life
in its wake



He calls out my name [and yours]
with melodious, confident *joie de vivre*
Searching

As I respond from uncertain
fumbling night
his brilliance lights up my person
blotting out every trace of filth and battle scar
in the flooding warm glow of his vivacity
My new being
surging with energy of absolution
approaches his outstretched arms
in awe and wonder

He holds my gaze with eyes of deep
authentic earnestness
I look into a well of crystal clear
eternal life-giving love

As we meet head on
stark, sacrificial pain and heartache
precedes his pursuit of me
Brokenness and shame
still my shadow

Sincere searching brings us
face to face
His, never-ending, loving desire.
Mine, fathomless need.

Silently
gently
I melt into his welcoming embrace
My heart picks up the rhythm of his
and begins to beat to the pulse of
his dance.

Reggie Venter, 15 August 2017, Alberton

Bishop Charles' Easter Message

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. This is the message that fills the Church today. It is the source of our joy and of our hope that the Crucified Redeemer lives. We started this journey on Ash Wednesday with the beginning of the season of Lent. We were, during Lent, on a journey of renewal. Easter is a day of joy, a day of Good News. It is a day in which hope has overcome reasoned and reasonable doubt, in which joy has displaced grief and in which light shows itself unconquered.

Easter reveals that hope – a sure and certain hope, not something vague and ill defined – is central to Christian faith.

We are reminded that the journey to this Easter Day comes by way of Good Friday. There is no resurrection without death.

Lent and Easter should enable us to tell, to give an account of the hope that is in us, to witness to the saving death and glorious resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As the people of the resurrection, we are called to break through the boundaries of nationality, race, sexual orientation, abuse and xenophobia, create a unity of love that allows the weakest of us to live well. We are called to let go of old ways of feeling good about ourselves and reach out to a new integration of the many facets of our humanity.

We are the people of the resurrection, living our lives with great vision that transforms us as we are living it. Jesus was born into a community, whose voices were silenced by the powerful, and that He had definite politics against those oppressive structures that had silenced them. Ultimately these oppressive structures, through crucifixion, tried to silence Jesus Himself, but He emerged victorious over them, and we celebrate this victory as Easter.

Easter thus reminds us of the victory of life over death, where death is not just a physiological reality but also a sociological category, death of identities, death of voices, death of justice, the death of peace. Easter reminds us that no powers that perpetuate violence, exploitation, racism, abuse, sexism, patriarchy or xenophobia could remain ever powerful.

A church that believes in resurrection cannot tolerate exploitation in the name of colour, class or gender. It should instead fight vigorously against such evil structures, so that we experience resurrection where each person can live their full potential.

My prayer this Easter is that we recommit ourselves during this Easter year to celebrate the victory of life over death, by engaging in the very political action of fighting against all structures that deny life to others.

The resurrection is a time of joy and celebration of Jesus' triumph – good over evil, hope over despair, love over hate.

Let us all experience the real power of resurrection that empowers us to continue Jesus' mission for a transformed Church, a world saying no to the powers of domination and exploitation.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia.
Have a blessed Easter.

+Charles and Tebogo



Prayer Garden Project

Earthforce Landscapes completed the layout our Prayer Garden and parish groups have begun planning and planting their gardens. Thank you so much for all the hard work already done. Karien Pechous has generously offered to review each garden layout with the group concerned, so there is plenty of professional advice and help available. Although different groups are going to plant each garden, Karien will help ensure that the Garden still maintains a unity and a 'flow'.

Remember that these are themed gardens so each group needs to consider which story or part of Scripture they are depicting in their garden. Another way of thinking about it is, "What do we want those sitting in our garden to know about our God or Jesus?"

A big 'Thanks You' to Ron & Pat Thompson who have rejuvenated our Garden of Remembrance.

Ideally we would like to have our gardens completed soon so that they are well established before winter sets in.

Please phone Alton [072 660 7663] or Beryl [083 388 4652] if you would like to be involved in any way with the evolving Garden.

Please let us know if you would like to purchase one of our Prayer Garden benches, a water fountain, light post or a bird bath, and dedicate it in memory of a loved one. Someone has also deposited a beautiful bird-bath in the garden. Please let us know who you are so that we can acknowledge it.

We still require donations for:

- Glass sliding doors at the back of the Altar in the Chapel. Quotations are being obtained.
- The construction of a deck on the outside of the Chapel, behind the Altar
- Water storage tanks which will be placed below the outside deck to collect more rainwater for the Prayer Garden



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

10 – 20 May 2018

Church Unity Commission

READINGS FOR THE WEEK 2018

On each day please pray for a specific group of Churches, that we may be one. Use the scripture given for reflection.

- 10 May **Feast of the Ascension**
Pray for the Orthodox Churches
- 11 May **Love the stranger. Leviticus 19:33-34**
What does it mean to love the alien as myself?
Pray for the Anglican/Episcopal Church
- 12 May **No more a slave but a beloved brother. Philemon**
How does our culture tempt us to live only for ourselves rather than for others?
Pray for the African Independent Churches
- 13 May **Seventh Sunday of Easter**
Pray for the World Council of Churches, SACC
Church Unity Commission, Ministers Fraternal
- 14 May **Your body, a temple of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 6**
How do I respect my own body, and the space that lets others live within their own limits?
Pray for the Roman Catholic Church
- 15 May **Hope, Healing and God's peace. John 14:25-27**
What must change in our church so that we can be a haven where God can heal body and soul?
Pray for **the** Covenant Churches
- 16 May **Hear cries of the poor across our land. Luke 18**
Jesus asks, "What do you want me to do for you?"
Pray for **the** Reformed Churches
- 17 May **Look to the interests of others Phil 2:1-4**
How can I serve my community with humility?
Pray for the Lutheran/Moravian Churches
- 18 May **Building family at home and in church. Psalm 127**
How am I called to protect those in my care while encouraging them to spread their wings?
Pray for the Methodist & Congregational churches

19 May **Call the dispersed, welcome them home.** Ephesians 2

What does it mean for all communities that God has already broken down dividing walls?

Pray for **Presbyterian/Congregational Churches**

20 May **Pentecost**

Pray for **the Baptist/Pentecostal Churches**



From the Diocese of the Highveld



➤ **Happening dates:**

#81 Happening weekend: Friday 6th – Sunday 8th April

#82 Happening weekend : Friday 6th – Sunday 8th July

#83 Happening weekend: Friday 12th – Sunday 14th Oct

- **African Study Bible:** Following several requests for these bibles, I will be placing an order today for more copies of the bible. Please let me know if you would like one. They cost R450 each.
- **UNISA : CHANCE 2 ADVANCE:** See information on the Notice Board
- **Anglicans Ablaze:** 3 – 6 October – City Hall Auditorium, Hillcrest, Durban. More information to follow
- **2018 Bp David Beetge Memorial Lecture:** Please save the date for the 2018 Lecture. Diocese of the Highveld clergy can book tickets at the early bird rate of R700 per ticket.
- **Diocesan Fellowship of Choirs:** The CD that was recorded can be bought from Mr June Tsotetsi on 082 742 7463.
- **2018 Counselling Courses:**
Marriage :12th and 19th May – Cost is R250.00
Trauma: 18th and 25th August – Cost is R250.00



Parish Notices



- 29 April: **Youth Service** 09:00
- 21 April 2018: 09:00 – 16:00 **Diocesan Lay Minister Training** (Please note the change o date)
- 5 May, 08:00 **Ekhuruleni Diocesan Training Day for all Church Wardens and Councillors**
- 10 May – **Ascension Day** – Evening Eucharist, 19:00
- 10 May – 20 May: **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** – From Ascension to Pentecost see above.

Dedicated Giving – January, 2018

Month	Amount Dedicated	Amount Received	Surplus + Shortfall -	Accumulated Surplus + / Shortfall -
January	R 110 000.00	R 103 795.00	- R 6 205.00	- R 6 205.00
February	R 110 000.00	R 86 525.00	- R23 475.00	- R 29 680.00



Highveld Anglican Board of Social Responsibility

FUNDRAISER

Please support this very important Fundraiser. Tickets available from the Church Office
See the Notice Board for information on the Work of HABSR

Raffle: R100.00 per ticket

Draw: R5000.00 - Parish selling most tickets

R3000.00 - Guild selling most tickets

R2000.00 - Individual selling most tickets

R1500.00 X two individual draws

Date of draw: 1st October 2018

Gala Dinner to announce the draw October 2018

Draw of R3000.00 on the night of Gala Dinner

Many more Prizes to be won



Parish Contact Details

Office hours (weekdays): 08.30 - 16.30

Website

www.sfc.org.za

E-mail addresses:

 011 867 5922

Secretary: sec@sfc.org.za

 086 238 0686

Administrator: admin@sfc.org.za

 PO Box 11346 RANDHART 1457

Rector: rector@sfc.org.za

BANKING DETAILS: Standard Bank - Alberton

Account Name: The Parish of St Francis

Account No: 421855282

TELEPHONE NUMBERS



Rector:	Rev Reggie Venter	Tel	011 867 5922	Cell	079 506 6660
Secretary:	Mpumi Mapholoba	Tel	011 867 5922		
Administrator:	Patricia Lendis-Hartnick	Tel	011 867 5922		
Vergers:	Ace Padi	Cell	079 795 8508		
Church Wardens:	Sandy Engelbrecht	Tel	011 867 2109	Cell	082 480 5822
	Pheli Mbambo	Tel	011 021 6428	Cell	083 397 0024
Prayer Chain:	Kay Peace			Cell	082 401 0645