

AD CLERUM – DECEMBER 2009

Dear People of God

Xenophobia is alive and well and thriving in our land. Much of it passes unnoticed; only the most violent incidents are reported - like that at De Doorns and Imisimo Yethu, both within the last week. Each time there is violence we are warned that unless our government begins addressing the underlying issues of unemployment and the lack of service delivery in our communities the risk of xenophobic violence will continue to rise.

Sadly the levels of corruption and protectionism within our government is such that it does not seem to have either the capacity or the political will to deal with social delivery problems or to acknowledge and face the issue of the growing number of refugees in our land. Ish Mkabela's detailed presentation of the Dinokeng Scenarios at our Reconciliation Conference this past Saturday – as well as his own experiences of living as a Shangaan in Soweto – graphically highlighted the issues and problems confronting us and the options open to us. Ish made it very clear that the only scenario that offers a viable future is that of "Walking Together." In the context of the Dinokeng Scenarios that "walking together" is a walking together of political leaders with their people in a journey in which politicians recognise that they are public servants elected to serve their people and held accountable to that calling.

I have no doubt that "walking together" as suggested in the Dinokeng Scenarios is indeed the way forward, but would go even further and suggest 'walking together" is a core biblical principle for all God's people. It is God who has called us and set us apart to be a holy people, a royal priesthood. "Walking together" is not an optional extra for those of us who happen to like that sort of thing, but is at the heart of Jesus' high priestly prayer. "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one ... May they be one as we are one; I in them and you in me, so that they may become completely one." (John 17: 20-23).

In his meditation on the mystery of the incarnation St John says, "He came to his own, and his own did not accept him." In the context of this meditation those words need to be read together with Jesus' own words in Matthew 25: "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these (the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger *{xenos}*, the sick, the prisoner), you did not do it to me." Jesus stands before us in the poor and marginalised, the foreigner and the stranger – and our response to Jesus is to be seen in our response to the one who is "other". In Christ we not only "walk together," but are called to reach out beyond ourselves and our community to the stranger in our midst. We walk together and we stand together, or else we fall together.

At the end of the Reconciliation Conference on Saturday I made mention of the BBC television series, "The Long Way Down;" a travel documentary of a motor cycle trip through Africa by Ewan McGregor (of Star Wars fame) and Charley Boorman. One of the stops along the way was Ntarama, a village near the Rwandan capital where thousands of Tutsis had been killed as they took refuge inside a church. Outside the church is a memorial where the skulls of those murdered are displayed, some with machetes still embedded in

them. It is a deeply moving sight – one that moved Archbishop Tutu to tears. Ewan and Charley were not reduced to tears (at least not on camera), but were clearly shattered and struggling for words. As they were about to leave, Ewan turned to their young tour guide and said, “So what are you, Hutu or Tutsi?” She looked at him long and hard and then replied, “I used to be a Hutu; now I am a Rwandan.”

I believe there is a profound message in her words for all of us. The challenge for us in the first instance is to move beyond the divisions that have separated us for so long to the point where we can truly say, “I used to be a black / white / Zulu / Coloured / male / female / gay; now I am a South African / African / human being. And from that point to be able to move to the point where we can say, “I am a Christian. There is no longer national, tribal, racial or gender differences, we are all one in Christ Jesus. We are the Body of Christ, the visible image of the invisible God.”

For self reflection:

1. Someone at the conference commented that the unspoken question when we hear a story about a person whom we do not know is, ‘So tell me is s/he black or white?’ That label allows us to process the information and make sense of the story. How do such labels help us to process and ‘interpret’ a story? How do those labels change the way we respond to the information?
2. What are the labels we use to differentiate ourselves from “others?” Which of those labels do we cling to and struggle to let go of? Why? Take your reflections to God in prayer.

For group discussion:

3. How could we, as parishes, become “communities of reconciliation” (in much the same way as some of our parishes have become eco-congregations? How would we as a “community of reconciliation” respond to what is happening in the community around us.

May we, by God’s grace become the visible image of the invisible God,



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Vestry 2010

I hope that Parish Executives have met to discuss the Vestry handout material sent out in the last Ad Clerum and that dates and time-lines for Vestry have been finalised. I have already been in contact with a number of parishes about their Vestry preparations and most of those with whom I have spoken are well on schedule. Thank you; it is gratifying to see the seriousness with which Vestry meetings are being taken. Please contact either the Diocesan Office or me if you need help or guidance.

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New email addresses for the Diocesan office

There are still a large number of people using the old email addresses. Please remember to use the new address to ensure a swift response. All new addresses take the format name.surname@anglicanjoburg.org.za and were listed in full in the Weekly Newsletter of the 21st – 27th of November.

If you would like to apply for a new Diocesan email address please contact Claire Holden or Rodney Taylor.

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Clerical Directory

The Clerical Directory will be published at the beginning of January. We are trying to ensure that it is as up-to-date as possible so please ensure that all forms are completed (with information accurate for January 2010) and returned to Zodwa as a matter of urgency.

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Yellow Pages 2010

We are sorry that the Yellow Pages have not yet been distributed. Unfortunately we have been struggling to get dates from various groups which makes it very difficult for us to finalise the details. However we hope that we will have them completed and available for distribution within the next week.

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Spiritual Formation

Clergy Day: The last Clergy Day clergy day of 2009 will take place on the 1st of December at the Parish of St Francis, Parkview followed by a Christmas lunch at Bishop's House.

Please note that the next Clergy Day for stipendiary clergy will be in the form of a three day liturgical workshop. We have still awaiting confirmation of the exact dates but it will take place between the 1st and 5th of February. Please diarise those dates now and keep your schedule free for that period as attendance at the workshop is obligatory.

We will be holding an abridged liturgical workshop for all self-supporting clergy, parish ministers and liturgical leaders, and choir leaders on Saturday 6th of February. Please would you all ensure that this is publicised and diarised now.

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Reading Recommendations

I am aware that many of you find some of my reading recommendations very onerous and so this month I am recommending a visual and auditory experience; the production of 'The Lion and the Lamb' currently showing at the Market Theatre. It is a wonderful presentation of the Gospel story supported by dynamic Gospel singers. The reviewer for the Star Tonight says; 'It's a glorious production for Christians of all ages and should add to the spirit of the festive season....' She goes on to use phrases like 'story telling on a grand scale, and what (John) Kani does is to inject energy and passion into the telling' (of the Gospel story) 'supported by angelic singers.' Kani 'introduces childlike wonder into the tale.' Certainly this is a show to recommend – especially for people who want to celebrate Christmas at a deeper, spiritual level.

Although tickets can be bought for any performance, The Chapelry of Manche Masemola, East Bank has been promised 50% of all ticket sales for the performance at 15h00 on Sunday 13th December. All monies raised will go towards the Pre-Primary school Re A Gola ('We are growing') that the parish opened in July this year. The tickets are R100 each. If you would like to see the show and support this wonderful initiative please contact Alan Keartland on 011 443 5754 or 082 657 3601.

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Diocesan Youth Program

Because of the success of our first intake we will be repeating the program during 2010 and are asking parishes now to identify candidates 2 – 3 candidates from their parishes to be part of the 2010 program. Names need to be forwarded to shona@stmikes.org.za or senzo@stiluke.co.za before 15 January. A great many young people were disappointed that they were excluded from this years training and we hope that they will be given an opportunity to be part of this years training and to ensure that no one will be turned down this time round.

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Provincial News

- Please continue to pray for **Bishop Meshack Mabuza** who has now been discharged from the Donald Gordon Hospital following his hip replacement surgery last week. He has returned to Swaziland to continue his recovery there.
- Please pray for **Bishop Mazwi Tisani** who is being treated for an ear infection and who will undergoing treatment for a cataract this afternoon and dental surgery on Tuesday, 1st December.
- It is with great sadness that we remember the death of **Bishop Leslie Walker** on the 21st of November. Please keep his wife Marion, their son Angus and the Diocese of Mpumalanga in your prayers.
- Please pray for **Bishop Dinis** of the Diocese of Lebombo and his family as they mourn the passing of his mother Rosita who was 96.

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Diocesan Family News

- Please pray for **George and Shirley Boyce** who are mourning the death of Shirley's mother who passed away on the 29th of November.
- Please pray for **Gail Westwood** who is currently recovering well following surgery for breast cancer on the 26th. Gail has said that they give thanks for the way that God has been at work in their lives and in the lives of so many others through this whole experience.
- Please pray for **Roy Collins** who has a slipped disk and is in a lot of pain.
- Please pray for **Shona Fleming's** father, Michael Macrae, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 adenocarcinoma. We pray too for Shona's mother Rita and for their family.

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Moves, Appointments and Vacancies

- **Errol Dengler** has been appointed as Interregnum of the Parish of St Margaret, Bedfordview with effect from the 1st of January 2010.
- **Jeremy Jacobs** has been appointed as Assistant Priest in the Parish of St George, Parktown with effect from the 1st of January 2010.

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Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

Please remember the following persons in your prayers as they celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this month:

DECEMBER

2 nd	Chris & Alison Viljoen (W/A)	15 th	Beryl Bailey
2 nd	Stephen Ratshefola	16 th	Puleng Modisaesi
5 th	Martha Moloji	16 th	Lefetlho & Dolly Lethoko (W/A)
7 th	Royce Meyers	18 th	Bikitsha & Julia Njumbuxa (W/A)
7 th	Hilary Owen	19 th	Dan & Patricia Ngqumeya (W/A)
7 th	Godfrey & Wendy Henwood (W/A)	21 st	Charles & Tebogo May (W/A)
8 th	Fecilia Molipa	21 st	Michael & Rosemary Faure (W/A)
8 th	Cyril & Hazel Halkett (W/A)	26 th	Audrey Hick
9 th	Julia Njumbuxa	27 th	Rams & Thembi Ramokgopa (W/A)
9 th	Steve Ratshefola	27 th	Joe & Mabatho Rakale (W/A)
9 th	Gavin & Helen Smith (W/A)	27 th	Allan Williams
11 th	Linda Williams	28 th	Alan & Diana Kearthland (W/A)
12 th	Xolani & Mabatho Dlwati (W/A)	28 th	Gill & Peter Lee (W/A)
12 th	David & Margaret Eades (W/A)	30 th	Gayle Wilson
13 th	Susan & Adrian van Niekerk (W/A)	30 th	Malishwane Ntsele
13 th	Mpho Chaane	30 th	Agnes Witbooi
14 th	Martin & Michelle Louw (W/A)		
17 th	Earl Neil		

Although we endeavour to keep our records up-to-date, experience tells us that we often miss out on special dates. If you are celebrating a special occasion in the coming month that is not on the list please email Zodwa so that we can update our lists.

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Dates for Diary

DECEMBER		Diocese	+ Brian
Tuesday	1	Clergy Day Year End Party	Clergy Day Year End Party
Thursday	3		Good Shepherd Archdeaconry
Friday	4	<i>Independent Schools Close</i> MU Office Closes	
Sunday	6	Recommended final date for displaying 2010 budget	Good Shepherd Archdeaconry
Monday	7	Diocesan Welfare Committee	
Tuesday	8	St Benedict's Spiritual Formation Group	St Benedict's Spiritual Formation Group
Wednesday	16	DAY OF RECONCILIATION	
Friday	25	<u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u>	
Saturday	26	<u>DAY OF GOODWILL</u>	
Monday	28	Office Closed	
Tuesday	29	Office Closed	
Wednesday	30	Office Closed	
Thursday	31	Office Closed	

JANUARY		Diocesan	+Brian
Friday	1	NEW YEAR'S DAY	Leave
Saturday	2		Leave
Sunday	3		Leave
Monday	4	Diocesan Office Opens Start finalizing financial statements for Vestry	Leave
Tuesday	5		Leave
Wednesday	6		Leave
Thursday	7		Leave
Friday	8		Leave
Sunday	10		Pastoral visit: St Margaret Bedfordview
Wednesday	13	Independent / Government Schools Open	08h00 St John's opening service
Thursday	14	7:30 St Mary's School Chaplain institution	7:30 St Mary's School Chaplain institution
Saturday	16	AWF meeting	
Sunday	17		Institution at St Lukes
Saturday	23	FOX	FOX "Ministry in all its Variety"
Sunday	24		Luke Pato induction at St Martin's 3pm
Monday	25	Ordination Retreat	

Tuesday	26	Ordination Retreat	
Wednesday	27	Ordination Retreat	
Thursday	28	Ordination Retreat	
Friday	29	Ordination Retreat	
Saturday	30	Ordinations: Diaconal & Priesthood	Ordinations: Diaconal & Priesthood
Sunday	31		Institution: St Thomas Linden 4pm

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General Notices

- The **2010 Lectionaries and Almanac's** are now in stock. They will be available from the Publishing department (publish@anglican churchsa.org.za) or at the Diocesan office at a cost of R13.05 and R5.00 respectively.

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