

# AD CLERUM – MARCH 2010

Dear People of God

A number of years ago a Jerusalem pop concert for peace in which Sinead O' Connor was scheduled to appear had to be cancelled because of fierce opposition from a banned ultra-right wing Jewish group, the Ideological Front, who threatened to kill O' Connor should she appear. When the concert was called off to the disappointment of both Jewish and Palestinian youth the Ideological Front claimed that it was a victory for their beliefs. In reply Sinead O' Connor published an open letter to them in which she said, "... you have achieved nothing but your soul's failure."

Her words, in their simplicity, evoke a powerful image; that the measure of our lives is not to be found in the material criteria by which our world judges, but in the measure of our soul. The way we live shapes who we are and what we become, and the measure of success or failure is to be found in our soul.

These words have, I believe, especial relevance in the light of what has been happening in our country over the past few weeks. Over and above the usual lengthy litany of crime and corruption in our daily press, the front pages of our newspapers have been filled with the strange goings-on of our nation's leaders. No sooner has the scandal of our President fathering an illegitimate child dropped below the radar than a new scandal erupts about how Julius Malema can afford to maintain the lavish lifestyle he enjoys on the salary he earns. Jacob Zuma was quick to defend Malema, saying that Julius had done nothing illegal, which may or may not be true. But I do wonder why, if Julius has indeed done nothing illegal, he was so quick to deny any connection with the companies through whom he is alleged to have made 'millions,' even to the point of apparent contradictions and lies.

In his two hour public statement, flanked by ANCYL leaders, Malema alluded to sinister forces at work to discredit him and others in the ANC and launched a scathing denunciation of the press for lending credibility to such attacks. In doing so he has joined a long list of politicians (including PW Botha, FW de Klerk, Clinton, Mugabe, and Zuma) who have all at one time or another attempted to deflect attention away from themselves by appealing to forces conspiring against them. In Malema's case, as with all the others, the alleged conspiracy, whether true or not, does not answer, explain or justify the issue under scrutiny. The question of how Julius has acquired his wealth remains unanswered and leaves me with questions about his honesty and integrity. The alleged conspiracy against him simply raises new and additional questions about ongoing power struggles within the ANC that remain unresolved and contribute to poor performance.

It seems an appropriate time, therefore, for the State President to call for a national debate on morals and cultural values. That call was met with howls of derision from almost all the political leaders in opposition to the ANC who condemned the action as hypocritical in the extreme and no more than another attempt to deflect criticism from his own behaviour by appealing to culture. The Roman Catholic Bishop's Conference is one of the few bodies that has raised its voice in support of the call, saying that such a debate is long overdue. I

am sure that many, if not most denominations, including our own, would agree that we need to talk about morals, cultural values and the rebuilding of the moral fibre of our nation. Nevertheless, I want to take issue with the President's proposal.

I do not believe that we need a national conference – a gathering of political and community leaders, tribal chiefs and traditional healers, NGO and religious leaders - to debate and decide on moral values for our nation. In the first place, in my experience of conferences called by government leaders, there is seldom any meaningful consultation or discussion, and still less, any real listening by government. Instead, they are occasions where the politicians do the talking, and the rest of the group do the listening. And I am not sure how qualified our political leaders are to make any pronouncements on the subject. But secondly, and perhaps it is directly related to what I have just said; in my experience such conferences seldom result in any meaningful change.

No, we do not need another costly and ineffectual national conference. What we need instead is grass-root debate and discussion - in our parishes, schools, and homes. We need to talk not about cultural values - a term that appears to be greatly abused - but about the values that we believe are important for our lives and our communal well being. From the Christian perspective they are the values that lie at the heart of our faith – values that reflect not just human longings, but God's desire for all creation. We need to identify those values and discuss why we believe them to be "God-given". If we can begin to identify and agree on the importance of certain values, even if that conversation is limited to our own faith communities, then we can talk about what it means to live out those values and how we do it.

Our political leaders, both past and present, have contributed significantly to the moral decay of our nation and our present leaders have a major role to play in the rebuilding of the moral fibre of our nation which is why they need our ongoing prayers. But the damage has spread throughout the soul of our nation and moral regeneration will not happen because of national conferences attended by self-important leaders nor will it come about through stricter legislation – the quality of driving on our roads is testimony to this.

Our faith teaches us - and history confirms it - that people do not change simply by "trying harder". It is Christ who makes all things new; transformation, and especially moral transformation, is always God's grace. Bearing in mind that more than 80% of our population claim to be people of faith (the vast majority of whom claim to be Christian) I believe it will happen through the recovery of lived faith (whatever that faith may be); through men, woman and children who wrestle with what it means to be a holy people, living holy lives set apart for God, and trying to hold fast to and make visible in their lives the God-given values they have received and treasure. And that faithfulness is blessed by the indwelling Christ through whom we are transformed and made new.

The "Covenant Services" that are now a major annual festival in Methodist Churches (and which is being done in some Anglican parishes) had their origin not in a liturgical service at all, but in small groups of people who "covenanted" to meet together every week to support each other in prayer and to encourage and help each other live out the values of Jesus. Perhaps in a world where there is a surfeit of "support groups" we need to recover the concept of "Christian living support groups".

*"You have achieved nothing but your soul's failure"* – could there be a more devastating critique of a person's life or the life of a nation? Conversely, could there ever be a more wonderful affirmation of God at work in our lives, both as individuals and as a nation involved in its moral regeneration and transformation than to be able to say, *"It goes well with my soul."*

**For self reflection:**

1. To what extent does the way I live and behave reflect my faith? What changes are needed in my home life, my work and my friendships to more faithfully reflect the fact that I am trying on a daily basis to make Jesus visible in my life?
2. Who is my spiritual mentor, my support group, and how do they (or could they) shape and guide me in my own prayer life and spiritual journey?

**For group discussion:**

1. How can we, in our parishes, archdeaconries and as a diocese initiate discussion about the core values of our faith and how those values translate into the practice of our daily living?
2. How can we pray more effectively for our leaders and ourselves, and encourage them and ourselves to live holy, faith-filled lives?

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**Diocesan Office**

Liz Nkosi ended the temporary work she was doing for the diocese before Christmas, Saras Chinnah retired at the end of January, and Zodwa Phumo resigned effective 15<sup>th</sup> February. Applications for the vacant positions in the Diocesan office have now closed and we will be conducting final interviews in the coming week.

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**Diocesan website**

To date only 8 parishes have contacted Martin Louw to arrange training for the new website. As I said in the last Ad Clerum, each parish and Diocesan organisation has its own portal and we are asking you to take responsibility for maintaining and updating it. Incomplete portals reflect negatively on the diocese and our website. Please contact Martin Louw at [martin.louw@anglicanjoburg.org.za](mailto:martin.louw@anglicanjoburg.org.za) to arrange training and to learn how to make your section work to your best advantage. Please also visit the website at [www.anglicanjoburg.org.za](http://www.anglicanjoburg.org.za).

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**Vestry 2010**

In terms of the Canons Vestry is required to be completed by the 15<sup>th</sup> of March and the necessary returns and financials to be submitted to the Diocesan office within 7 days of the election. Because of the date of Synod it is vital that we have all the information on time

and I am therefore reminding you and urging you to ensure that there are no unnecessary delays. Please contact the relevant Diocesan department if there are any problems, but note that the diocesan staff are already over-extended and cannot accept any further audits.

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### **Retired Clergy Tea**

Please note that the Retired Clergy Teas scheduled for March and November have been cancelled. We will instead be hosting a single annual Retired Clergy Tea which will take place on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> October. Please amend your diary.

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### **Spiritual Formation**

**Clergy Day:** The next clergy day will take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> of March at the Parish of St Francis, Newclare. This is a full day event beginning at 09h00 and Bishop Peter Lee will be addressing us on the topic 'Preaching'. I would like to remind all clergy that you are expected to attend the full day and we will be catering for you. Please plan your diaries accordingly.

**St Benedict's:** The full listing for retreats and quiet days scheduled for 2010 has been posted on our website. Please go to [www.anglicanjoburg.org.za](http://www.anglicanjoburg.org.za) and select 'News' from the left hand column to find out more about their programme.

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### **Reading Recommendations**

A number of people have expressed reservations and concerns about some of Richard Rohr's recent publications. His latest book, "The Naked Now," is Richard at his very best and I recommend it to all of you. It will challenge and stimulate and, hopefully, draw you deeper into Christ.

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### **Provincial News**

- Many of you will know **Stephen De Gruchy** and will have experienced his wonderful gift for teaching. I am sure that you will be as saddened as I was to hear that he drowned while on a canoeing trip with his son last week. A requiem mass will be held at 15h00 at the Pietermaritzburg Cathedral on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of February.

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### **Diocesan Family News**

- Our congratulations to **David Butcher** who has been elected Chairman of the Board of St Peter's School.
- We would like to extend our warmest wishes to **Buyile and Mashikane Montjane** as they celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February.
- **Norman Montjane** celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March. Our sincere congratulations to him as he celebrates his milestone.
- Please would you all continue to pray for **Leago Makata**, Boitumelo and Mothusimang's baby who has been admitted to hospital with bronchial pneumonia. It is expected that she will remain in hospital for another few days as they have changed her medication following the results of her blood tests. This is a very difficult time for Boitumelo and Mothusimang so please do keep them in your prayers too.
- **Nico Palmer**, the Administrator in our HIV / AIDS Office will be undergoing surgery on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> March, and has been booked off work for the following 6 weeks. Please keep her and her family in your prayers over this time.

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### **Moves and Appointments**

- **Andrew Payne** has been appointed as Interim Pastor of the Parish of Christ the King, Sophiatown. Please pray for him in this new appointment.

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### **Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries**

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

| <b>MARCH</b>     |                                | <b>APRIL</b>     |                              |
|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Roy Collins                    | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Cecil Lamb                   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Mathabo Dlwati                 | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Joe & Mary Maboe (W/A)       |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | David Butcher                  | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Nigel Mollink                |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Peter Roberts                  | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Kenneth & Hilary Owen (W/A)  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Primrose Seku                  | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Morgan & Lynette Ellis (W/A) |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Pearl Sharp                    | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Doug & Vanessa Michael (W/A) |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Chris & Maureen Rowland-Aitken | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Tshepo Maloka                |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Errol Dengler                  | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Nelly Ramoabi                |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Peter Witbooi                  | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Martin Louw                  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Roseline Beart                 | 10 <sup>th</sup> | Tim & Rosemary Gray (W/A)    |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Eugenia Zeka                   | 10 <sup>th</sup> | Peter Wilson                 |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Kim Jacobs                     | 10 <sup>th</sup> | Keith & Pam Berning (W/A)    |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Gill Lee                       | 11 <sup>th</sup> | Cyril Halkett                |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Ethel Mbalula                  | 14 <sup>th</sup> | Oupaki Moruthane             |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Charles Germond                | 15 <sup>th</sup> | Mothusimang Makata           |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Steve Moreo                    | 15 <sup>th</sup> | Paul Siaki                   |

|                  |                            |                  |                           |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Geoff Paxton               | 16 <sup>th</sup> | Doug Wessels              |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | Beatrice Mpupu             | 16 <sup>th</sup> | Loreen McDougall          |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Helen Smith                | 16 <sup>th</sup> | Liziwe Moreo              |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Kgoro Mogami               | 17 <sup>th</sup> | Bill Salter               |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Meshack Nhlapo             | 17 <sup>th</sup> | Bikitsha Njumbuxa         |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Sedupe Ramokgopa           | 17 <sup>th</sup> | Mmalerato Molwantwa       |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | Beverley Longbottom        | 18 <sup>th</sup> | Cecil & Pamela Lamb (W/A) |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | Jeanette Ross              | 20 <sup>th</sup> | Fred & Merle Robb (W/A)   |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | John Whyte                 | 20 <sup>th</sup> | David Edwards             |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | Motlalepula Namu           | 21 <sup>st</sup> | Paul Letlala              |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | Douglas Torr               | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Eileen Wanckel            |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> | Paul & Ntombi Molefe (W/A) | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | +Duncan                   |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> | Rosemary Gray              | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Mary Maboe                |

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 Claire so that we can update our lists.

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### **Dates for Diary**

There have been some changes to the Yellow Pages for the year. Please find attached to this email an updated version of the Yellow Pages.

| <b>MARCH</b> |    | <b>Diocesan</b>  | <b>Bishop</b>                                 |
|--------------|----|--|---|
| Tuesday      | 2  | Independent Schools Half Term Ends   | Peter Block Conference                        |
| Wednesday    | 3  | Exec, Turstees and DFB meeting   | Peter Block Conference / Exec, Trustees & DFB |
| Thursday     | 4  | Clergy Day   | Clergy Day                                    |
| Saturday     | 6  | FOX / Anglicare  |   |
| Sunday       | 7  |  | Pastoral visit: St John, Orlando              |
| Saturday     | 13 | AWF General Meeting / Diaconal Training / Transformers                     | Transformers                                  |
| Sunday       | 14 | Final Date for Vestry  | Pastoral visit: St Mary, Orlando              |
| Wednesday    | 17 | Archdeacons Meeting  | Archdeacons Meeting                           |
| Saturday     | 20 | Ordination Training  |   |
| Sunday       | 21 | <b>HUMAN RIGHTS DAY</b>  | Pastoral visit: St Paul, Parkhurst            |
| Monday       | 22 | <b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>  |   |
| Tuesday      | 23 | Closing date for motions to Synod / Archdeaconry Region 1 Clergy Quiet Day |   |
| Wednesday    | 24 | Trustees   |   |
| Friday       | 26 | Independent Schools Holidays Begin   |   |
| Saturday     | 27 | POST / Saints Lay Training   |   |
| Sunday       | 28 | PALM SUNDAY  | Pastoral visit: St John, Roodepoort           |
| Monday       | 29 | Synod Agenda Book out  |   |

| <b>APRIL</b> |   | <b>Diocesan</b>  | <b>Bishop</b>                      |
|--------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Thursday     | 1 | MAUNDY THURSDAY Blessing of Oils & Renewal of Vows / Last day for Annual Returns/Financial Statements to Diocesan Office | Blessing of Oils & Renewal of Vows |
| Friday       | 2 | <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>   |                                    |
| Sunday       | 4 | <b>EASTER</b>  |                                    |

|           |    |  |   |
|-----------|----|--|---|
| Monday    | 5  | <b>FAMILY DAY</b>  | Retreat                                     |
| Tuesday   | 6  |  | Retreat                                     |
| Wednesday | 7  |  | Retreat                                     |
| Thursday  | 8  |  | Retreat                                     |
| Friday    | 9  |  | Retreat                                     |
| Saturday  | 10 | Good Governance Workshop / Diaconal Training/ FOX  |   |
| Sunday    | 11 |  | Pastoral visit: St Mark, Westonaria         |
| Monday    | 12 | Independent / Government Schools Return  |   |
| Tuesday   | 13 | Bishop's House Quiet Day   | Bishop's House Quiet Day                    |
| Wednesday | 14 | Synod Planning Advisory Committee Meeting  | Synod Planning Advisory Committee Meeting   |
| Saturday  | 17 | Good Governance Workshop / Ordinand Training / Transformers / Self Supporting Clergy Day / Anglicare / Archdeaconry Region 5 Meeting | Self Supporting Clergy Day                  |
| Sunday    | 18 |  | Pastoral visit: St James Dieploof + baptism |
| Wednesday | 21 | Closing date for final motions for Synod / DFB   |   |
| Saturday  | 24 | POST / Saints Lay Training   |   |
| Tuesday   | 27 | <b>FREEDOM DAY</b>   |   |
| Thursday  | 29 | Discernment Panelist Meeting St Georges  |   |

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## General Notices

- SABC 2 is repeating the 4 week series '**A Vision of Paradise – Global Warming and Religion**' starting on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 19h30 (during the 50/50 slot). The SAFCEI office is selling DVD copies of the four part series for R100 (contact Tim Gray for details). Parishes may want to consider using this during the 'Season of Creation' in September.
- **Siyafundisa Youth Program** - Today marks the due date to confirm attendance for the Siyafundisa Clergy / Heads of Sites Workshop that will be held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 09h00 at Hakunamatata Guest Lodge in Honeydew. It is compulsory for sites that are implementing this Programme to be represented at the conference. Failure to comply will result in your site being invoiced with a liability for full costs. If you have not yet RSVP'd please contact the Field Worker on 0823239948 or [jmiya@anglican aids.net](mailto:jmiya@anglican aids.net) as a matter of urgency.
- **Anglicare** is having a special promotional morning for any one interested in being trained as a counsellor on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March at the Paris of Holy Cross, Orlando (opposite the Hector Pieterse Memorial) starting from 9h00 – 11h00. RSVP Orlando Holy Cross at 011 939 4410 or Gloria Malindi 082 713 7754 for catering purposes.
- Cluster Publications is running a promotion on the publication "**Anglicans against Apartheid**" by Bob Clark. Archbishop Thabo has said that it is "fascinating, well written and succinct and captures key historical milestones in an accessible manner and indeed makes history come alive. All Anglicans, in particular those who want to draw from a rich well of in-depth research and accessibly written history should read this account." For a limited period only this title will be available @ R75.00 per copy. Place your orders with the Publishing Committee [publish@anglican churchsa.org.za](mailto:publish@anglican churchsa.org.za)

or order directly from Cluster Publications at [sales@clusterpublications.co.za](mailto:sales@clusterpublications.co.za) or 033 345 9897

- Coach is the coalition of St. George's Home, St. Joseph's Home and St. Nicolas Home. The Coach Head office in Bedfordview oversees the management of all the Homes and its Programmes and manages the central administration. We have a vacancy for a **Financial Administrative Manager**. The post is a permanent part time position with working hours from 8h00 to 14h00 Monday to Friday. Please contact [humanresources@coach.org.za](mailto:humanresources@coach.org.za) or on 011 616 4015 for a full job description.
- Saturday 26th March is **Canca Shavathon** day. From 9am you can have your blonde, red, brown, black or grey locks shaved or dyed at various shopping centres around Johannesburg. Your donation of R50 will assist Cansa in delivering their range of impressive services. Further info at 082-965.8088 or [www.shavathon.org.za](http://www.shavathon.org.za)

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