

AD CLERUM - OCTOBER 2011

Dear People of God,

Heritage Day was a quiet day for me – no meetings, no visitors, not even a heritage braai in celebration of the occasion – just a quiet day with Susan and a little TV in the evening. Very different from those people in District 6 who used the day to protest that their heritage was still being ignored and trampled upon by our political leaders.

The news on e-tv was followed by a chilling documentary about the Jewish child refugees who were transported to Britain to escape the Nazi Holocaust. The parents of those children made the heartbreaking decision to give their children away for placement in foster homes in a foreign land and with a foreign culture and language. And in most cases the separation was permanent because the parents died in the Holocaust. It is a story of families torn apart and lives left forever scarred and damaged, and it is all the more poignant because these children were the lucky ones – part of a handful who survived a holocaust in which more than 1,500,000 children died.

Perhaps the story was especially moving because I had only just finished reading the poet Anne Michael's novel, "Fugitive Pieces." It too is a story of the permanent psychological scarring inflicted upon the survivors of the Holocaust. It is a simple tale of Jacob Beer, a 7 year old boy who listens to the cries of his parents being murdered and his older sister assaulted and abducted while lying hidden in a closet. When he emerges his parents are dead, his sister has vanished forever, and he is a fugitive who is eventually found and given refuge for the duration of the war by a Greek archaeologist.

"Fugitive Pieces" is told in 3 parts. The first two parts are narrated by Jacob Beer himself; the first while a child in hiding, the second as a adult struggling to find closure on the war years. The third is told by Ben - the son of close friends of Jacob Beer (and who himself is the child of Holocaust survivors) - and looks back on Jacob Beer's life some time after he has died. The three parts highlight the huge emotional damage done and its ongoing impact not only throughout the individual's life, but also in the lives of the next generation. In this the book resonates powerfully with the documentary about child refugees. All the children were deeply scarred by the trauma they experienced and their subsequent lives were profoundly shaped by those experiences.

Although the story of each child is different from the other and different, too, from the characters in the book, there are common threads that run through all the stories. And it is on two of those common threads that I want to focus on in this reflection.

Both the novel and the stories of the children are set in the context of the Holocaust. At the heart of the Holocaust lay a vision of Aryan purity which gave rise to an intolerance of all racial, religious, and cultural differences that did not fit into this ideal. As such it is the antithesis of our South African concept of a "Heritage Day," where our racial, religious and

cultural differences are welcomed and affirmed. But the Holocaust stands as a visible reminder of the destructive power of intolerance and is an ongoing challenge to each of us to embrace our diversity as a gift of Christ.

In the documentary, all of the people interviewed recalled how they, as children, were marginalised and discriminated against simply because they were Jewish. They were law-abiding citizens, of the same nationality as their neighbours; they spoke the same language, and shared a common culture. And yet because they were Jews rather than Christians, or had Jewish ancestry, they were labelled and told that they were “sub-human”, “vermin,” and therefore could be verbally and physically abused for the fun of it and with impunity. One woman told of how, after Kristalnagt, when she and the children of her class were taken to watch the synagogue burn, one of the little girls who had been a close friend suddenly cried out, “We’ve got a Jew in our class, let’s throw her into the fire.”

And their diminution did not end once they left Germany. They simply changed the label to that of “child refugee” and, as such, until they were placed in a foster home, became a faceless number in one or another institution. The new label, though not derogatory, was impersonal and thus depersonalised them in ways that further damaged their sense of self worth.

Many in our own country can recall similar experiences that have left them damaged. Names that demean others on the basis of race, tribe, language, economic standing, gender or sexual orientation are still common within our communities. As long as we entertain such language or allow it to pass unchallenged, we contribute to the diminution and depersonalisation of others, promote intolerance, and cause hurt.

All the children in the documentary struggled, to some extent, to build relationships with their foster parents, and all of them have taken a lifetime to overcome the sense of isolation and abandonment they experienced and to be able to build relationships of trust and intimacy with others. Their insecurity meant that many of them, by their own admission, were prickly, oversensitive and difficult to get close to. But each of them had someone who accepted them just as they were and who loved them unconditionally. And it was this unconditional love at a time when they felt burdened by the stigma of being Jewish, that contributed immeasurably to their eventual healing and growth.

In “Fugitive Pieces” it would be safe to say that none of the characters in the novel found any real measure of healing except through the unconditional love of another. And while it is simply a novel, the story rings true and resonates with the testimony of those interviewed in the documentary. Many of us in our own country have had similar experiences and can testify to the healing power of unconditional love.

The trivialisation of Heritage Day by declaring it to be National Braai Day together with the protests of those in District Six and in other parts of our land who feel marginalised suggests that much work still needs to be done before Heritage Day can truly be an expression of celebrating the variety and richness of our diversity.

Paul reminds us that “... in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you were baptised into Christ have clothed yourself with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave nor free, there is no male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” Thus it follows that if we take our baptism into Jesus seriously we can no longer relate to others on the basis of difference, but on the basis of our common life. Our differences then become a bonus in which each enriches the life of the other and the polychrome nature of our common life becomes a cause for celebration.

As the baptised, we are agents of reconciliation who break down the barriers that divide us and the quality of our life together becomes the pattern for the healing and reconciliation of our world. We are to be a people of unconditional love who hold fast to one another and especially those who are hurt, prickly, oversensitive and who push us away. Jesus absorbed the hurt and pain of the world into himself and did not pass it on. In doing so he neutralised its destructive power and set us free. Jesus did it, so must we who bear his name.

May every day be a Heritage Day in which we celebrate our diversity



For self reflection:

1. When have I been hurt by demeaning and derogatory language and labels? How has that experience impacted my life? Where and how did I find some measure of healing? What healing is still needed and where could I find it?
2. When have I been guilty of using language or labels that have demeaned others on the basis of race, tribe, language, economic standing, gender or sexual orientation? How did my language damage the person to whom or about whom I spoke? How did it reinforce damaging stereotypes that affect our behaviour and attitudes towards others? What can I need to do to undo the damage caused or prevent it from happening in the future?

For group discussion:

1. What stereotypes exist within our parish and the community to which we belong? How do we allow the love of Jesus to challenge and address those stereotypes?
2. How do the teaching programmes of our parish (including sermons, Sunday school and confirmation classes) teach tolerance, understanding, and the welcoming and celebration of diversity? How do we promote the practice of unconditional love of each towards the other?

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Spiritual Formation

Clergy Day: **The October Clergy Day has been cancelled.** Please let other clergy know. The next Clergy Day will take place on Tuesday the 1st of November at the Parish of St Paul, Munsiville.

Retreats at St Benedict's: The following retreats have been scheduled for the remainder of this year. Should you wish to attend please contact St Benedict's on 011 435 3662 or at office@stben.co.za.

- 14th -16th October - "Christ Through Eastern Eyes" Facilitator: Revd Kumeran Soobrayan

- 21st – 23rd October - "Vitamin B for the Soul: a boost for tired people"
Facilitator: Revd Ann McGuinness
- 11th -13th November - "Exploring the Feminine Face of God"
Facilitator: Revd Michelle Pilet.

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Reading Recommendations

Richard Rohr has published another excellent book. Entitled “**A Lever and a Place to Stand,**” it critiques all forms of Christianity that do not challenge the oppression, materialism, abusive power, and narcissism of our modern world. True faith is vocational and, therefore, always transformational. It is an exciting and challenging book – I have spent days reflecting on the one-line quote at the start of the Preface. I commend it to you.

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Bible Survey

As part of the Bible in the Life of the Church project we are undertaking a Communion-wide survey of the way Anglicans understand and engage with the Bible. We rightly say the Bible is central to our life together but we often engage with it and interpret it in different ways. What are those differences? Why might there be differences? What can we learn from those who differ from us?

We are undertaking this survey by means of a questionnaire that is now available online and in a downloadable paper form. It takes about 10-15 minutes to complete and we want as many Anglicans as possible to get involved – either individually or through their local churches. Visit <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/acns/news.cfm/2011/9/22/ACNS4942> for more details.

Please do complete it.

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2012 Budget Presentation

The meeting of Parish Treasurers to present the 2012 Budget has been rescheduled for Tuesday the 25th of October at Christ the King, Sophiatown. The meeting will take place from 17h30 to 19h30. All Treasurers and Rectors are encouraged to attend. Please contact Ivy at the Diocesan Office to confirm your attendance.

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Code of Conduct Workshop

The Parish of Christ the King, Coronationville will be hosting a **Code of Conduct Workshop** with Adv Ronnie Bracks on Saturday the 1st of October 2011 from **10h00 – 12h00**. A fee of R30 per person is payable. The workshop will answer important questions for your parish

and could not only help to ensure the smooth running of the parish, but could also save you a great deal of money. Be there. Contact Fr Basil Matthews @ 011-6732507 or 0724067225 to book your place.

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St Joseph's Update

A Report from Rodney Taylor:

Work continues full speed ahead at the Centre. The ongoing restoration of the wood and paint continues and both are nearing completion as is the rewiring.

Construction has started on upgrading / rebuilding the toilets both up and downstairs. The contractors will also be building ramps to facilitate access by physically disadvantaged persons working or visiting the centre.

We are in the process of ordering telephone lines from Telkom. These will cope with direct extension dialing and high speed internet connection for both internal use and for the potential of a "Wi Fi Hot Spot" in the future. Cabling for the computer network will be starting within the next month.

The next big item on the agenda is securing the property and a fencing contractor has been appointed to install palisade fencing on the northern border.

I ask all of you who will be part of the Diocesan Conference on 15th October to please try and put your head in to the property and see for yourselves the tremendous amount of work that has been done to make the future diocesan centre a truly beautiful building. Anyone else who wishes to visit the centre is welcome to contact the Diocesan office to arrange a visit.

Financial Update:

The following additional costs were incurred this month:-

Additional Floor Refurbishment	17,373.46
Burglar Proofing	19,980.00
Electrical	60,500.00
Fencing Northern Boarder	212,631.00
Total Cost for September	310,484.46

This brings the total cost to date to R2,333,109.63.

I would like to extend a huge thanks to those of you who responded so generously to our appeal last month. I was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and good will our Diocese has for the Centre and our vision for it and so touched by one of our Ordinands wrote to the Diocesan Office requesting that a donation towards the refurbishment of St Joseph's be taken off his allowance on a monthly basis. As I said in the last Ad Clerum, if each of the Anglican's in this Diocese pledges R100 we will cover the costs. If you would like to make a conation please do so using the following bank details:-

Bank: Standard Bank
Account Name: Diocesan Finance Board

Account Number: 001-302-337
Branch: Small Street
Branch Code: 001805
Reference: St Joseph's donation, your name & Contact Details

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2012 Year Planner

2012 will be an especially full year as we will be celebrating our 90th Anniversary as a diocese. It will also be our Bishop's last year in office. As we are already in the final stages of planning the 2012 Diary, I would urge you submit any special requests or plans you have for 2012 so that they can be considered and where possible accommodated in the Year Planner.

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Provincial News

- **Bishop Paddy Glover**, Bishop of the Free State and Dean of the Province and **Bishop Mervyn Castle**, Bishop of False Bay have announced their intention to retire. Bishop Paddy will retire at the end of July 2012 and Bishop Mervyn will leave at the end of November 2012. Both are from this diocese and we thank God for their ministry and wish them God's every blessing in their retirements.

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Diocesan Family News

- **Xolani and Mathabo Dlwati** would like to express their sincere and heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to you for the love, support and prayers received during their time of bereavement. It was through these gestures of love that they found comfort and strength.
- The Parish of **Christ the King, Sophiatown** invites you to the institution of Neo Motlabane as their Rector at 15h00 on Sunday the 9th of October. Please RSVP on 011 477 8410 or at secretary01@telkomsa.net by the 6th of October for catering purposes.
- David Mapheng will be instituted as Rector of the Parish of **St Michael & All Angels, Alexandra** at 15h00 on Sunday the 30th of October.
- The Cathedral will be hosting an **Organ Recital** on Sunday the 2nd of October at 16h00. For more details visit the Cathedral's Event page on the Diocesan website: <http://www.anglicanjoburg.org.za/cathedral/CathedralStMarytheVirgin/ForthcomingEvents.aspx>.
- The Parish of St Michael's, Bryanston is running a **Book Drive** for the children of Alexandra. They are appealing to all members of the Diocese to donate all books they no longer use. For more information please contact the Parish Office (011 706 6050). The cut-off date is in November.

- On the 8th of October from 12h00 to 18h00, The Parish of St Andrew, Randburg will host a **Flower Festival** as part of their 20th Anniversary Celebrations. The theme is “Let the River Flow”. All are invited to come a celebrate God’s awesome creations and share in fellowship with others over a cup of tea and cake. A donation box will be available for our 20th Anniversary Celebrations to contribute to the establishing of the Church in Diepsloot. The Church is on the corner of West Avenue and Albert Street, Ferndale. Please contact the parish office on 011 787 6964 for more information.

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Moves and Placements

- After many years in the Diocesan Office, **John de Reuck** has retired. He begins his retirement this month and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to him for the many years of hard work and commitment he has shown both to me and to the Diocese as a whole. We wish both John and Di all the best as they begin this new chapter in their lives.
- Following a disciplinary hearing **Timothy Mncube** has been suspended for a period of three years with immediate effect. It is always difficult both for Diocesan Management and for those disciplined and we would encourage you all to pray for Tim and Jos and their family at this time.
- **Tsepho Maloka** has been appointed as Rector of the Parish of St Bartholomew, Kagiso with effect from the 1st of October 2011.
- **Bakitsha Njumbuxa** has been appointed as Interim Pastor at the Parish of St Francis, Maroka with effect from the 1st of November 2011.
- **Stephen Ratshefoa** has stepped down from his position as Self Supporting Deacon at the Parish of St Nicholas, Carletonville.

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Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

On the 7th of October Archbishop Emiratis **Desmond Tutu** celebrates his 80th birthday. He will be celebrating in Johannesburg on the 16th at the Parish of Christ the King, Sophiatown. Our sincere congratulations and best wishes to him on achieving this milestone!

We would also like to wish all the following Clergy and Diocesan Employees a very happy birthday and wedding anniversary this month:-

Date	October	November
01	Alice Mugglestone Tšepo & Nosipho Matubatuba(28)	
02	Gail Prince Jonathan Holden	Susan Alexander
04	Vincentia Kgabe	John Alexander
07	++Desmond Tutu	Mpho Moeti Greg Longbttom

08	Trevor & Gail Prince(23)	Janet Aereboe
09	Sharmain James	
	Peter & Gayle Wilson(45)	
10	Pilane Moroa	
12		Nicholas & Primrose Seku(33) Dan & Malerato Molwantwa(34)
13	Ian & Bernice Stevens(21)	Theo Simpson
14		Tim Gray
15	Manelisi Zeka	Jenny Mabin Wilhelm Klingenberg
17	Daniel Molwantwa Alan Keartland	
18		Steve & Liziwe Moreo(29) Royce & Yvonne Meyers(44)
19	Bev O'Shaughnessy	
20	Kenny Xinwa	Pearl Makhalemele Shona Fleming
21	Makananelo Thaba	
22	Omar Abrahams Mlungisi Ntsele	Claire Holden Omar & Eve Abrahams(41)
23	Kenneth Owen	
24	Lankiri & Makananelo Thaba(13)	Godfrey Henwood
26		Mashikane Montjane
27		Nombuyiselo Nhlapo David & Rachel Mapheng(27) Mpho & Precious Chaane(7)
30	John Warren	David Mapheng Andrew & Debbie Phillips(26)

We appreciate feedback – especially when we've forgotten someone's special day so please do contact Noxolo at the Diocesan office with any updates or amendments.

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Dates for Diary

Archdeaconry Region 6 will be having its Archdeaconry meeting on Saturday 8th October at St Francis Moroka from 09h00 to 11h00. The meeting is for the clergy and parish council members. Please confirm your attendance with Georgette on ststephens@icon.co.za or parish office 011 807 7974.

Transformers are meeting on Saturday the 8th of October at Sophiatown. Please remind your Transformers to attend as the Lent '12 team will be there to film them!

OCTOBER		Parish	Diocesan	Bishop
Saturday	1		FOX I / Anglicare / Code of Conduct Workshop	
Wednesday	5		St Bernard Mizeki Guild Provincial Conference	St Mary School & St Martin's Confirmation 18h00
Thursday	6		St Bernard Mizeki Guild conference	St Bernard Mizeki Guild conference
Friday	7		St Bernard Mizeki Guild conference	
Saturday	8		FOX II / St Bernard Mizeki Guild Conference / Confirmation Region 1 / Parish Minister Training	Confirmation Region 1
Sunday	9		St Bernard Mizeki Guild Conference ends	Pastoral Visit: Carletonville / Institution of Rector: Sophiatown
Monday	10	Government Schools Open		

Tuesday	11			Retired Clergy Tea
Saturday	15	Diocesan Confererence	Diocesan Conference / Ordinands / Transformers	Diocesan Conference
Sunday	16	Healthcare Sunday	Choir Fellowship, Bekkersdal / Mothers Union Clergy Prayer Day	Pastoral Visit: Fourway Gardens
Wednesday	19		Management Meeting	Management Meeting
Thursday	20	Independent Schools Half Term		
Friday	21		AWF Annual Conference	
Saturday	22		AWF Annual Conference / POST	POST
Sunday	23		AWF Annual Conference	
Tuesday	25	Independent Schools Open	Budget Presentation 2012	
Wednesday	26		DFB	
Saturday	29		Confirmation Region 3 / SAINTS	Confirmation Region 3
Sunday	30			Pastoral Visit: Hillbrow / Institution of Rector: Aex

NOVEMBER		Parish	Diocesan	Bishop
Tuesday	1	ALL SAINTS DAY / Clergy Day	Clergy Day	Clergy Day
Wednesday	2	ALL SOULS DAY		
Saturday	5	IV Training	STILIM Award Ceremony / AWF Thanksgiving Festival / Confirmation Region 4	STILIM Award Ceremony / Confirmation Region 4
Sunday	6			Pastoral Visit: Toekomsrus
Tuesday	8		Archdeaconry Region 1 Clergy Day	
Saturday	12		JDCF Spiritual Formation / Confirmation Region 5 / Region 2 Archdeaconry Meeting / Anglicare	Anglicare / Confirmation Region 5
Sunday	13			Pastoral Visit: Kensington
Tuesday	15			St Mary Board and Staff cocktail party
Wednesday	16		Management Meeting	Management Meeting
Saturday	19		Transformers /AWF Christmas Cheers / Archdeaconry Region 1 Council Meeting / Confirmation Region 6	Confirmation Region 6
Sunday	20			Pastoral Visit: Malvern
Saturday	26		POST	Self Supporting Clergy Day
Sunday	27			Pastoral Visit: St Andrew, Randburg 20th anniversary

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General Notices

- **Southern Anglican** magazine comes out 4 times per annum at a cost of R10 per magazine or R36 for 4. It is a superb magazine – one that will keep you informed of developments throughout the Province. Subscribe for yourselves and promote in the parish. Please contact viola@uhurucom.co.za / Tel: 021 657 4800 / Fax: 021 657 4860 to subscribe and ensure that you never miss an issue. It's a wonderful way of supporting the work we do, of strengthening a sense of belonging, and in fostering a sense of pride in we are as Anglicans.

- **Gift of the Givers** and Eve Abrahams have extended their thanks to our Diocese for the wonderful way in which we have supported their campaign for tinned fish and money for Somalia. In a period of only 47 days they were able to deliver more than R40 million of aid. For more details of please visit <http://www.giftofthegivers.org/somalia/index.php>
- **Children's Ministry Teacher's Training** will be hosting an Administrative Seminar at St John's College from 09h30 – 15h45 on Saturday the 5th of November. The seminar will look at ways to encourage congregants to help in running Sunday School and ways of encouraging children to come more regularly. The cost is R20 and you are asked to bring a bring and share lunch. Please contact Molly Robinson on 011 021 5927 or on mollyrob@neomail.co.za by the 30th September to book your place.

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Appreciative Inquiry training at The Wilgespruit Fellowship

The Wilgespruit Fellowship in partnership with NTL and CASE Western University is offering an *Appreciative Inquiry Foundation workshop* (23rd – 28th October) and an *Appreciative Inquiry Human Interaction Laboratory* (30th October – 4th November).

Appreciative Inquiry (AI) is a powerful new vehicle for energising **positive change** in an organisation's or community's human, ecological and economic functioning. Its aim is to discover, expand, and sustain an organisation's root **causes of success**.

The AI Foundations will cover both the theory and practice of Appreciative Inquiry. Special attention will be given to the power of positive questions; the simultaneity of inquiry and change; the function of narrative and metaphor in human systems transformation; how to create alignment across functional, generational, cultural and technical boundaries; and how to build global organising capacity to meet the challenges of the next millennium.

The AI Human Interaction Lab gives you a solid foundation for understanding the theory and processes of group development, increases your personal and group effectiveness in a diverse, multicultural environment, generates the capacity to give and receive feedback in a supportive and generative way, improves your ability to understand your own strengths and others, generates a deeper understanding of group development and group dynamics through a social constructionist frame, opens new channels of communication and personal insight by identifying and building on your strengths.

For more information please visit www.appreciativeinquiry.co.za or you can contact Laura at laura@wilgespruit.com or on 076 632 5714.

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