

AD CLERUM – MAY 2009

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

The adaptation of Bernhard Schlink's best-selling novel, "The Reader," into an Oscar winning film has been met with a storm of protest from American columnists and critics who believe that it somehow diminishes the horror of the Jewish Holocaust. While I respect their opinions, I can't help but feel that behind their protests is a great deal of unresolved guilt about what happened. Far from the film detracting from the horror of the Holocaust, for me it adds a whole new dimension by showing the pervasive damage that the Holocaust had on the lives of all who were touched by it, no matter how marginally. It is a complex and multi-faceted story and justice cannot be done in the space of a reflection like this one. Nevertheless, I believe that it has something important to say to us here in South Africa.

The film, following the novel which is largely autobiographical, tells the story of Michael, a 15 year old schoolboy who has an intense and passionate affair with a woman in her thirties. He forsakes all his friends to be with her and, during their liaisons at her apartment, spends much of his time reading to her the literary works he is studying. He is devastated when she abruptly moves away without telling him, and does not find her again until some 8 years later when, as a university law student, he attends a "war crimes" trial. She is there: one of 6 former SS guards on trial for having been responsible for the death of 300 Jewish prisoners who were burnt to death in a church during the death-march evacuations of Auschwitz in 1944.

This mass murder was described in a best-selling memoir by one of the Holocaust survivors telling how she and her mother survived. It is her evidence against the guards that ensures their conviction. As she testifies, Michael is horrified to hear that Hanna used to pick and choose "favourites" from among the prisoners who were forced to come to her quarters to read to her before, in turn, being sent off by her to the gas chambers.

Hanna, unlike her fellow defendants, admits that Auschwitz was an extermination camp and that the ten women she chose during each month's 'Selektion' were sent to the gas chambers. However, she denies authorship of a blatantly dishonest SS report about the events, but then takes the blame for having written the report rather than submit a handwriting specimen. It is at this point that Michael realises that Hanna is illiterate, and that she seems to be more ashamed of her illiteracy than of her actions and role as a SS guard.

Michael tells his professor that he has information that could assist one of the defendants but is unsure what he should do. His professor responds that the course they had been studying was about learning from the past and that he appears to have learned nothing. Michael remains silent and Hanna receives a life sentence for her role as the ringleader of the guards and the one who falsified her report. The other defendants get shorter terms.

Michael is shattered by the trial, but in time becomes a successful lawyer, marries, has a daughter and divorces. Much of his life is spent coming to terms with his feelings of horror at having been violated by Hanna in a way that forever stunted his capacity for relationships with others. And yet, despite his anger and his revulsion for what has happened, there is also a measure of pity for her.

After his divorce (and other broken relationships) he rediscovers his books and notes from the time of the affair, begins reading them into a tape recorder, and sends both the tape recorder and the cassettes to Hanna. In due course she learns to read and writes back to him. Michael does not write back, but keeps sending tapes. Eventually, in 1988, on the night before she is due to be released from prison Hanna hangs herself, leaving a note for Michael asking him to give a tin containing what little cash she has managed to save to the author of the memoir.

Michael travels to New York to meet the lady and is received with hostility and shown an unwillingness either to forgive or forget. Although she decides to keep the tin which is identical to one stolen from her at Auschwitz, she will have nothing to do with the money nor does she much care what use is made of it for, she says, nothing has been learned from the camps.

The film ends with Michael getting back together with his daughter from whom he is estranged at Hanna's grave and beginning to tell her the story.

Like all good stories, the film raises all sorts of painful and conflicting questions, without providing answers. One influential critic, Roger Ebert, argues that the film is essentially about "... not speaking when you know you should." Michael's professor remained silent to protect his career. Michael keeps to himself pertinent information that would have helped the woman he loved. Hanna also kept silent about illiteracy, and presumably remained silent in the face of the evil of the Holocaust and becomes complicit in it. Even Hanna's judge remains silent when she asks him, 'What would you have done?' Ebert says, "Would you have defied the Nazis? Would I have? ... There were a lot of people who did. Most people did not. There is an old saying: 'There, but for the grace of God, go I'.

The notion of "not speaking when you know you should" has, I believe, great relevancy for us today. It is always easier to remain silent rather than to stand up and be counted, but that silence, born of cowardice, makes us also complicit in what is happening around us. We then betray our Lord by becoming part of the problem rather than a part of the solution. Edmund Burke once said, "All that it takes for evil to flourish is for the good to remain silent."

At another level the film is about victims and survivors. Michael's pain turns him not just into Hanna's victim, but also a kind of survivor. Michael's wife, daughter, the woman and her mother who lived through the Holocaust, even Hanna are all (even if only indirectly) victims and survivors of the Holocaust event. Because of the evil of the Holocaust their lives were forever altered and changed. In a similar way we in this country are all Apartheid survivors – people who (whether as perpetrators and beneficiaries or the marginalised and dis-possessed) were victims of an evil system. Because of Apartheid our lives and those of our children have been forever altered and changed. The critical question is in what way our lives have been changed.

One of the most disturbing themes in the movie is reflected in the words of Michael's professor and the Holocaust survivor. Both say, in effect, that nothing was learned from the past, that lives were only diminished by what happened, and that there is no place of capacity for growth and transformation. The despair of the professor, the bitterness of the Holocaust survivor, and Michael's inability to find release from his deep hurt and pain seem to bear testimony to the truth of those words. And most frightening of all is the final scene in which Michael begins the process of passing on his pain to his daughter. Only Hanna's willing lifelong imprisonment, her suicide and her dying gift of her money suggest the possibility of healing.

Germany is a country still racked by a guilt that has reshaped its national psyche. Bernhard Schlink, the author of the book writes that "the pain I went through because of my love for Hanna was, in a way, the fate of my generation, a German fate."

We in South Africa must deal with the pains of our own hurt, for our own sake, for the sake of our children, and for the health of our national psyche.

'The Reader' is a deeply disturbing film that reveals the deep damage done not only to the victim, but also the perpetrator of evil. It is filled with an anguish and pain that continues unresolved to the end of the film, and leaves one feeling drained. It is a story of a search for healing and wholeness, but one which is incomplete, for it has not yet found the joy, the hope and the promise of new life that Easter brings. As we celebrate the resurrection appearances of Jesus and hear afresh his invitation to his disciples to enter into resurrection life, so I am struck again by the transforming power that is at the heart of our fellowship of faith. We need not only to hear, but to experience the words of Jesus, "Behold, I make all things new."

A few questions for this month's reflection and discussion are:-

1. When have you not spoken when you knew you should? Why did you remain silent and how did your silence make you feel? (This question may well give rise to a need for prayers of confession). Where are you tempted now to keep silent and not speak out when you know you should? What are you going to do about it?

2. The professor was filled with guilt, the Holocaust survivor with bitterness, Michael with the anguish of violation and betrayal; Hanna's pain remained locked in silence. What are the dominant emotions you feel as you look back on the Apartheid years and the years of democracy? After sharing these emotions, move into a time of prayer, inviting the Risen Lord to touch and heal the wounded space within our own lives.

May the joy of resurrection life make all things new in us



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Diocesan Youth Training Programme

Our diocesan training programme for young people is now under way. The second meeting of our young people will take place at St Michael and All Angels, Weltevreden Park on Saturday, 2nd May 2009 at St Michael and All Angels, Weltevreden Park at 08h30. About 70 young people attended the opening meeting (about half what was expected) and I am hoping that all of you will ensure that your parish is represented at the next meeting. I also know that a number of clergy fetched and collected their young people for the meeting – some over a great distance – and I want to thank them for their commitment to getting this new ministry off the ground. I also know, from what was said, that their young people felt tremendously affirmed and encouraged by their support. If this programme is to succeed, and it is vital that it does, then it needs the support of every priest, churchwarden and parish council. Please encourage your young people in this venture. As it is a diocesan programme, I am asking that all parishes meet the travelling expenses of the young people involved. If you are unable to meet that expense, then please speak to me.

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Spiritual Formation

Clergy Day: There will be no Clergy Day in May. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2nd June 2009 at St Francis, Parkview and the speaker will be The Revd Tim Gray.

Retreats: Bobby Godsell will be directing a retreat at St Benedict's from 24th -26th April. The topic is "Being a Witness to Hope."

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Reading Recommendations

With our diocesan training programme for young people now under way, I want to recommend a superb book that, although specifically written about ministry to young people, is equally challenging in respect of all ministry. Written by Kenda Creasy Dean & Ron Foster it is called "The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul Tending for Youth Ministry." It is a far cry from the usual youth ministry books that are often programmatic and offer thinly veiled 'to-do' lists for already overworked youth workers. This book avoids all preoccupation with programmes and techniques of ministry and instead focuses on the underlying paradigms that inform our ministry. What is especially valuable is the way in which it shows how the practice of our ministry is all too often a means by which we hide from intimacy with God.

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Diocesan Staffing

As you will see in 'Moves, Appointment and Vacancies,' Bev O'Shaughnessy has decided to move into full-time stipendiary ministry and has been appointed Assistant Priest in the parish of St Stephen's, Sunninghill. As she will be taking some leave before beginning at Sunninghill, her role as my personal assistant will effectively end on the 15th May. After much discussion, Rodney and I have decided, after consultation with the Executive, to appoint my daughter Claire Holden to assist me from

Bishop's House on a mornings-only basis and to appoint someone on a part time basis to help in the diocesan office until Saras Chinnah retires early next year.

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Good Governance Workshops - May 2009

The Diocese will, as usual, be running a number of Good Governance workshops for **new** councillors and church wardens during May. The workshops are intended for council members and wardens who have not served on a parish council within the past 5 years, although all are welcome to attend.

These are held on Saturday mornings starting at 08h30 for 09h00 and ending at approximately 13h00. Tea / Coffee / Biscuits will be served on arrival and during the morning.

The dates/venues are as follows:

9 May 2009 St Joseph's Diocesan Centre – Sophiatown
16 May 2009 The Parish of St John the Divine – Randfontein (For parishes on the far West Rand)
23 May 2009 St Joseph's Diocesan Centre - Sophiatown
30 May 2009 St Joseph's Diocesan Centre – Sophiatown (If necessary)

Please contact Saras Chinnah in the Diocesan Office, 011 336 8724, e-mail saras@cpsajoburg.org.za or fax 011 333 3053, to book the date you wish your parish to attend. Please include numbers expected to attend.

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Family News

Provincial News

- **Bishop David Bannerman** was consecrated as the 2nd bishop of the Diocese of the Highveld on 25th April. We look forward to a rich and rewarding relationship between the two dioceses. Please keep him and Joan in your prayers as they begin this new and very demanding ministry for the Lord.
- **Bishop Rubin Phillip's** son, **Byron**, passed away over the Easter Weekend. Please continue to hold Bishop Rubin, Rose and the family in prayer during this time of mourning.
- **Sarah Breytenbach**, wife of Bishop Martin Breytenbach, passed away peacefully on Sunday, 8th March after a long and brave battle with cancer. Sarah's funeral took place in Polokwane and her ashes were interred at St Francis' church, Waterkloof in Pretoria. Please continue to hold the family in your prayers.
- **Bishop Les Walker** has been experiencing some potentially serious health problems. Please pray for him and Marion as they seek clarity from the doctors.

Diocesan News

- **Dean Gerard Sharp** has been appointed Chancellor of the Priory for South Africa of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. Our heartiest congratulations go to the Dean. We wish him every success in his new appointment. Please continue to uphold him and his wife, Pearl, in your prayers.
- **Margaret Montjane**, the wife of **The Revd Norman Montjane**, passed away during April. A Requiem Mass was held for her in the parish of St Mary's, Orlando on Saturday, 18th April 2009. Please continue to uphold Fr Norman and the family in your prayers.
- **Anna Moloi** has been appointed as an additional Field Worker for Siyafundisa by the Anglican Aids & Healthcare Trust. Anna is based in the Diocesan HIV/AIDS office, Darragh House and may be contacted on 011 333 4399. We welcome Anna to the Diocese and wish her every success in her new position.

- **Diocesan Vice Chancellor, Adv Ronnie Bracks** has been appointed a Senior Commissioner of the CCMA. We congratulate Ronnie on his appointment and wish him every success for the future.
- **The Revds Jenny Mabin, David Mapheng, Bev O'Shaughnessy and Lynda Shimmin*** received their BTh degrees from TEE College at a ceremony held on Saturday, 18th April 2009. Our congratulations and best wishes to them all. (* with Distinction.)
- **The Revd Lefetlho Lethoko** and his family would like to thank everybody for their prayers during Dolly's recent illness. Dolly is now fully recovered and back at work.
- **The Revd Rodger Lekoko**, rector of St Mary's Bekkersdal, recently underwent surgery at Leratong Hospital for a dislocated ankle. The operation was successful and Revd Lekoko has been discharged. We pray that he will continue to make a speedy recovery.

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Dates for Diary

MAY

Fri	1	WORKERS' DAY		
Sat	2	Self-Supporting Clergy Meeting	Linden	08h30-12h30
Sat	2	Youth Leadership Training	Weltevreden Park	08h30
Sat	2	Ordinands' Programme	St Joseph's	
Tues	5	<i>Independent Schools Open</i>		
Tues	5	Siyafundisa: M&E Workshop for Volunteers	Mazenod Germiston	
Wed	6	Siyafundisa: M&E Workshop for Volunteers	Mazenod Germiston	
Wed	6	Trustees + DFB (To be Confirmed)	JP Centre	16h30
Thurs	7	Discernment Panelists' Meeting		
Thurs	7	Siyafundisa: M&E Workshop for Volunteers	Mazenod Germiston	
Fri	8	Siyafundisa: M&E Workshop for Volunteers	Mazenod Germiston	
Sat	9	Good Governance Workshop	St Joseph's	08h30-13h00
Sat	9	Siyafundisa: Parents' Workshop (NB: RSVP)	Diepkloof	09h00-15h00
Sat	9	STILIM for Lay Leaders	Linden	08h30-12h30
Sat	9	Diaconal Training	Weltevreden Park	09h00-12h00
Sat	9	Diocesan HIV/AIDS Quarterly Meeting	Jabavu	10h00
Sun	10	Bishop's Pastoral Visit	North Riding	
Wed	13	Management Meeting	St Joseph's	08h30-16h00
Sat	16	Discernment Conference	St Joseph's	08h00
Sat	16	Good Governance Workshop	Randfontein	08h30-13h00
Sat	16	Mothers' Union: Diocesan Council Elections		
Sat	16	Siyafundisa: Youth Day Event		
Sun	17	Discernment Panelists' Meeting	Parktown	14h00
Wed	20	St Benedict's Spiritual Formation Group: AGM		
Thurs	21	ASCENSION DAY		
Sat	23	Good Governance Workshop	St Joseph's	08h30-13h00
Sat	30	Good Governance Workshop	St Joseph's	08h30-13h00
Sat	30	Anglicare	Parktown	09h00-11h00
Sat	30	SfM/FoV Ordinands' Programme	St Joseph's	09h00-17h00
Sun	31	PENTECOST		
Sun	31	SfM Worship Training	Randburg	

JUNE

Mon	1	Diocesan Welfare Committee	JP Centre	
Tues	2	Clergy Day: Topic – Enviro Speaker – Tim Gray	Parkview	09h00-12h30
Sat	6	Self-Supporting Clergy Meeting	Linden	08h30-12h30
Sat	6	SfM Ordinands' Programme	St Joseph's	
Sat	6	MU Fundraising Day		
Sat	6	Youth Leadership Training		
Sun	7	Bishop's Pastoral Visit	Holy Cross	
Sat	13	Diaconal Training	Weltevreden Park	09h00-12h00
Tues	16	YOUTH DAY		

Sat	20	Archdeaconry & Diocesan Leaders		
Sat	20	POST	Bedfordview	09h00-16h00
Sun	21	Bishop's Pastoral Visit	Mzimhlope	
Wed	24	Trustees + DFB		
Fri	26	<i>Independent Schools ½ Term Begins Govt Schools Close</i>		
Sat	27	SfM FoV Programme	St Joseph's	09h00-17h00
Sat	27	Youth Leadership Training Weekend		
Sun	28	SfM Worship Training	Malvern	
Sun	28	Bishop's Pastoral Visit	Doornkop	

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Moves, Appointments and Vacancies

- **The Revd Bev O'Shaughnessy** has been appointed Assistant Priest in the parish of St Stephen's, Sunninghill, with effect from 1st June 2009. Please uphold her in your prayers as she prepares to undertake this new appointment.
- **Dan Ngqumeya** has been struggling with health issues for the past few years and is no longer able to drive his car. On the recommendation of his doctors, he has decided to take early retirement, and will be retiring at the end of May. We thank him for his many years of service in this diocese and wish him and Patricia a happy and joy-filled retirement.

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Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

Please remember the following persons in your prayers as they celebrate birthdays and anniversaries in the coming months:

MAY	
5 th	Molebe & Mottalepula Mosima (W/A)
5 th	Gerard Sharp
6 th	Makhosi Lenkoe
8 th	Andrew Phillips
8 th	Sue Ray
10 th	Debra Phillips
12 th	Motlale Namu
12 th	Gerald Hick
13 th	Maureen Rowland-Aitken
17 th	Corney Mphaki
18 th	Zodwa Phumo
19 th	Vicky Moroa
19 th	Angela Neil
20 th	Gwyn Slade
22 nd	Margaret Steward
23 rd	Pearl Mokgohlane
24 th	Charles May
25 th	Mlanjeni & Nokwezi Dodo (W/A)
25 th	Nosipho Matubatuba
27 th	Dolly Lethoko
27 th	Yvonne Payne
28 th	John & Amy Herbert (W/A)
28 th	Ntombi Molefe
28 th	Tsēpo Matubatuba
30 th	Doug & Lynette Wessels
30 th	Yasmille Smythe
30 th	Rhoda Dove

JUNE	
1 st	Thato Molipa
1 st	Sam & Nthabiseng Moswathe (W/A)
1 st	John & Susan Alexander (W/A)
2 nd	Owen Franklin
3 rd	Ian Macintosh
3 rd	Diana Thorburn
4 th	Mabatho Rakale
4 th	Andrew & Yvonne Payne (W/A)
5 th	Peter Lee
7 th	Jerry & Beryl Bailey (W/A)
7 th	Gabriel Tholo
8 th	Diana Keartland
9 th	Fred Robb
9 th	Diana Gay
11 th	Maud Khumalo
11 th	Lee-Ann Minakium
15 th	Maria Mhlongo
16 th	Val Lodge
18 th	Jack Williamson
22 nd	Abe Mokgohlane
22 nd	Evelyn Abrahams
23 rd	Neo & Beatrice Motlabane (W/A)
23 rd	Neo Motlabane
25 th	Geoff Lowick
26 th	Tim & Jos Mncube (W/A)
27 th	Motlalepula Mosima
28 th	Dorcas Ndwandwe
28 th	Patricia Ngqumeya
30 th	Mervyn Aereboe

General Notices

- **The Sunday Morning Radio Broadcast Service:** The fourth Broadcast for 2009 will be relayed at 11h05 on *Sunday, 17th May 2009* from the *Cathedral of the Resurrection, Matlosane*. The Dean is *The Very Revd Methayothle Beleme*.
- **Post-Ordination Skills Training:** The programme for 2009 is as follows:

20 June	General Skills
18 July	Narrative Methods
19 September	Insanity and Referral
17 October	Death and Dying
21 November	End of Year Party

 Venue: St Margaret's, 9 Harper Road, Bedfordview. Time: 09h00 to ±16h00. Bring & Share lunch. For more information contact Revd Patricia Lane. 011 455 4449.
- **St Luke's Church, Orchards:** Will be facilitating a "Boundaries" course on 8/9 and 15/16 May 2009. "Boundaries" is about developing healthy relationships - in the home, at work, even in the church. So often we become over-committed and then fail to do what we undertake well, or with a cheerful heart. The course has been put together by two prominent Christian psychiatrists, and the subject matter is dealt with often humorously even though the subject matter is very deep and sensitive. The course has helped many people to take better and more effective control of their lives. The cost of R150.00 is for both weekends and merely to cover meals and refreshments, and full sets of notes are given. (If cost is an issue, please contact me and I will make a plan). Session times are: Fridays: 18h00 to 21h00 and Saturdays: 09h00 to 15h00. Bookings: 011 728 7015 Shirley or Sally) or office@stluke.co.za
- **The Pastoral Care Portfolio:** Will be running an Alpha Marriage Course at St George's, Parktown from 13th May to 24th June 2009. The Course is held weekly from 19h00 to 21h30. The cost includes a once-off payment of R40.00 per person for the workbook; and R45.00 per person per weekly session for the meal. Please contact Chris or Daryl Jennings on 011 782 4393 for further information.
- **The Diocesan Youth Leadership Programme - "HOW DO WE GROW FROM WORLD PERFORMERS TO GOD'S TRANSFORMERS?"** The next Youth Leadership Programme Training will be held on **Saturday, 2nd May 2009** at St Michael and All Angels, Weltevreden Park. Registrations will begin at **08h15**, followed up by worship at **09h00**. Bishop Brian will lead part of the day's training. A limited number of **Transform** t-shirts will be on sale for **R20.00** each. A big and special thank you goes to all the parishes that sent their youth to be part of this wonderful programme and to the 70 youth who attended on 4th April 2009. We hope more of you will send your youth this time. For further details please contact Shona - 084 505 3409/ St Michael's Office Telephone no: (011) 475 1314 or Linda - 083 879 6569/ Diocesan Office - (011) 336 8724.

Directions to ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, 1123 Cornelius Street, Weltevreden Park:

FROM THE NORTH

Either take **N1** ring road and **Beyers Naude** offramp - Turn **Right** over the Concrete Highway.

OR

Get on to **Beyers Naude (formerly DF Malan)** and cross over the Concrete Highway. 400 metres after crossing Highway turn **LEFT** into **Jim Fouche** at the traffic lights. (NB: this road has no signage but if you look on the map it is Jim Fouche.) Travel 2,1 kms along Jim Fouche and go through 2 sets of traffic lights. At the 3rd set of traffic lights turn **LEFT** into **JG Strydom Road** (Tennis courts on Left corner). After 700 metres you will see Kentucky Fried Chicken and Palm Court shopping centre on the left. Just **before** this centre, at traffic lights, turn **RIGHT** into **Cornelius Street**. Travel 800 metres going through one four-way stop street on the way (Albert Street). Pass St Michael's Retirement Village on your **RIGHT**. **St Michael and All Angels** is next door. (Office and Rectory: pass through the car park to the back of the property)

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