

## AD CLERUM – JUNE 2009

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

Susan Boyle has become an overnight sensation after her rendering of the song 'I dreamed a dream' on the TV show: "Britain's Got Talent" on 11 April 2009. For those of you who have not heard of her nor heard her sing, I recommend that you Google her name and watch the U-Tube video-clip of that show which has recorded over 100 million hits in little over a month.

Susan is a most unlikely celebrity; especially in a highly visual television age where appearance usually counts for more than sheer talent. She is a 48 year old Scottish woman of very ordinary appearance who was brain damaged at birth and who was called 'Suzie Simple' at school. Apart from a 5 week stint as a trainee chef she has never been employed. She lived with her parents in a council home and cared for her mother until her death at 91. Since then she has continued to live in the same house with her cat for company. As she said on the show, she is not married and has never even been kissed, although she was quick to add that that should not be taken as an advert.

When she appeared on the show, looking very dowdy and dumpy, people started to laugh and whistle as she walked onto the stage. One of the judges, picking his nose, said, "What's your name, darling?" and then proceeded to ask where she came from, what her age was, what her dream was (without any real concern for what it was), who she would like to be as successful as, and what she was going to sing. She struggled to find the word to one of her answers and gaily said, "Had to think there," but most of her answers were greeted with laughter and disbelief from both the audience and the judges. The expressions of amusement and disbelief, though, turned to amazement as she began to sing and she ended her song to a standing ovation that had continued for most of the song and that included 2 of the 3 judges. At the end she bowed, blew a kiss to the audience and turned and walked off and had to be called back on to hear the verdict of the judges.

The first of judges to rate her said, "Without a doubt that was the biggest surprise I've had in 3 years on this show. When you stood there and said 'I want to be like Elaine Paige' everyone was laughing at you. No-one's laughing now." The second judge said, "... everybody was against you. I honestly think that we were all being very cynical. That's been the biggest wake up call ever." The third said, to howls of derision, "I knew the minute you walked on that were going to hear something extraordinary," and earned from Susan Boyle a loud, "Shame on you."

There are 3 lessons that I want to draw from the Susan Boyle story as it has played itself out thus far. The first is the most obvious: that of prejudice, judgementalism, and of the way we treat those who are different from ourselves. Susan has only ever entered two talent shows: in the first she was publicly mocked by the presenter; in the second at least two of the questions ('How old are you' & 'Whom would you like to be as successful as') were intended to (and did) get laughs at her expense. Until she began to sing the attitude of audience and judges alike was one of incredulous disbelief based on nothing more than her appearance and her obvious lack of sophistication. All of which raises the question of how we treat those who are simple and unsophisticated, or female and unattractive, or who are of a different race, nationality, language, colour, class. The front page story in our papers this

past week of a farmer who deliberately set his dogs on a visitor to the farm on an assumption of race shows that prejudice and judgementalism still dramatically shape the way we behave towards others. And the response of the third judge to Susan Boyle reminds us of our capacity for self-deception and of how unaware we often are of how our attitudes and behaviours hurt others.

The second lesson lies in Susan Boyle herself. Here is a woman who has been mocked and ridiculed all her life – who doubtless came home from school in tears on many an occasion. She is brain damaged, has never been able to hold down a job, and has been denied many of the things, like romance, that are such an important part of the joys of life. And yet, for all that, she is a woman with a profound awareness and acceptance of who she that is inspirational. One news reporter said of her:-

“Susan Boyle reminds us that we long for authenticity. ... The overwhelming response to Susan Boyle is because she’s real, there’s no pretence at being someone she’s not, and she exhibits the kind of courage to put herself on display not for shock value, but to honour her dead mother’s wishes. I find myself going back frequently to witness her authenticity, grace and talent for she reminds me that maybe, just maybe, there’s some hope for the human race.”

What a testimony to integrity. She must have been aware of the mocking laughter of the crowds and the knowing glances of judges, and yet her response to the questions showed no trace of hurt or anger or resentment. Irrespective of how they treated her, she responded respectfully and with dignity and good manners. That she was able to do so says much for the two key formative influences in her life – her family and her church. Between them they have helped Susan process the hurts and pains so that they have become redemptive. Without that transformation, our pain will inevitably become negative or bitter. If there isn’t some way to find some deeper meaning in our suffering and to find that God is somehow in it and is even using it for good, the gaping wounds of our past can never become signs of the grace. Susan’s faith, coupled with the ministry of her family and her church, has her to rise above her limitations to that place of grace where her presence becomes blessing.

The third lesson lies hidden in the future. Susan is caught in the midst of a media frenzy that is more concerned with the entertainment value of the moment than the worth of the individual. It is a frenzy of attention and adulation that could all too easily destroy her, as the implosion so many, like Brittany Spears, bears testimony. And so the question needs to be asked, ‘How does her community and the community of faith protect her from forces that could so easily damage and destroy her and then simply discard her?’

Susan Boyle is a beautiful person, not so much in terms of her physical appearance, but as a person in whom Christ has been allowed to grow and to shine. Such beauty, as the reporter quoted earlier recognised, is rare and precious, shining with an authenticity and grace that is life giving and restores one’s faith. The challenge for all of us is how we, living in a sophisticated world of ready prejudice and destructive judgements, can nurture and cultivate such beauty and grace within ourselves, in others and in our wider community.

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

1. How do we as a community of faith respond to those who are ‘different’ from us? To what extent do we truly receive and welcome them into our community, rather than grudgingly tolerate their presence? To what extent are our lives enriched by their presence and ministry?
2. To what extent have the pains and hurts of our past closed us in upon ourselves, leaving us bitter and resentful of particular persons or of groups and categories of people? Have our wounds led us deeper into Christ, into that place where we have found Christ

at work in our lives even (and especially) in those hurts and pains; in that place where we have found transformation and grace?

3. How do we as a community nurture and care for the dreams of others, especially those who are weaker and less fortunate than ourselves and how do we protect them from harm and walk with them in their pain and hurt?

Susan Boyle, with all the odds stacked against her, walks tall for God. I pray that we too will walk with the same integrity and faithfulness, and that our lives too will shine to the glory of God.

May the Pentecost power of God be visible in the transformation of our lives



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### Archdeacons and Archdeaconries

At last we are ready to move in respect of our new archdeacons and archdeaconries, but before doing so I want to pause and express my thanks to those who have served as Archdeacons over the past few years. They have been loyal and faithful servants who have contributed immeasurably to the life and well-being of the diocese. Without them little would have happened that has happened. I thank them for their friendship and support and also, one and all, for their generous offer to step down as Archdeacons in order to make the new archdeaconries possible.

Not all of the old archdeacons will continue on in the new system. This is not in any way a reflection on their abilities nor of any lack of appreciation for what they have done. The new Archdeacons have been carefully selected according to a specific set of criteria in order to ensure that the new archdeaconries in their reconciliation processes, as well as our diocesan vision will all be given the impetus needed to ensure success. Please express your own appreciation to those who have served as your archdeacons and please give the new archdeacons your unstinting support.

| <b>1</b>         | <b>2</b>          | <b>3</b>         | <b>4</b>          | <b>5</b>            | <b>6</b>                            |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Moruthane</b> | <b>Kgabe</b>      | <b>Michaels</b>  | <b>Moreo</b>      | <b>Dlwati</b>       | <b>Prince</b>                       |
| Bosmont          | Auckland Park     | Bramley          | Brixton / Mayfair | Bedfordview         | Alexandra                           |
| Kagiso: St B     | Cathedral         | Carletonville    | Dobsonville       | Bekkersdal          | Diepkloof: St J                     |
| Kagiso: St T     | Doornkop          | Discovery        | Ferreirastown     | Belgravia           | Diepkloof: St S                     |
| Orchards         | Fochville         | East Bank        | 4-Way Gardens     | Bez Valley          | Emdeni                              |
| Meadowlands      | Hillbrow          | Florida          | North Riding      | Bryanston           | Krugersdorp                         |
| Newclare         | Houghton          | Khutsong         | Orlando: HCross   | Coronationville     | Munsieville                         |
| Orlando: St J    | Jabavu            | Mzimbhlope       | Parkview          | Halfway Gardens     | Moroka                              |
| Orlando: St M    | Noordgesig        | Linden           | Randfontein       | Jeppeshtown         | Orange Grove                        |
| Randburg         | Parkhurst         | Protea Glen      | Ruimsig           | Kensington          | Parktown                            |
| Rangeview        | Phakamani         | Protea South     | Sandton           | Malvern             | Rabie Ridge                         |
| Senoane          | Pimville          | Roodepoort       | Toekomsrus        | Mohlakeng           | Sophiatown                          |
| Tladi            | Rosebank          | Weltevreden      | Yeoville          | Simunye             | Sunninghill                         |
|                  | Wedela            |                  |                   |                     | Westonaria                          |
|                  | St John's College | St Mary's School | Vuleka Schools    | Bishop Bavin School | St Peter School<br>St Peter College |

We have tried, as far as possible, to ensure that all parishes have at least one other parish from the old archdeaconries as this ensures some small measure of continuity and geography. Nevertheless, the new archdeaconries are both geographically widespread and as disparate as possible. This is deliberate and part of an attempt to create the kind of diversity that will promote new insights and growing reconciliation. As I have said before, to make these new archdeaconries work will require serious and sacrificial commitment on the part of all concerned. But I believe that it is a commitment that is needed to undo the ravages of apartheid and is commitment both to the healing of our land and the building of God's kingdom.

Archdeacons: Please note that we will be holding our first meeting on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July. This is a new date and is not in the Yellow Pages and so will not be in most of your diaries.

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### **Cancellation of 20 June**

Because the new archdeaconry system will only now be getting under way the diocesan review scheduled for 20 June and involving all people in leadership at archdeaconry and diocesan levels has been cancelled. I know that we all operate under enormous pressure, and so suggest that those who were scheduled to attend, keep the day free for their families rather than allowing their diaries to be filled up with new appointments.

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### **Diocesan Youth Training Programme**

The diocesan youth leadership training weekend has been rescheduled. It will now take place on the weekend of the 31<sup>st</sup> July and not on the weekend of the 27<sup>th</sup> June as originally planned. We encourage every parish to take this program very seriously. As I said in the last Ad Clerum, 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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### **Church Schools, Chaplaincy and the Church**

St John's College invites any interested clergy to join us on Wednesday 17 June at 07h30 for our weekly Eucharist followed by a discussion on Church Schools, Chaplaincy and the Church.

The school is reviewing its strategic plan for the next 15 years or so and one of the issues highlighted is the need to revitalise the relationship with the Diocese and the local parishes. We are also in the process of looking for a new chaplain as Fr. Mike Arnold will be retiring from the school at the end of the year, and are interested in the wider church community's insights and ideas on the ministry and role of chaplains in the broader context.

The meeting will be an 'informal' sharing of ideas over tea, and should be over by 11h00. If you are interested in joining us please let Ian Stevens know (for catering purposes) at [stevens@stjohnscollege.co.za](mailto:stevens@stjohnscollege.co.za) or on 082 348 6053.

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### **Spiritual Formation**

**Clergy Day:** The next Clergy Day will be held at the Parish of St Francis, Parkview on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The topic is the environment. I trust all clergy received a copy of the agenda. If you did not please contact [Claire.holden@cpsajoburg.org.za](mailto:Claire.holden@cpsajoburg.org.za) to have your name added to the distribution list.

In the Clergy Day scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> of July Revd Gwyn Slade will discuss her training as a debt counsellor and give us guidance on how to provide practical pastoral care to our parishioners in these difficult financial times. The venue for this meeting is St Thomas, Kagiso.

**Clergy Retreat: September:** I will be conducting the Clergy Retreat this year. I am asking that every priest who has not already made a retreat this year attend. If you wish to attend please give your names to Claire.

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### **Reading Recommendations**

The Anglican Church Publishing Committee has just published a small, but superb, book by John Suggit entitled "Anglican Liturgical Notes For Today." It is a series of papers mainly on the subject of the eucharist itself and is, like everything that comes from John, wise, informative and formational. At R40 a copy it is a "must read" for all involved in leading worship and highly recommended for everyone else.

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### **Diocesan Staffing**

Claire Holden has now come on board as my PA on a morning's-only basis and will be working from Bishop's House. Please ensure that all correspondence is sent directly to her address: [Claire.holden@cpsajoburg.org.za](mailto:Claire.holden@cpsajoburg.org.za). We are also in the process of re-examining and restructuring the Diocesan office and would ask that you let us know of any difficulties you have in respect of Diocesan office services.

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### **Good Governance Workshops - May 2009**

The Diocese has held a number of workshops over the course of the last month. Most have been very well attended and those who attended seem to have found them very useful. We would welcome any feedback from attendees if you feel that there are areas that can be improved for next year. Please email any responses to [saras@cpsajoburg.org.za](mailto:saras@cpsajoburg.org.za)

I would like to thank Rodney Taylor and Mark Franklin for all their hard work and dedication.

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## Preaching by Lay Persons

A number of people have drawn my attention to the fact that a number of parishes are using lay ministers who have no formal training in either biblical studies or theology to preach. Inevitably this has raised concerns regarding the quality of preaching, and I have received a number of complaints in this regard. I would remind you that no-one may preach unless licensed thereto by a bishop and you are in breach of the rules if you allow such preachments to happen. If you feel that someone sufficiently far along in their theological studies should be given an opportunity to preach you need first to obtain my approval and then I would suggest that you then allow them to preach only after you have checked the content of their sermon well in advance of the Sunday service. Only in this way can you be in control of the teaching your parishioners receive.

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## 2010 Calendar

We are beginning the process of preparing the 2010 Yellow Pages. If your parish, school or institution has any big celebrations, Patronal Festivals or events that you would like me to attend please send requests, in writing, to Claire. Dates will be allocated on a first come first serve basis so get in early to avoid disappointment! We hope to have dates finalised by the end of August.

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## Family News

- As most of you will know **William Mpupu** collapsed and die unexpectedly. Our prayers and condolences go to his wife Beatrice and their family.
- **Liziwe Moreo** has been in hospital again with yet another kidney infection. While in hospital it was discovered that she also has severe back problems that may prevent her from ever returning to work. The family have asked that we express their thanks to those who have provided meals and prayers and ask that you continue to hold them in your prayers at this time.
- At a special vestry meeting held this month the Parish of Bosmont decided to grant **Ernie Quickfall** an early retirement on compassionate grounds. He has stepped down from parish ministry with immediate effect. We wish him and Rigia peace and blessings as they begin a new chapter of their life together.
- We are pleased to be able to announce that the **Ruimsig Community Anglican Church** has moved to new premises. They can now be found in a warehouse in Liner Avenue, Laser Park. Details about this exciting parish can be found on their website [www.Churchunusual.co.za](http://www.Churchunusual.co.za). **Sam Ogualo** has been licensed as an assistant priest to the parish.
- We are also thrilled to announce that we are in the process of planting a new church at **Cosmo City**. They are currently worshiping in a classroom at Cosmo City Primary School and their numbers are steadily increasing week by week. Sam Ogualo who has been licensed to Ruimsig is spearheading the evangelistic outreach there.
- On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June the **Parish of Christ the King, Coronationville** celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rebuilding of their church after fire destroyed the original building. We ask that you keep them in your prayers as they celebrate the life of their parish.

- The unveiling of the tombstone of **Peter Monageng** will take place at 8am on the 11<sup>th</sup> July at St Phillip Thokoza.
- The unveiling of the tombstone of **Abel Molefe** will take place at 8 am on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July at St Francis Moroka.

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### **Moves, Appointments and Vacancies**

- **Canon Godfrey Henwood** has been appointed Rector in the Parish of St Michael, Bryanston with effect from early September 2009.
- **Douglas Torr** has been appointed Rector in the Parish of St Catherine, Bramley, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009. Please uphold him in your prayers as he prepares to undertake this new appointment.
- **John Futter** from the Diocese of Highveld has been granted a license to act as an interregnum at the Parish of St Mary, Jeppestown.
- **Stephen-Damien** will be acting as interim pastor at St Luke Bosmont until an appointment can be made sometime in the New Year.
- **Kenny Xinwa** will be looking after the parish of St Stephen, Diepkloof following the retirement of Dan Ngqumeya at the end of May. We wish Dan and Pat well in their retirement and ask that you keep Kenny in your prayers as he cares for the parish.
- **Chaplain for St Mary's School:** St Mary's School is seeking to appoint an Anglican priest as a full-time Chaplain to the school from January 2010. The Chaplain will be licensed by the Bishop of Johannesburg. This is a senior appointment and it will be expected that will have had some experience at a senior level in ministry or some other involvement.

Ideally the candidate should be a person who exhibits:

- Godly love and character
- A strong faith and witness
- Spiritual gifts of pasturing, teaching and leading
- A passion for the spiritual development of young people
- An ability to communicate and work as part of a team.

The ministry will include:

- The spiritual and pastoral care of the girls and school family
- Teaching Divinity and Confirmation classes
- Supervising the School Divinity Programme
- Arranging and leading the Chapel services
- Working together with the Head, Assistant Chaplain and Staff
- Ministry to the parents and local community.

Please email your CV, together with the names and contact details of six referees, to [lis@stmary.co.za](mailto:lis@stmary.co.za). Please include specific details of any previous ministry experience with young people.

Please note that the closing date for applications is Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The School reserves the right not to make an appointment.

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## Dates for Diary

### JUNE

|       |    |   |                   |             |
|-------|----|---|-------------------|-------------|
| Mon   | 1  | <b>Diocesan Welfare Committee</b>                           | JP Centre         |             |
| Tues  | 2  | <b>Clergy Day: Topic – Environment</b>                      | Parkview          | 09h00-12h30 |
| Wed   | 3  |   |                   |             |
| Thurs | 4  |   |                   |             |
| Fri   | 5  |   |                   |             |
| Sat   | 6  | <b>Self-Supporting Clergy Meeting</b>                       | Linden            | 08h30-12h30 |
| Sat   | 6  | <b>SfM Ordinands' Programme</b>                             | St Joseph's       |             |
| Sat   | 6  | <b>MU Fundraising Day</b>                                   |                   |             |
| Sat   | 6  | <b>Youth Leadership Training</b>                            |                   |             |
| Sun   | 7  | <b>Bishop's Pastoral Visit</b>                              | Holy Cross        |             |
| Mon   | 8  |   |                   |             |
| Tues  | 9  |   |                   |             |
| Wed   | 10 | <b>Pastoral Care Meeting</b>                                | St. Joseph's      |             |
| Thurs | 11 |   |                   |             |
| Fri   | 12 |   |                   |             |
| Sat   | 13 | <b>Diaconal Training</b>                                    | Weltevreden Park  | 09h00-12h00 |
| Sun   | 14 | <b>Bishop's Pastoral Visit</b>                              | Coronationville   |             |
| Mon   | 15 |   |                   |             |
| Tues  | 16 | <b>YOUTH DAY</b>  |                   |             |
| Wed   | 17 | <b>School's, Chaplaincy &amp; the Church Discussion</b>     | St John's College | 07h30-11h00 |
| Thurs | 18 |   |                   |             |
| Fri   | 19 |   |                   |             |
| Sat   | 20 |   |                   |             |
| Sat   | 20 | <b>POST</b>   | Bedfordview       | 09h00-16h00 |
| Sun   | 21 | <b>Bishop's Pastoral Visit</b>                              | Mzimhlope         |             |
| Mon   | 22 |   |                   |             |
| Tues  | 23 |   |                   |             |
| Wed   | 24 | <b>Trustees + DFB</b>                                       |                   |             |
| Thurs | 25 |   |                   |             |
| Fri   | 26 | <i>Independent Schools ½ Term Begins Govt Schools Close</i> |                   |             |
| Sat   | 27 | <b>SfM FoV Programme</b>                                    | St Joseph's       | 09h00-17h00 |
| Sat   | 27 |   |                   |             |
| Sun   | 28 | <b>SfM Worship Training</b>                                 | Malvern           |             |
| Sun   | 28 | <b>Bishop's Pastoral Visit</b>                              | Doornkop          |             |
| Mon   | 29 |   |                   |             |
| Tues  | 30 |   |                   |             |

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## **Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries**

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

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

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 please email Claire Holden so that we can update our lists.

## **General Notices**

- Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre is looking for some second hand pews for its chapel. If you have recently put in new pews or have a few surplus pews please give Anastasia a ring on 011) 764-2529.
- The Community of the Holy Name who have now established a branch house at St Benedict's have expressed a desire to be involved in preaching within parishes in our Diocese. They are an Anglican evangelistic order and are doing superb work. Please consider inviting them to be part of one of your services I think their preaching will
- **Updates for Clergy Telephone Directory:**
  - The Revd Doug Michael's email address [revd.doug@gmail.com](mailto:revd.doug@gmail.com)
  - Please use the following address for Diana Thorburn: [ian.diana@iburst.co.za](mailto:ian.diana@iburst.co.za)
  - The email address for Bishop Martin Breytenbach of the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist is [martin@stmark.co.za](mailto:martin@stmark.co.za)

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