

## AD CLERUM – JULY 2009

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

A couple of months ago I wrote about the film “The Reader.” It was not the film that made an impact on me so much as the reality that more than 60 years after the event neither Germany nor the Jews have really come to terms with the Holocaust. I don’t know why that struck me so forcibly then – when I was in Lichtenburg I came across many Afrikaner people who were still filled with intense bitterness and hatred towards the English for deaths in the concentration camps of Anglo-Boer Wars fought more than 80 years earlier – perhaps it lay in a new awareness that reconciliation doesn’t just happen. Time does not necessarily heal; it can also harden and intensify the hurts and the hatreds.

That awareness comes through very strongly in two fascinating publications on a similar theme have crossed my desk almost simultaneously. The first, by a British political journalist and commentator, is entitled “After Mandela: the Battle for the Soul of South Africa” (which was published in the USA under the title “Bring Me My Machine Gun: the Battle for the Soul of South Africa from Mandela to Zuma”). It offers a penetrating retrospective of ANC rule thus far based on the speeches of our leaders together with numerous interviews with those in the corridors of power.

Alec Russell opens his book with these words:-

“The history of countries throwing off tyrannical regimes tends to follow a pattern. In the immediate aftermath there is euphoria, accompanied by utopian pledges for the future. Then the new rulers find the business of governing more difficult and messier than they could ever have imagined. *They also find it harder to overcome their own past than they had appreciated* as they plotted their takeover in prison or in exile. It is in this second stage that the true meaning and trajectory of a revolution unfolds.” (italics mine)

The second publication is an 80 page document entitled, “The Dinokeng Scenarios: Three Futures for South Africa.” The Scenario Team consisted of 35 leaders drawn from all segments of society under the guidance of convenors of the likes of Dr Mamphela Ramphele, Archbishop Ndungane, and Ms Graca Machel. One of those who participated in the scenario conversations makes an almost identical comment to the one quoted above about the shift from euphoria to disillusionment within our own political situation, while another echoes Russell’s concern about the power of the past when s/he simply acknowledged:-

“We seriously underestimated the impact of the legacy of apartheid. ... We simply did not reckon with the how deep the impacts were of the system.”

Two sets of similar comments from very different people; with both highlighting the difficulty of letting go of the past and embracing a common future. Reconciliation doesn’t just happen; time does not necessarily heal. Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers” for very good reason; peace-makers don’t just keep peace, they make peace.

At the Trevor Huddleston Memorial Trust Dinner on 26 June, Archbishop Thabo spoke of the long years of pain of Israel's experience in exile and of their joy at returning to Jerusalem, even though the temple had been desecrated and the place lay in ruins. That same sense of exile pain and restoration joy, he went on to say, had been felt by the people of Christ the King, Sophiatown; the exile beginning at the time of the forced removals from Sophiatown and continuing until the rededication of the church. That same sense of exile and restoration has been reflected in the history of most of the indigenous peoples of this nation.

The Archbishop went on to speak of the importance of lament in the history of Israel and in their writings. These laments represent the deepest cries of pain of both individuals and communities. They speak of physical danger and mental anguish, a mix of protest and prayer for deliverance expressed to a God whom they knew would listen, hear, and ultimately respond affirmatively to their cry. The importance of these laments lies not in the recitation and calling to mind of past hurts, but is rooted rather in its reminder of the greatness and goodness of God who recognised the depth of their desperation and rescued them. In the same way, the Archbishop suggested, the goodness of God as seen in our deliverance should be the motivating force at work in our lives. As we have received graciously, so we should give generously.

The goodness of God at work in our lives must also be the starting point of our reconciliation work in our Archdeaconry meetings. We are called to give generously of our time and money because God has dealt so graciously with us. Those final years of transition to a democracy could so easily have been (as many believed they would be) a disaster of calamitous proportions. By God's grace they were not, and it is now out of gratitude for what God has done for us that we reach out as peacemakers, each to the other.

The task before will not be easy. There are a myriad of conflicting and often painful emotions – hurt, bitterness, anger, fear, guilt, loss, disorientation – that still divide us and prevent us from connecting and being vulnerable, true and real with each other. And so we hide behind masks of unreality, projecting false images of peace and well-being that fool even us into believing them to be true. But unless we learn to mourn and to grieve together; until we learn to lament our raw and painful past we cannot embrace each other in the journey into the future.

In lament we turn to God and our sisters and brothers in Christ in ways that allow God to transform the past and make us 'prisoners of hope'. God is in Christ reconciling the world to God ... God is in Christ breaking down the walls that divide us. That is the good news – it is God who is at work in us, and who invites us to share in the work of healing, reconciling and peace-making. We respond to that invitation not just because we ourselves need healing, nor even because our sister or brother needs us to be part of the process; we journey together out of gratitude to God for grace upon grace received.

As Archbishop Thabo said in his address:-

"Indeed, in all of life, gratitude should be our first response – for the gift of life itself; and for the reality of God's promises, that nothing in all creation can separate us from his love, and that there is no situation so terrible that he cannot work in it for good (Rom 8:28,39).

"This surely is a source of sure and certain comfort to us all. We look back, and we see how God worked for good in, and through, and despite, our past. And so, when the present, when the future, seem to threaten, we can proclaim our confidence that God will work for good again, as we once more put out hands in his, and trust in him

“This is the first word of comfort that we can proclaim to our community. Yes, God works in all things for good, if we are prepared to let him – and so we dare to give him thanks, in good times and in bad.”

I am posing only two questions this month. The first is for your own personal reflection. The second is for group discussion and I am asking that it be the central discussion question as you meet together in your Archdeaconries.

1. How does your daily living reflect your gratitude to God for all that you have received?
2. What needs to be done in our parish / archdeaconry / diocese if we truly want to be reconciled and seen to be reconciled? How do we show that we truly ‘love one another’?

May the one who has made peace make us peacemakers.



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### **Archdeacons and Archdeaconries**

Archdeacons: Please note that the next meeting will be held at the JP Centre at Bishop’s House on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August**. It has been decided that for the foreseeable future this meeting will include only the Archdeacons and not the Portfolio heads. This decision has been taken to enable the new Archdeacons to really focus on the aims of the Archdeaconries and discuss how we achieve them.

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### **Rescheduling of Management Team Strategic Planning Meetings**

Because of the delays in setting up the new archdeaconry system we have decided to reschedule the Management Team Strategic Planning. It will now take place from **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> of October**.

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### **Diocesan Youth Training Programme**

As per the last Ad Clerum, the diocesan youth leadership training weekend takes place on the weekend beginning on the 31<sup>st</sup> July. Please encourage your young people in this venture and support them by meeting the expenses involved. If you as a parish are unable or unwilling to meet that expense, then please speak to me. While most of you have been very encouraging and supportive of your young delegates, there appear to be a few parishes which have some reservations about the process. Please speak to me if this is the case.

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## **Spiritual Formation**

**Clergy Day:** The next Clergy Day will be held at the Parish of St Thomas, Kagiso on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July. Revd Gwyn Slade will give us guidance on how to provide practical pastoral care to our parishioners in these difficult financial times. Liz Dooley will join us to discuss the role of Anglicare Counsellors in the life of a Parish and the wonderful service they provide in supporting parishioners emotionally in times of need.

The August Clergy Day will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> August at the Parish of St Francis, Newclare. We have invited three guest speakers and look forward to some lively debate.

**St Benedict's July Retreat:** 6 Lessons for Busy People from the Life of Christ will be running from 17-19 of July. Please contact St Benedict's if you are interested in attending.

**Clergy Quiet Day: August:** The next Clergy Quiet Day will take place at Bishop's House on 18 August. I look forward to seeing you there.

**Clergy Retreat: September:** I will be conducting the Clergy Retreat this year. The theme will be "Liberating Jonah." 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 "Dinokeng Scenarios" set before us 3 scenarios for the future – Walking Apart; Walking Behind; Walking Together. It is filled with superb insights into what has happened and is happening in our country as well as offering clear guidelines for the future. It is currently being studied by government and should be a must read for every person in our land. It can be downloaded for free from the internet. If you have difficulties in finding it, please speak to Claire.

"Lead Like Jesus," by Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges is a book that comes highly recommended by Xolani Dlwati who has promoted it extensively in his parish. It is a study in servant leadership that is personally challenging, but is also one that filled with practical ideas and tips about what to do in a parish in order to Lead Like Jesus.

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## **Parish Accounts**

We have recently discovered some serious financial irregularities in one of our parishes that, if unchecked and not repaid would have resulted in criminal charges being laid. I want, therefore, to take this opportunity to remind you that under no circumstances should any signatory sign a blank cheque, still less sign a number of blank cheques to be used as and when required. The signatories on a cheque are equally culpable in law if the cheque is used fraudulently. It is also essential that you as a parish have strict financial processes in place, that you ensure that those procedures are carefully followed, and that monthly income

and expenditure statements are produced and presented to the parish council. If needs be, the Diocesan Office is willing to get involved to ensure good governance.

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## **2010 Calendar**

Following our request that you provide important dates to Claire to book in the 2010 diary, we have received a request from the Parish of St Mary, Dobsonville and the completed 2010 calendar from the AWF. Thank you both! No other dates have been submitted. I am still planning on completing my 2010 diary by the end of August so I will reiterate my request that anyone wishing to celebrate a special occasion with me next year forward dates to Claire as a matter of urgency.

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## **Income Tax**

A reminder to everyone that clergy stipends, excluding any allowances for housing, transport or incidentals, is beyond the tax threshold and you are required to have a tax number and submit a tax return. Failure to do so will ultimately catch up with you as pension funds will not pay out without a tax number. If you delay you are likely to be hit with enormous penalties. This is not something that the Diocesan office does on your behalf – you need to get the number and submit it to the Diocesan office.

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## **Computer Training for Clergy**

We are exploring the possibility of providing computer training for our clergy. If you would like to be involved in this on either a basic or advanced level please contact Claire.

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## **Diocesan Website Revamp**

The Web is fast becoming an effective medium of communication and we as a Diocese are hoping to develop it into one of our major communication tools. Martin Louw and Sarah-Leigh Futter are spearheading this drive and are asking that anyone passionate about communication join them for their next meeting at St Paul's Parkhurst on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July at 5pm or contact Martin on 011-465-5558 or 083-378-4647. Parishes and organisations are asked to use the diocesan website to keep everyone informed of services and events taking place. Please send information, photos, your parish link details, etc to [fr.martin@yebo.co.za](mailto:fr.martin@yebo.co.za) for inclusion on the website.

We have introduced a new "Preparing for Sunday" icon on the website that contains sermon material, a background to the scripture readings, a pew-leaflet reflection and a prayer starter to enhance your worship experience. Just click on the Preparing for Sunday icon on our Diocesan home page <http://www.cpsajoburg.org.za>.

I would also suggest that we all include a link to the website in our signatures on our outgoing e-mails.

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## **COACH**

The Coalition of Anglican Children's Homes are now accessible on the web. Please visit their site to learn more about Coach and the exciting work they do. [www.coach.org.za](http://www.coach.org.za)

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## **Family News**

- **Jeremy and Kim Jacobs** are expecting their second child. The baby is due in January 2010 and we wish them all a very happy and healthy pregnancy.
- **Audrey Hick's** brother, Hilton, died on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June. Please hold Audrey and the whole family in your prayers at this time.
- **Pieter den Blaauwen**, formally a priest of this Diocese, died of a heart attack in Holland where they were on holiday, on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mia, his son Edward and other members of the family.
- **Abe Mokgohlane's** brother, Ezekial Mokgohlane, died on the 9<sup>th</sup> June. Please keep the family in your prayers in their time of bereavement.
- **Gail Allen**, our Provincial PEO Administrator's, mother Mrs. Dulcie Adams, died on 10<sup>th</sup> June after a short illness. Please keep Gail and her family in your prayers.
- 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.
- **Eve Abrahams'** daughter Natasha has been in hospital. We ask your prayers for Natasha and her husband and for Eve and her husband.

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## **Moves, Appointments and Vacancies**

- **Justin Dodd** has accepted a post as assistant vicar in a plurality of parishes in Ealing, England. He takes up his new position at the beginning of October. We wish him every happiness in this new venture.
- **Lorraine Tulleken** has announced her retirement as at the end of August this year. Lorraine is planning to relocate to her family in Cape Town towards the end of the year

or early next year. She would like to use her remaining time in this diocese visiting parishes and promoting “Southern Anglican.” She looks forward to your invitations.

- **Thelma Walmsley**'s husband, Rod, has been very ill for some years. His health and other family demands have now reached a point where Thelma feels that she can no longer continue to exercise her priestly ministry in Bryanston. She will continue to worship there for the present. We thank her for her ministry among us over the years and wish her every blessing for the future.
- **Pat Lane** has retired as Rector of St Margaret of Scotland, Bedfordview. I have appointed her as **Director of Studies** in the Desmond Tutu School for Ministry. In this new role she will provide pastoral care and academic support to those studying for ordination.

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### **Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries**

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

#### **JULY**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Tebogo May
3 <sup>rd</sup>	+Brian & Susan (W/A)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Yvonne Meyers
4 <sup>th</sup>	Morgan Ellis
4 <sup>th</sup>	Lyn Bewsher
4 <sup>th</sup>	Rachel Mapheng
5 <sup>th</sup>	Trevor Slade
6 <sup>th</sup>	Eunice Marubelela
6 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Siaki
7 <sup>th</sup>	Lucas Mekgwe
7 <sup>th</sup>	John Westwood
7 <sup>th</sup>	Paul & Barbara Siaki (W/A)
9 <sup>th</sup>	Wendy Mollink
9 <sup>th</sup>	Ivan Lane
10 <sup>th</sup>	John Ntsoko
11 <sup>th</sup>	Linda Mokgathe
12 <sup>th</sup>	Wilhelm & Liz Klingenberg (W/A)
13 <sup>th</sup>	Joe Maboe
13 <sup>th</sup>	Alf Khumalo
13 <sup>th</sup>	Kirstie Long
14 <sup>th</sup>	Liz Klingenberg
18 <sup>th</sup>	Agnes Witbooi
18 <sup>th</sup>	Rodney Taylor
21 <sup>st</sup>	Gerard & Pearl Sharp (W/A)
21 <sup>st</sup>	Xolani Dlwati
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Eric Richardson
24 <sup>th</sup>	Precious Chaane
25 <sup>th</sup>	Mamosebetsi Maloka

#### **AUGUST**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Jos Mncube
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Stewart Basson
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dan Nggumeya
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Michelle Pilet
4 <sup>th</sup>	Phillip Dixie
4 <sup>th</sup>	Marius + Désirée Snyman (W/A)
4 <sup>th</sup>	Trevor + Gwyn Slade (W/A)
4 <sup>th</sup>	Gerald + Margaret Steward (W/A)
5 <sup>th</sup>	Mandisa Nxumalo
7 <sup>th</sup>	Brian Smith
7 <sup>th</sup>	Ian Stevens
8 <sup>th</sup>	Archie Motaung
8 <sup>th</sup>	Emma Lekoko
9 <sup>th</sup>	Samuel Moloji
9 <sup>th</sup>	Kirstie & Tim Long (WA)
10 <sup>th</sup>	Alinah Mohomane
11 <sup>th</sup>	Gavin Smith
11 <sup>th</sup>	Geoff + Christine Lowick (W/A)
12 <sup>th</sup>	Koto Moloji
15 <sup>th</sup>	Nombuyiselo + Meshack Nhlapo (W/A)
15 <sup>th</sup>	Kim & Enos Mhlongo (WA)
15 <sup>th</sup>	Venessa & Doug Michael (WA)
17 <sup>th</sup>	Tshepo + Mamosebetsi Maloka (W/A)
17 <sup>th</sup>	Bradley Moloji
19 <sup>th</sup>	George Boyce
19 <sup>th</sup>	Abegail Tserere
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Wouter Uitzinger
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Gerald Steward

25 <sup>th</sup>	Helen Els	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Ian + Wendy Macintosh (W/A)
26 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Germond	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mike Fourie
28 <sup>th</sup>	Bernice Stevens	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Christian Uitzinger
28 <sup>th</sup>	David Eades	24 <sup>th</sup>	Jeremy Jacobs
31 <sup>st</sup>	Ranthite Namo	25 <sup>th</sup>	Zanele Mtshali
31 <sup>st</sup>	Nomhle Moselane	26 <sup>th</sup>	Molebe Mosima
31 <sup>st</sup>	Vanessa Michael	27 <sup>th</sup>	Roy + Barbara Collins (W/A)
31 <sup>st</sup>	Erna Basson	29 <sup>th</sup>	Lorraine Tulleken
31 <sup>st</sup>	Sarah van der Watt	31 <sup>st</sup>	Motshabi Motlabane

Although we endeavour to keep our records up-to-date, experience tells us that we often miss out on special dates. In fact last month we failed to publish the dates for the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries of John and Susan Alexander on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June and +Duncan and Di on the 20<sup>th</sup>. We wish them all the very best as they continue their married lives together.

If you are celebrating a special occasion in the coming month that is not on the list please email Zodwa so that we can update our lists.

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### **Dates for Diary**

JULY		Diocese	+Brian
Saturday	4	FOV	Youth Training Day
Tuesday	7	Clergy Day	Clergy Day
Wednesday	8		DFB
Saturday	11	Diaconal Training / Anglicare / STILIM Lay Training	St John's Gaudy Day
Sunday	12		Pastoral Visit: Pakhamini
Thursday	16		Meeting with Youth Pastors
Saturday	18	POST	
Sunday	19		Pastoral Visit: Kagiso: St Thomas
Tuesday	21		STILIM Board Meeting
Saturday	25	SfM Weekend / AWF Mary & Martha Quiet Day	
Sunday	26	SfM Weekend: Roodepoort	Pastoral Visit: Dobsonville
Friday	31		Youth Leadership weekend

AUGUST		Diocese	+ Brian
Saturday	1	Youth Leadership Training / Self-Supporting Clergy Meeting / FOV	Youth Leadership weekend
Sunday	2		Pastoral Visit: Randfontein Youth Leadership weekend
Tuesday	4	Clergy Day	Clergy Day

Saturday	8	Diaconal Training / STILIM Lay Training / Diocesan AIDS Quarterly Meeting / Spiritual Direction Training: 08 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>	
Sunday	9	<b>NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY</b> AWF National Prayer Day	Pastoral Visit: Kagiso: St Bartholomew
Monday	10	<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>	
Tuesday	11	St Benedict's Spiritual Formation Group	St Benedict's Spiritual Formation Group
Wednesday	12	Archdeacons meeting	Archdeacons Meeting
Saturday	15	Diaconal Training / Meeting of Wardens + Parish Financial Portfolios / St Mary's & St Agnes Festival	St Mary's & St Agnes Festival @ St Mathews Emdeni
Sunday	16		Pastoral Visit: Mohlakeng
Tuesday	18	Bishop's House Quiet Day	Bishop's House Quiet Day
Saturday	22	Anglicare Meeting	
Sunday	23		Pastoral Visit: Bekkersdal 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
Monday	24		Bishop on Retreat
Tuesday	25		Retreat
Wednesday	26	Trustees + DFB	Retreat
Thursday	27	Discernment Panel Meeting	Retreat
Friday	28		Retreat
Saturday	29	SfM Training Weekend	
Sunday	30	SfM Training Weekend: Moroka	Pastoral Visit: Toekomsrus
Monday	31	Clergy Retreat	Clergy Retreat

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## **General Notices**

- We advertised last month that Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre is looking for some second hand pews for its chapel. Unfortunately the number we published has changed. Please contact Anastasia on 011 021 9448 if you have recently put in new pews or have a few surplus pews.
- There have been rumours that the Parish of St John the Divine Randfontein is closing down. I would like to emphatically state that there is no truth in this whatsoever; we have no desires or plans to close down any of our parishes. Our aim is to grow the church and closing down parishes certainly doesn't work towards that aim.
- Rodney Taylor has found a fantastic website that offers 2 Gigabytes off-site backup absolutely free. Backup is available for larger amounts of data but a cost will be incurred. Anyone interested can visit [www.mozy.com](http://www.mozy.com). I would recommend that those of you who do not regularly back-up your data look into this as an option.
- Car for Sale: One of our ordinands, Brent Frieslaar, is looking to sell his 2004 Renault Megane Sedan 1.6 Authentique. The vehicle has anti-smash and grab glass protection

and tint, the Balance of Extended Warranty to June 2010 and Full service History (has had its 90000 km service and currently they are doing the 105000 km service). Current mileage = 93000. Asking Price = R65000 neg. Please contact Brent on [brent.frieslaar@gm.com](mailto:brent.frieslaar@gm.com) if you are interested.

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### **Updates for Clergy Telephone Directory:**

- Gavin Smith has new details. His cell number is 083 383 5792 and his email address is [gavin@stmartins.co.za](mailto:gavin@stmartins.co.za)
- Please send any emails to Liz Thomas to [liz.thomas@wits.ac.za](mailto:liz.thomas@wits.ac.za)
- The email address for Oupaki Moruthane is [resarec@iburst.co.za](mailto:resarec@iburst.co.za)
- The email address for Margaret Eades is [m.eades@iburst.co.za](mailto:m.eades@iburst.co.za)

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