

AD CLERUM – OCTOBER 2009

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

I am writing this while still officially on leave, but because I do not want to break the pattern of archdeaconry and parish discussions around the questions posed in the monthly reflection, I have done a short and simple reflection based on a scene in a film that has remained with me ever since I first saw it many years ago.

The scene in question comes from the film 'Mass Appeal' about a seminary student whose vocation to the priesthood is being questioned. At one point he is asked to preach a sermon explaining why he feels called. In his sermon he says:

"Once, when I was young, I had a tank of tropical fish. Someone turned up the heater and the fish all boiled. I woke up one Friday morning and went to feed them and there they were, all my beautiful fish, floating on the top; most of them had split in two, others with their eyes hanging out. It looked like violence, but it was such a quiet night. And I remember wishing that I had the kind of ears that could hear fish screams because they looked as if they had suffered and I wanted so badly to save them.

And that Sunday in church I heard that Christ had told his apostles to be fishers of men. From that time on I looked upon the people in the church as fish. I was young so I looked on them as beautiful tropical fish – that's all I knew. They were all quiet screamers. The church was so quiet. I thought everyone was boiling and I wanted the kind of ears that could hear what they were screaming about because I wanted to save them. And as I got older the people in the church lost the look of tropical fish and became catfish to me – overdressed scavengers – so I drowned out whatever I might be able to hear and made my world, my tank so hot that I almost split. But now I'm back; listening, listening for the screams of angels."

It is that image of people as "silent screamers" that has remained with me and haunted me. Every Sunday I sit in a church somewhere and see the incredible diversity of God's people in this diocese. As I preach they sit solemnly and silently, seeking to hear God in the words I speak. And as I look at them, God's beloved people, I am aware that many of them are "silent screamers." They are people whose hearts are breaking or have long been broken by the sins, injustices, and pains of life; people who have come to church not simply to worship, but also in the hope of finding healing, reconciliation, and new beginnings.

Many of our silent screams are the consequence of personal issues; others are the product of the political hurts and injustices of our past and present. Sadly we all too often do not have the ears to hear those silent screams, whatever their cause, and lack the ability to respond to them adequately because of our own brokenness and pain. Only today I heard of some harsh and unkind words spoken by someone who is herself a "silent screamer" and whose harsh words are directly related to her own brokenness. I do not know for sure, but I believe that much of the harshness and seeming insensitivity that we encounter in our daily

lives is linked to the silent, and perhaps not so silent screams, of our past and the desperate, if unspoken, need in all of us to kind healing, reconciliation and new beginnings.

I will again pose only two sets of questions. The first is for your own personal reflection, the second is for group discussion.

1. What are those deep hurts in your life that have never been fully addressed and healed and leave you as one of God's "silent screamers"? What do you need to do to address those silent screams and lay them to rest? And who do you need to speak to in order to achieve healing?

How can we, as parishes and archdeaconries, grow in sensitivity to the silent screamers in our midst? How do we begin to respond to those whose screams we hear and help them to find healing, reconciliation and new beginnings?

May the love of God bring healing to our silent screams.



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New email addresses for the Diocesan office

Please remember that the Diocesan office is now using our new email addresses. Please send all mails to name.surname@anglicanjoburg.org.za.

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Please be advised that Rodney Taylor will be on leave from noon on Friday the 2nd of October until Monday 19th of October. Please contact John de Reuck for any urgent queries.

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Spiritual Formation

Clergy Day: The next Clergy Day will take place on Tuesday 6th of October at St Georges, Parktown. Merwyn King will speak to us on Good Governance.

The Companions Programme is a very effective and intentional spiritual formation programme that has been used to great effect in many parishes. Upper Room Ministries Team which runs the Companions Programme will be doing training for lay and ordained persons interested in leading the programme or becoming trainers in their parishes. The training will take place on 7th November 2009 from 09h00 – 13h00 at the Parish of St Monnica, Halfway Gardens. I commend it to you and encourage you to explore it as an option for your parish. Please contact stmonnicas@telkomsa.net by 25th October if you are interested in attending.

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Reading Recommendations

One of the most exciting of the plenary speakers at Lambeth Conference was Brian McLaren, author of over ten highly acclaimed books. His book 'Everything Must Change: Jesus, Global Crises, and a Revolution of Hope' is a challenging read in which he argues that Jesus does not simply offer a new system of belief patched onto an old way of life, but a new way of life that changes everything – personally and socially, individually and globally. I commend it to you.

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Cathedral 80th anniversary and licensing of archdeacons

On the 29th September 2009 the Cathedral will be 80 years old and the celebrations for this milestone will start on Sunday 4th October 2009 at 14h00 inaugurated by the bishop who will also license the newly appointed Archdeacons representing the six regions which are a cross section of the diocese in terms of race, geography, and economics.

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Management Strategic Planning

A reminder to those of you who have been invited to attend, the Strategic Planning will take place from the 7th – 9th October at St Joseph's from 08h30 for 09h00. Because this is a three day event the Archdeacons meeting scheduled for the 14th of October has been cancelled.

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Retired Clergy Tea will take place at Bishop's House on Wednesday 21st October from 9h30. All retired clergy are invited to attend.

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Provincial News

- **Janet Trisk** has resigned from her position as lecturer and will be leaving COTT to take up a position as a full-time parish priest. We wish Janet all blessings in her new ministry.
- Please keep **Archbishop Thabo** and his family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of Elizabeth Kedibone Makgoba, the archbishop's mother.
- Please pray for the **Diocese of Zululand** and Bishop Dino Gabriel as they hold their Diocesan Synod from the 1st – 3rd October.

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Family News

- Congratulations to **Jeremy Jacobs** on receiving his PhD in Spirituality from Unisa.
- A correction to last months Ad Clerum: **John Alexander** has resigned as Canon of the Cathedral due to his deteriorating diabetic condition, and the feeling that he had fulfilled the work he could do at the Cathedral. We extend our thanks for the work he has done.
- **Val Lodge** has been admitted to hospital again with a thrombosis. Please will you pray for her, Barrie and her doctors as they try and resolve the problem without encountering any of the complications that arose during her earlier stay in hospital.

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Moves, Appointments and Vacancies

- **Morgan Ellis** has been appointed Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of St Mary the Less. He will take up this role with immediate effect and in addition will continue as Rector of Bishop Bavin School.
- **David Edwards** has been appointed rector at the Parish of St Luke, Orchard. He will take up his position there on the 1st of December.
- **Doug Michael** has been appointed rector at the Parish of St Thomas, Linden. He will take up his position there on the 1st of January 2010.
- **Lefetlo Letoko** has shown an ongoing care and concern for the retired clergy of the Diocese and I have appointed him as my liaison person for the retired clergy.
- **Pilane Moroa** has been ill for some time and has now been boarded on health grounds. He relinquishes his position as rector of the Parish of St John's, Orlando with immediate effect. We wish him and Vicky God's blessings for the future.

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Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

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

<u>OCTOBER</u>	
1 st	Tsěpo & Nosipo Matubatuba (W/A)
2 nd	Désirée Snyman
2 nd	Gail Prince
4 th	Vicentia Kgabe
8 th	Trevor & Gail Prince (W/A)
9 th	Peter & Gayle Wilson (W/A)
9 th	Sharmain James

10 th	Pilane Moroa
10 th	Victor Tshoagong
10 th	Reuben Ndlovu
13 th	Ian & Bernice Stevens (W/A)
15 th	Manelisi Zeka
16 th	Dennis Francis
17 th	Luke Pato
17 th	Dan Molwantwa
17 th	Alan Keartland
19 th	Bev O'Shaughnessy
20 th	Kenny Xinwa
20 th	Nicholas Seku
21 st	Makananelo Thaba
22 nd	Omar Abrahams
22 nd	Mlungisi Ntsele
22 nd	Denzall Snell
23 rd	Kenneth Owen
24 th	Lankiri & Makananelo Thaba (W/A)
27 th	Tim Mncube
30 th	John Warren

<u>NOVEMBER</u>	
2 nd	Susan Alexander
4 th	John Alexander
5 th	Lucas & Corrie Mekgwe (W/A)
5 th	Nicholas & Primrose Seku (W/A)
7 th	Mpho Moeti
7 th	Greg Longbottom
8 th	Athol & Eileen Wanckel (W/A)
8 th	Janet Aereboe
10 th	John Naale
12 th	Dan & Mmalerato Molwantwa (W/A)
13 th	Theo Simpson
14 th	Tim Gray
15 th	Jenny Mabin
15 th	Wilhelm Klingenberg
18 th	Steve & Liziwe Moreo (W/A)
18 th	Manelisi & Eugenia Zeka (W/A)
20 th	Jill Arnold
20 th	Pearl Makhalemele
21 st	Rod & Thelma Walmsley (W/A)
22 nd	Claire Holden
22 nd	Royce & Yvonne Meyers (W/A)
23 rd	Omar & Evelyn Abrahams (W/A)
24 th	Regia Quickfall
24 th	Godfrey Henwood
26 th	Mashikane Montjane
27 th	David & Rachel Mapheng (W/A)
27 th	Mpho & Precious Chaane (W/A)
27 th	Nombuyiselo Nhlapo
29 th	Sam Moswatlhe
29 th	Michael & Jill Arnold (W/A)
30 th	David Mapheng
30 th	Debra & Andrew Phillips (W/A)

Although we endeavour to keep our records up-to-date, experience tells us that we often miss out on special dates. If you are celebrating a special occasion in the coming month that is not on the list please email Zodwa so that we can update our lists.

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Dates for Diary

OCTOBER		Diocese	+ Brian
Saturday	3	Youth Leadership Training / Anglicare	Inauguration - Ukhohamba Diocese
Sunday	4	Cathedral 80 th Celebration & Archdeacon licensing	Cathedral 80 th Celebration & Archdeacon licensing
Monday	5	<i>Government Schools Open</i>	
Tuesday	6	Clergy Day @ St George's Parktown	Clergy Day
Wednesday	7	Management Strategic Planning	Management Strategic Planning
Thursday	8	Management Strategic Planning	Management Strategic Planning

Friday	9	Management Strategic Planning / St Benedicts Retreat: 9 th -11 th : Down to Earth – Tim Gray	Management Strategic Planning
Saturday	10	Diaconal Training / STILIM Lay Training	
Sunday	11		Pastoral Visit: St George's
Monday	12		Provincial Media Meeting
Tuesday	13	St Benedict's Spiritual Formation Group	St Benedict's Spiritual Formation Group
Thursday	15	<i>Independent Schools ½ Term Begins</i>	
Friday	16	AWF Conference: 16 th -18 th : Empowering Ourselves	
Saturday	17	POST	
Sunday	18	MU Clergy Prayer Day	Pastoral Visit: Jeppestown
Tuesday	20	<i>Independent Schools ½ Term Ends</i>	
Wednesday	21	Retired Clergy Tea	Retired Clergy Tea
Friday	23	Confirmation rehearsal	
Saturday	24	SfM Weekend	Confirmation @ St Margaret Bedfordview
Sunday	25	SfM Weekend	Pastoral visit: Kensington
Thursday	29		Provincial Publishing Meeting

NOVEMBER		Diocese	+ Brian
Sunday	1	Independent Verifier Workshop	Pastoral visit: Fourways Gardens
Monday	2	Parishes to begin preparing budget for 2010	
Tuesday	3	Clergy Day	Clergy Day
Thursday	5	Medical Aid Meeting	
Saturday	7	Spiritual Direction Training: 07 th – 09 th / Youth Leadership Training / Diaconal Training / AWF Thanksgiving	Diaconal Training
Sunday	8		Pastoral visit: Belgravia
Wednesday	11	Finalise Diocese Budget / Pastoral Care Meeting	Pastoral Care Meeting
Saturday	14	Meeting with Wardens + Parish Finance Portfolios / Diocesan AIDS Quarterly Meeting / Anglicare	Anglicare
Sunday	15		Pastoral visit: Malvern
Tuesday	17	Bishop's House Quiet Day	Bishop's House Quiet Day
Friday	20	Clergy Spouse Retreat: 20 th – 22 nd Nov	
Saturday	21	POST	
Sunday	22		Pastoral visit: Northriding
Wednesday	25	DFB + Trustees (Approve Diocesan Budget 2010)	
Saturday	28	Diocesan Consultation	Diocesan Consultation

Sunday	29	ADVENT	
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General Notices

- If you enjoy delish, vibrant happy concerts by a group of dedicated youths under the baton of Sue Cock, join us at St.Francis Parkview, on Saturday 3rd October at 5pm when the inVerse youth choir will be singing from their mixed repertoire ranging from Renaissance to modern, sacred and secular, light and heavy. Entree R40, for which you can also enjoy a glass of sherry (at the end of the concert!).
- The Parish of St Andrew, Kensington is looking for a second-hand baby grand piano. If anyone has one for sale please contact standrew@telkomsa.net
- On the third Sunday of the month from 16h00 – 17h00 the Parish of St Andrew, Kensington runs a musical event. Tickets are R60 and include refreshments. For more information please contact standrew@telkomsa.net
- "Park Views" at Parkview. On Thursday 8th October at 6pm (sharp) Chris Andrew of Bombela Construction will be presenting an illustrated talk on "The Gautrain Overview and Progress Update" at St.Francis, 46, Tyrone Avenue, Parkview. For more info phone Bart Cox, 011-447.1139
- The Parish St Peter, Auckland Park will be holding an Arts and Crafts Day on Saturday 31st October from 08h00. If you are would like to display your craft please contact Trudie on 079 523 3086.
- The Parish of St Patrick, Malvern will be holding a Spring Day on Saturday 31st October from 09h00 – 16h00. If you are interested in attending or would like to be a stallholder please contact Diana Thorburn on 011 453 6133.
- Siyafundisa has a number of events coming up: on the 20th November they will be holding their AGM, on the 21st November they are holding a parenting workshop from 09h00 – 15h00 and from the 25th – 27th November they are holding a workshop for all clergy /heads of sites. For more information on any of these events please contact Anna Moloi on amoloi@anglican aids.net or 0828766415.

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Telephone Directory Updates

The priests below have all moved to the new Diocesan domain name. Please update their addresses in your directory.

Vicentia.kgabe@anglicanjoburg.org.za

Martin.louw@anglicanjoburg.org.za

Luke.pato@anglicanjoburg.org.za

Lankiri.thaba@anglicanjoburg.org.za

Stephen.ratshefola@anglicanjoburg.org.za

Godfrey Henwood has now taken up his position as rector of St Michael Bryanston. His new email address is godfrey.henwood@stmichaelschurch.co.za