

AD CLERUM – NOVEMBER 2009

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

The other night I was awakened at about 03h30 by the sound of a woman screaming somewhere in the streets around our home. She screamed, was silent for a few seconds and then screamed again. Then silence fell and I was left straining my ears for further sounds and wondering whether her screams had stopped because someone had responded to her cry for help or because she had become yet another statistic of the violence that stalks us day and night.

As I lay there wondering about, and praying for that woman, I thought of Nick, a young man whom I married a few years ago who is in hospital after having been shot and robbed while out on a cycle ride. And I prayed for him, too. I thought also of Kitty Genovese who was stabbed to death in the streets of New York in 1964 – stabbed, raped and stabbed again (a total of 103 stab wounds) while she screamed for help for more than 45 minutes. Police investigations found that 38 people in nearby apartments had heard her cries for help; many had switched on their lights and watched what was going on, one had even shouted out of his window, but not one person intervened in any way or phoned the police until after the attacker had driven away.

Investigations into the death of Kitty Genovese eventually resulted in psychologists identifying a social phenomenon they now call “diffusion of responsibility” or the “bystander effect.” Research, social psychologists say, shows that the fewer the number of people that are present when something wrong is done or when someone calls for help, the more likely it is that someone will intervene and do something. But as the number of witnesses increases, the more likely it is that they will all hold back and wait for someone else to take the initiative before joining in themselves. When there is no-one else to act, the responsibility falls on me; when others are present, I am able to “mind my own business” and “keep my nose out of what does not concern me.” If the woman I heard had been screaming outside my front door I would almost certainly have got up and done something, but because she was further away and heard by people much closer to her than myself, I was able to remain where I was and hope that someone else would act.

As I lay in bed thinking about Kitty Genovese and those many others who have been victims of the bystander effect I found myself wondering whether we are not all in some sense victims of it. To the best of my knowledge it has never been used to explain large scale socio-political events, but I wonder whether it might not be part of the explanation for our national inertia in the face of government excesses, corruption, in-fighting, and lack of service delivery. There is widespread unhappiness about all these things, and yet none of us seem willing to speak out against what is happening. We want something to be done, but do not exercise our democratic right to vote them out of power and instead wait, hoping that someone else will do something about it.

While fear and intimidation is often real, I do not think it applies in the issues I have identified above. And yet we remain strangely silent, accepting as the norm things which for most of

us are unacceptable. But I think we can go even further, because not only do we remain silent, but we turn what is happening into a joke and laugh about it – and then turn on those who do not laugh and who instead dare to speak out.

Some time ago Justice Matlala wrote an insightful newspaper commentary on the reactions of cinema-goers to the film, “Tsotsi.” In many of the most painful scenes where one would have expected tears, the audience laughed. In his reflection he suggested that we have been so traumatised by our past that we are unable to respond normally and appropriately. He said: “... It has made me realise that all these people were not simply laughing. They have forgotten how to cry.”

Maatlala’s words were written about reactions to brutality and violence - the same violence that confronts us in a scream in the darkness of the night. But I think his words are true for so much of our life. We have been so brutalised by brutality that we have lost much of our capacity to feel, we have forgotten how to cry and so are unable to respond appropriately to what is happening around us. We make jokes about things that are no laughing matter, remain silent hoping that others will speak for us, and erupt into violence when we can no longer tolerate the situation.

History is filled with countless examples of people who have spoken out and who have made a difference. The courage of someone like William Wilberforce in his struggle for the abolition of slavery and of Madiba in his fight against apartheid are testimony to what person can do to change a whole social order. We, like them, need to stand against evil for, as Edmund Burke said more than 200 years ago, “All that is needed for evil to flourish is that good people do nothing.”

Professor Jonathan Jansen has recently been pilloried in the press for his decision to readmit to the university students facing racism charges. While some may disagree with his decision (and many clearly have), no-one can doubt that his actions have been motivated by a commitment to healing and reconciliation; a longing formed by his as a Christian rather than by political considerations or the opportunity to engage in emotive rhetoric. For me, a picture that recently appeared in the front page of ‘The Times’ says it all. Under the banner, “Now Blade knifes Jansen over pardon,” it shows two faces side by side – one of Blade Nzimande, the other of Jansen. In the one the face is filled with anger and aggression, in the other there is a wry smile on a gentle, loving face. The one is the face of political power plays, the other is the face of the gospel. And whatever the rights and wrongs of the issue in question, I know which face I would rather have.

For self reflection:

1. When have I used laughter to avoid facing my own feelings about things that are happening around me? Why did I do that? How do I really feel about that which I mocked? How could I have responded differently?
2. Where have I seen the bystander effect in my own responses to situations? Where has this hindered the bringing of healing and reconciliation for myself and others?

For group discussion:

3. How should we as diocese and parish be responding to current events and issues, especially those that hinder our moving towards the healing and reconciliation of our nation? What can we as a parish do?
4. How can we learn through our worship, our preaching and teaching to get in touch again with our real feelings? How do we get to that gospel place where we can hear the ‘silent screamers’ and where our hearts are broken by the things that break the heart of God?

May God’s grace break down the walls in our hearts and in our lives



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Vestry 2010

Preparations are already well under way in most parishes for Vestry 2010. Thank you. It is very clear that where parishes follow the process Vestry meetings take place smoothly and without conflict. I hope that in 2010 every parish will hold a successful and peaceful synod.

I am enclosing the document for the running of Vestry which many of you seem to find helpful. I would suggest that Rectors and Churchwardens study it, discuss it, work out your parish time-line in the light of it, and then display these notes together with your timeline on the notice boards so that everyone knows what the process is. Of course, once you have published your time-line it is important that you follow it most carefully. The Yellow Pages which will be published within the next couple of weeks will give dates by which certain things need to be completed. You may find that of value also. Please use some of the time leading up to Vestry to do some teaching about the process of Vestry, the duties of a Churchwarden and Parish Councillor, what it means to be a servant leader, and about accountability to each other and the congregation.

1. General Instructions:

These instructions apply equally to parishes and chapelries.

- i) **Final Date of Vestry:** Vestry must be held before *15 March* in each year.
- iii) **Financial Statements:** The Annual Vestry cannot be held until the Annual Financial Statements for the preceding year have been completed and either professionally audited or verified by an independent verifier approved by the diocese.
- iv) **Five Year Limit:** Anyone who has been a member of the Parish Council or a Churchwarden for five years of unbroken service is not eligible for re-election. A member of the Parish Council may be elected as Churchwarden at any stage in the five year period of service and may then serve as Churchwarden for a further 5 years. However, a Churchwarden who has completed a five year term of office may not be elected as a Parish Councillor.
- v) **Only laity may nominate and serve:** Only the laity may nominate people to serve as Churchwardens and Parish Councillors, and only the laity are eligible for nomination to serve as churchwardens and Parish Councillors.
- vi) **Elections and Scrutineers:** Voting shall be by secret ballot. Scrutineers for the voting must be agreed to by Vestry and may not include the Rector or Priest-in-Charge.

2. Action Flow Chart for Annual Vestry:

- i) **End of Year:** Complete financial statements except for final adjustments.
- ii) **January:** Complete financial statements and send to auditor / independent verifier. Check when financials will be ready and set date for Vestry. Vestry must be before 15 March. Allow space for unforeseen delays.
- iii) **At least 22 days before Vestry:** Publish and display written *Notice of Vestry*. The notice must be signed by Rector and Churchwardens and must give the place, date, time, and agenda of Vestry. The Agenda for Vestry is set out in Rule H – 3 and in Section 3 below .
- iv) **At least 22 days before Vestry:** Lists calling for *Nominations for Churchwardens and Councillors*

must be must be put on the notice board. Nomination forms must be signed by the proposer, seconder and by the person being proposed.

v) **The Sunday before Vestry:** (Or at least 6 days before Vestry) Nominations close.

3. Annual Vestry:

- i) **Chairperson of Vestry:** The Rector is normally the Chairperson of Vestry. Consult Rule H – 1.7.1 if the Rector is not available.
- ii) **Quorum at Vestry:** Ten parishioners form a quorum.
- iii) **Right to Speak at Vestry:** Only regular worshipers and those whose names appear on the Parish Roll shall have the right to speak. Good manners must always be observed.
- iii) **Agenda of Vestry:** The Annual Vestry Meeting will deal with the following business in the following order:-
- o Confirmation of minutes of previous Annual Vestry Meeting. (The newly elected Parish Council should have approved them at its first meeting after the last Vestry)
 - o Presentation by Churchwardens of audited or verified annual accounts. Note: Accounts must be accepted by Vestry *before* moving on the next item of business.
 - o Report by Churchwardens on condition of Church property, which report must be received by Vestry and a copy forwarded to the Diocesan Office together with the required Vestry returns. Note: In addition to the churchwardens report shall include how they have fulfilled their duties in respect of the following:-
 - The provision and adequacy of computer, fax, internet, photocopying ,and telephone services for the parish;
 - Adjustment of insurance cover for to ensure adequate cover for parish property;
 - An annual review of the Memorandum of Understanding between parish clergy and parish council;
 - Confirmation that proper records and inventories as required by the Canons and Rules of the Diocese have been kept.
 - o Report by Rector on care of the parish including a statement of needs, which report must be received by Vestry and either accepted or amended. A copy of this report must be sent to the Diocese together with the required Vestry returns. The report shall include:-
 - An evaluation of parish ministry over the past year, together with a report on the areas where there has been growth or decline that ministry, especially in respect of the key points of the Diocesan Vision;
 - A statement of the goals and objectives of the Parish Council set in respect of the coming year;
 - The identification of any areas requiring special attention either because of circumstances that have arisen in the life of the parish or the wider community.
 - o Presentation by Churchwardens of budget for ensuing year. Report must be received by Vestry and accepted or amended.
 - o A decision by Vestry on the number of persons who will serve on Council.
 - o Election of Churchwardens and Parish Councillors for ensuing year.
 - o Appointment of auditor or independent verifier for ensuing year.
 - o No other business may be transacted.

4. Vestry Returns to Diocesan Office:

Within one week of Vestry, the Rector must ensure that the following documents are submitted to the Diocesan Secretary:-

- o Copy of the audited or verified Financial Statements;
- o Copy of the budget for present year;
- o Copies of the Churchwarden's Report and the Rector's Statement of Needs;
- o Declaration of those elected as Churchwardens, Alternate Churchwardens, and Parish Councillors (duly signed by all persons elected).

New email addresses for the Diocesan office

Please remember that the Diocesan office is now using a new email address. All new addresses take the format name.surname@anglicanjoburg.org.za. Therefore Claire is claire.holden@anglicanjoburg.org.za. If you would like to apply for a new Diocesan email address please contact Claire Holden or Rodney Taylor.

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Spiritual Formation

Clergy Day: The next Clergy Day will take place on Tuesday 3rd November at St Martin's-in-the-Veld, Rosebank. Although we do try and visit parishes throughout the Diocese, the last two have been in the northern suburbs for the convenience of our guest speakers who have other engagements directly after their appointments with us. The guest speaker this month is Paul Connolly who will be talking to us about Management.

A Week of Guided Prayer (A Retreat in Daily Life) will be held at St Martin's-in-the-Veld, Rosebank and will run from 14 – 21 November. For more details contact Hilary Owen on (011) 486-0257 or on email kenowen@mweb.co.za

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Reading Recommendations

Two Books, both in different ways related to the eucharist:-

“The Eucharist and Social Justice” by Margaret Scott is an exciting exploration into the social dimensions of the eucharist. Starting with worship it presents the eucharist as a counter-narrative that recreates and restores us and all creation in the light of God's vision and purposes.

“A Sacristan's Handbook” by Midge Graham is a superb little book produced by the Diocese of False Bay that, while dealing with the preparation of the altar for worship and the other hidden tasks of sacristy work, spells out a profound spirituality for sacristans. It should be compulsory reading for all sacristans, for all ordinands and, indeed, for those of us who think we already know it. It can be obtained from Cynthia Botha at Provincial Publishing.

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Medical Aid Meeting – The next meeting will take place at 10h00 on Saturday 5th November at the Parish of St George, Parktown. We appeal to each member to attend this meeting so they understand the options for 2009. Option changes during the course of the year are not allowed.

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Saint-Saëns' Organ Symphony No3 : Concert at the Cathedral

As part of the celebrations for the Cathedral's 80th anniversary, St Mary's Cathedral will host a performance of the Saint-Saëns' Organ Symphony. The Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra will be performing with French organist Liesbeth Schlumberger (nee Kurpershoek). The performance will be conducted by Cape Town's Allan Stephenson. The event will take place on Wednesday 18th of November at 20h00 and tickets are available from R50 to R150. Please promote the event in your parishes and make it an occasion for a parish outing – it is a wonderful and fun work played on one of the best organs in the country. For more information please see the advert attached. I would encourage you to include the flyer in your pew leaflets.

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Diocesan Youth Program

We have come to the end of the training of those young people nominated by parishes to be part of the 2009 Transformers program. At their request this training will roll over into a second year of training for ministry. We are thrilled at their dedication and growing desire to serve God in the church and will be holding a graduation function for what we are now calling Part 1 of the Diocesan Youth Training program. It will take place at the Parish of Holy Cross, Orlando at 15h00 on Sunday 22nd of November.

Diocesan Youth Program 2010

Because of the success of our first intake we will be repeating the program during 2010 and are asking parishes now to identify candidates 2 – 3 candidates from their parishes to be part of the 2010 program. Names need to be forwarded to shona@stmikes.org.za or senzo@stluke.co.za as soon as possible. A great many young people were disappointed that they were excluded from this years training and we hope that they will be given an opportunity to be part of this years training and to ensure that no one has been turned down this time round.

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Diocesan Consultation

As advertised in the Yellow Pages at the end of 2008, we will meet together as a diocese for a diocesan consultation on Saturday 28th of November at St. Barnabas College. All clergy are expected to attend and each parish is asked to send two lay delegates. As with the consultation in January 2009, parishes should try to ensure a mix of age and gender in their delegates. Registration begins at 8h00 and the day will end by 16h00.

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Apostolic Constitution

Many of you will have read the recent press announcement that Pope Benedict has approved an 'Apostolic Constitution' providing for a 'Personal Ordinariate' for disaffected Anglicans. There has been much speculation in the media as to what this means, much of which, according to Archbishop George Daniels (the Catholic Bishops Conference's liaison person on ecumenical affairs) is inaccurate and unhelpful. At this point no one in leadership in the Anglican Communion has seen a copy of the Constitution and as such we are not yet

in a position to really comment on it. Archbishop Thabo has indicated that he will write about it in his November Laos which we will forward to you as soon as we receive it.

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Provincial News

- The Archbishop has issued a statement regarding Prof Jonathan Jansen's the decision to withdraw the university's charges against the Reitz students. Please see the attached document for a copy of the statement.

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Diocesan Family News

- Please pray for **Shona Fleming's** father, Michael Macrae, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 adenocarcinoma. We pray too for Shona's mother Rita and for their family and thank God that Michael is still relatively pain free.
- Please continue to pray for **Eve and Omar Abrahams'** daughter Natasha as she continues to battle with her health. We ask for God's guidance for her doctors.
- **Charles May** would like to thank you all for your prayers for his father. Samuel has been released from hospital.
- It is with sadness that I must report that **Owen Franklin** has filed a case of constructive dismissal on the grounds of his sexual orientation against the Diocese with the CCMA. As a result I believe that it would be inappropriate for Owen to exercise any ministry of any sort within the Anglican Church until the matter has been fully resolved. I have indicated as much to Owen and ask that you honour this decision.

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Moves, Appointments and Vacancies

- **Royce Meyers** has been appointed as Interim Pastor at the Parish of St John, Roodepoort with immediate effect.
- **Bakitsha Njumbuxa** has been appointed as Interim Pastor at the Parish of St John, Orlando with immediate effect.
- **Kathy Barrable** has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of St Andrew, Kensington with immediate effect.
- **Sarah van der Watt** will remain in the Parish of St Michael, Bryanston but take up the position of Assistant Priest there with effect from 1st January 2010.

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Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

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

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

2 nd	Chris & Alison Viljoen (W/A)	15 th	Beryl Bailey
2 nd	Stephen Ratshefola	16 th	Puleng Modisaesi
5 th	Martha Moloi	16 th	Lefeltho & Dolly Lethoko (W/A)
7 th	Royce Meyers	18 th	Bikitsha & Julia Njumbuxa (W/A)
7 th	Hilary Owen	19 th	Dan & Patricia Ngqumeya (W/A)
7 th	Godfrey & Wendy Henwood (W/A)	21 st	Charles & Tebogo May (W/A)
8 th	Fecilia Molipa	21 st	Michael & Rosemary Faure (W/A)
8 th	Cyril & Hazel Halkett (W/A)	24 th	Roderick Walmsley
9 th	Julia Njumbuxa	26 th	Audrey Hick
9 th	Steve Ratshefola	27 th	Rams & Thembi Ramokgopa (W/A)
9 th	Gavin & Helen Smith (W/A)	27 th	Joe & Mabatho Rakale (W/A)
11 th	Linda Williams	27 th	Allan Williams
12 th	Xolani & Mabatho Dlwati (W/A)	28 th	Alan & Diana Keartland (W/A)
12 th	David & Margaret Eades (W/A)	28 th	Gill & Peter Lee (W/A)
13 th	Susan & Adrian van Niekerk (W/A)	30 th	Gayle Wilson
13 th	Mpho Chaane	30 th	Malishwane Ntsele
14 th	Martin & Michelle Louw (W/A)	30 th	Agnes Witbooi
17 th	Earl Neil		

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

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, St George's, Parktown	
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 / Strategic Planning Meeting	Strategic Planning Meeting
Thursday	12	Strategic Planning Meeting	Strategic Planning 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
Saturday	21	POST	AWF Christmas Cheers
Sunday	22	Transformer licensing @ Holy Cross	Transformer licensing @ Holy Cross
Wednesday	25	DFB + Trustees (Approve Diocesan Budget 2010)	
Saturday	28	Diocesan Consultation	Diocesan Consultation
Sunday	29	ADVENT	Pastoral visst: Northriding

DECEMBER		Diocese	+ Brian
Tuesday	1	Clergy Day Year End Party	Clergy Day Year End Party
Thursday	3		Good Shepherd Archdeaconry
Friday	4	<i>Independent Schools Close</i> MU Office Closes	
Sunday	6	Recommended final date for displaying 2010 budget	Good Shepherd Archdeaconry
Monday	7	Diocesan Welfare Committee	
Tuesday	8	St Benedict's Spiritual Formation Group	St Benedict's Spiritual Formation Group
Wednesday	16	DAY OF RECONCILIATION	
Friday	25	<u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u>	
Saturday	26	<u>DAY OF GOODWILL</u>	
Monday	28	Office Closed	
Tuesday	29	Office Closed	
Wednesday	30	Office Closed	
Thursday	31	Office Closed	

General Notices

- The Parish of St James, Diepkloof will be holding their annual **Golf Day** on Friday 27th of November from 10h30 at the Crown Mines Golf Club. Tickets cost R250 or take advantage of their special packages: R2,000 for a 4 ball including advertising on tee boxes and greens as well as dinner. If you are interested in participating please contact Phezulu Mayeza on 076 424 9449 or Mpendulo Mayeza on 071 345 4241.
- The Parish of **St Aidan, Yeoville** is hosting a centenary gala dinner on the 26th November from 18h30 at the Johannesburg City Hall. Tickets are R200 per head and all proceeds will go to the refurbishment of the church and its buildings. If you are interested in attending please contact the parish secretary on 011 487 1112.
- **Does anyone have a car to donate?** Fr Sam is the priest leading our newest church plant in Cosmo City. Not only does Fr Sam have a significant daily commute, but he also uses a car to provide transport to parishioners, in his work for soup kitchen which he has set up in the area and, because the parish meets in a classroom, Fr Sam must transport everything required to set up and conduct services on Sunday mornings. If anyone has a vehicle to donate please contact Rev Paul Siaki on siakipmotu@attglobal.net

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