



Classifieds

Funerals

MICHAEL CLEARY
MARIA RODERIGUES
WELHELMINA CLEARY
MARIA CALVANI
HILTON GOLDMAN
PETER DEARLOVE

Baptisms

FABRIZIO LATTUCA
GENEVIEVE GRETTON
CHIDINMA ESSIE
TEAGAN GILLESPIE
AARON MILELLO
LEANDRO MENDES
RONAN THURSTON
DEAN KRUGER
CHINENYE IBEANU
PRINCESS UDEZURUIGBO
CI'ARA MARESCIA
CHINOSO NWANKWA
DANIELLA GONCALVES
CHLOE STAFFORD
PRECIOUS ANIEZE
CHIEDZA GORAJENA

JAKE SCHOFIELD
BRIAN WEST
CONNOR FRARA
KAI MALYON
GABRIELLA McWILLIAMS
KAIDEN WAGNER
TAKONDWA CHITAYA
SAMANTHA TAYLOR
NKOSINATHI LETEBA
ALYSSA PRICE
ATHINI FUNDE
MICHAEL ENGELBRECHT
KAITLIN-MAE PAGAN
ANGELO CASTRO
TUMISHO MADUBANYA
DANNIKA RAMROOP

Marriages

ROBERT ZECHNER AND SHARNET VAN DOESBURGH

A hearty welcome to Cara Smith who has joined the Communications Committee!

Communications Committee

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Parish Pulse

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A community that encounters Christ through the worship and spiritual guidance of God by loving and supporting our fellow brothers and sisters.

He is Risen



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Holy Week 2009

Reverend David Potterton

When the community was asked for suggestions, some years ago, for a Mission Statement for St John's the words they came up with sounded very inspiring.

"A community that encounters Christ through the worship and spiritual guidance of God by loving and supporting our fellow brothers and sisters."

These words came alive during Holy Week. One really experienced the community "supporting our brothers and sisters" during this week, and through this working together all those who attended the services encountered Christ in a very special way.

One aspect a person notices when meeting our new parish priest, Fr. Jonathan, is that he is a 'big' man. He has a big voice and he thinks big. It was his idea to have a big marquee and to have big vases to fill with Holy water so that the community could get a big blessing with the Easter holy water, which was dispensed using a big branch cut from a big tree.

There was to be a big Passover meal, so that, as big a crowd as possible could attend a big meal. The choir at the Vigil Mass was to be a big choir so there was a combination of three choirs forming one big choir. Boy oh boy, did we have a big Holy Week!

There is no doubt about the spiritual guidance of God. All the way from the Saturday prior to Palm Sunday, when members of the community and parish council prepared the Church and made crosses out of the palms, through to the glorious Vigil Mass, the Spirit moved in St John's parish.

Fr. Jonathan requested our youth to depict the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday morning. Emotions were taken to new heights as Jesus stumbled down the aisle to be condemned to death. There were lots of tears that morning as the well chosen music and sound effects added to the spectacle and drama of the fourteen stations of Christ's Passion.



The youth impressed us as they had at the Passover meal when, with dignity, they played the part of servants bringing the Passover lamb, salads and wine to the two hundred and sixty guests. It was noticed that part of that group of youthful servants was the parish priest carrying the Passover lamb to his flock.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper was so special. Twelve of our Youth had their feet washed in a big white bowl, bringing the "Washing of the feet" to life.

The veneration of the Blessed Sacrament on Holy Thursday took place in the garden adjacent to the hall where quiet music was played and the only light available was twelve candles and the moon.

We had big crowds at all the services and fortunately we had an extra four hundred chairs placed in the marquee, where all the services were beamed onto a big screen. The Friday afternoon service was so packed that people sat outside the tent.

The empty church was abuzz on Saturday morning as preparations were made for the big celebration; The Vigil Mass. The choir was practicing, the sacristans were preparing the altar, altar servers were being given final instructions, cleaners were cleaning the church and the flowers were being arranged.

The Church was transformed for the Risen Lord.

And so on Easter Sunday our Risen Lord was welcomed by a community who is big on giving of their time and talents, led by a parish priest with a big heart.

I too can testify that his conviction, teaching and knowledge played a great role in my journey to a deeper understanding of the Catholic Faith. Inspired by him, together with Dee Britten, we began the first year of the Bible study course offered by the Jesuit Institute. When he left, both Dee and I found ourselves completing the three year Theology programme, and it was then that we decided we would travel to his ordination one day. In 2008 we had the privilege of doing just that - together with his family we went to Ireland, to the beautiful college of Maynooth, and witnessed him making his first vows to the life he has been called to.

His "YES" to God is an inspiration to us all. I am grateful for the friend he is to many of us, for his excellent sense of humour, his openness, and his love for his family. He is an example of humility and commitment and will no doubt be used powerfully by God whenever God chooses to place him as Fr. Donald!

The Quiz Evening

Cara Smith



Do you know what an aglet is? According to the Encarta dictionary, it is the end of a shoelace, being "a plain or ornamental metal or plastic sheath covering the end of a shoelace or ribbon".

It's okay. You can forget that piece of "useless" information for now, unless of course, you would like to join us for another fun filled Quiz Evening at St. John's.

The Quiz Evening, held on Friday 17 April, started off with a bang! First, we had Card Bingo, something that I had not been introduced to before. It is similar to normal Bingo, except you remove cards that are called out, instead of numbers on a board. Then we got into the actual quiz questions. Wow! I never thought of myself as being ignorant (in fact, I always regarded myself as being above average intelligence), but trying to answer some of those questions left me feeling rather dim!

There were general knowledge questions, sports questions, and even some questions on music. As I am not very sports orientated, not knowing the answers to those questions wasn't a big surprise, and as I haven't been wised to all the knowledge of the world in my few short years of life, I accepted the lack in the general knowledge section. But when it comes to music, I'm King. The Young Adults' and Youth tables were very excited when the M.C. announced that a specific music question was aimed at the "young ones", but this was short lived. Both our tables stared cluelessly at each other as the song played. None of us knew what the song was called or even the artist's name! After the winners were announced, many tables graciously admitted defeat, and we ate our ice-cream discussing many odd topics, like aglets and the two names for Dennis the Menace's dog (Ruff and Gnasher).

Congratulations to the Gillespies who won first prize for the evening. A word of special thanks to the sponsors of the many prizes, and to the Chefs and bartenders who kept our mouths full, giving us a good excuse for not answering those awkward questions.

Deacon Donald—A Family perspective

The McLoughlin Family

In 1966, the series "Star Trek" was launched, Indira Ghandi was made prime minister of India, and on the 2nd of January, Donald joined the family of Aubrey and Anne McLoughlin, the second of what was to be four boys.

Donald grew up attending St. Charles Victory Park Parish, where he received his sacraments of initiation. His interest in people and his generosity to those around him became obvious early on when he used an entire month's wage from his first casual job to treat his family. On weekends he could be found at the Randburg Fire Department, as a volunteer fire fighter, or playing sport.

His discipline was evident when he obtained a BSc Mechanical Engineering from Wits in 1997, and went on to lead many projects at the Aerotech Division of the CSIR.

Don Joined St. John's in 1993 and discovered a vibrant life in the parish, and a deep sense of community life. He became involved in ministry to the youth by teaching, and then co-ordinating the confirmation programme. He, together with the youth co-ordinator, developed the successful syllabus still being used at St. John's. He accepted the call to become an extraordinary minister of the Holy Eucharist, and he always felt honoured and humbled in bringing Christ to the elderly and sick. With his natural ability to relate to others and his desire to invest time in people, Donald forged many long lasting friendships in the parish. He often enjoyed sharing a dinner with friends, although he has been known to hide food he dislikes on other people's plates!

During his time at St. John's, Donald became more open to the idea of serving God in the ministerial priesthood. So many people inspired Donald, and the gentleness, faithfulness and love for God of Bishop Graham Rose and the late Fr. Giorgio, were a huge inspiration to Donald in his journey towards priesthood. He applied to the Archdiocese of Johannesburg to be admitted for study to the priesthood, and was graciously permitted by Archbishop Buti Tlhagale to study in the National Seminary in Ireland. He left for Maynooth, Ireland in August 2004 to join St. Patrick's College as a seminarian. His fellow seminarians saw potential in this 6ft 2" athletic looking South African, and selected him as their soccer goalkeeper. As a keen sportsman, he took on the challenge with determination and energy. Being more youthful in spirit, his body often took some hard knocks.

Donald applied himself to his studies, and excelled in obtaining a Bachelor of Divinity (Theology) after completing his philosophical studies. He was honoured to be chosen as Master of Ceremonies, overseeing all major liturgical celebrations in the College.

It was a very special time for family and friends to visit him in Ireland when he was ordained to the order of Deacon on June 1st 2008. The ceremony was a most moving occasion, and it became clear to those attending, how highly respected Donald was by his peers and lecturers. Fr. Teanor, one of his lecturers, described Donald as "one of the most well-balanced seminarians he'd had the privilege to teach". As at home, Don made many close friends from around the world, who encouraged him and shared with him in their journey of faith.

It is with excitement and joy that we look forward to Donald's ordination to the priesthood on 11th July 2009 at St. John's Church, after which he will be returning to Ireland to complete the final year of his post graduate studies of a Licentiate in Theology (STL).



It is inspiring to see how God has worked in Donald's life, and to see how his character and special qualities have matured, especially in the last few years. We look forward to his return in 2010 to serve God's people as a "worthy minister....and ardent but gentle servant of the Gospel".

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Deacon Donald—A Youth Perspective

Ss Cosmas & Damian Youth

Deacon Donald spent a month with our community, but it surely felt like we had known him for years.

Whenever we reflect on the past as a growing youth group, he stands out as someone who embodies all the characteristics of not only a deacon but that of a loving, caring, easy-going priest.

During his stay he reflected the kind of spirit we as young people look for in a priest. He spent many a time with us at our youth meetings, never elevating himself, but constantly listening and partaking as a humble leader, there to serve.

As a group we look forward to his ordination. We know God has blessed our community with a true servant for His people.

