

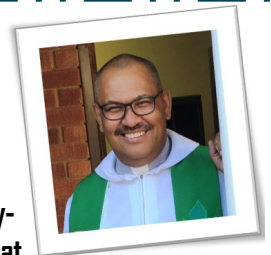


Holy Trinity Hillcrest

News Letter

December 2016

Rector's Reflections



Dear God's People,

We have made it. Christmas will soon be here. Even though the shopping centres have for a while been playing the songs and the pop version of the carols we are waiting – waiting for the fulfilment of the promise that Christ will come again. Advent is the season of waiting. We are all waiting. Many children are waiting for Christmas day when they can open the gift that Santa Claus will leave under the tree. Matriculants and varsity students are waiting for the results of their examinations. Young parents are waiting for the arrival of their babies. Some families are waiting for their relatives to spend this holiday season with them. Some are waiting for the holidays to come and others waiting for it to pass. Some are waiting to die and others for a fresh start. We are all waiting. The sentiment of the expectation of waiting is one of anticipation and shrouded in hope.

Though waiting is such an important and integral part of our life journey it seems to be in short supply. Like many species, it is threatened with extinction. We seem to be running out of patience and prefer the quick fix, fast food solution. But as hind sight teaches us quick fix, easy solutions and “fatty food” is not always the best solutions to the challenges our life journey presents. From a faith perspective waiting is a necessary discipline even if it is only on the difference of the concept of time. St Peter wrote, “But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.” (2 Peter 3:8) As we have come to experience there is no emergency with God. According to the Septuagint the prophet Jeremiah realised this when he laments, “The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.” (Lamentations 3:25) Waiting is necessary and important and spiritually beneficial.

Moses Thabethe, an Anglican priest based in Johannesburg notes, “Biblically speaking, theologians argue that the beginning of the Gospel of Luke is rich with the theme of waiting: Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, Simeon and Anna – all wait for something new and good to happen to them. They lived out their own Advent in anticipation of God's fulfilment of the promises God made to them. But theirs was not idle waiting.” St Thomas' Parish Magazine

In the same magazine he makes reference to an article by the Roman Catholic Spiritual writer, Henri Nouwen entitled The Spirituality of Waiting. Nouwen writes, “To wait open-endedly is an enormously radical attitude toward life. So is to trust that something will happen to us that is far beyond our imaginings. So, too, is giving up control over our future and letting God define our life, trusting that God moulds us according to God's love and not according to our fear. The spiritual life is a life in which we wait, actively present to the moment, trusting that new things will happen to us, new things that are far beyond our own imagination, fantasy, or prediction. That, indeed, is a very radical stance toward life in a world preoccupied with control.” (2006, Ave Maria Press)

So why is it important that we practice waiting?

It is important because Jesus promised that He will come again. As we prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of Jesus, the Christ we remind ourselves during this season of Advent of that promise. The promise is not ours, we have not made it and we cannot bring it into effect. The promise belongs to God. God gave it to God's people. And as time does not belong to us the promise has no defined time frames, it stands for ever. As the promise is given by one who has no limitations or weaknesses it is a trustworthy assurance that Jesus will do it. One of the reasons we can be assured of the integrity of this promise is that in all that God has done for humanity from the beginning of time was for the well-being of all humanity. We remember it as St Paul describes it in the three graces which in some way define God's relationship with us, God's unconditional and abundant LOVE, God's unlimited MERCY and God's abounding GRACE. Or as Henri Nouwen says, “waiting is a period of learning. The longer we wait, the more we learn

about Him for whom we wait."

As we prepare to celebrate this birth of our Lord, Jesus the Christ, we pray that in all the festivity, joy, interaction, fellowship, feasting and fun we will remember that it was all made possible because of God's love, mercy and grace.

We wish you and all yours a very blessed Christmas and pray that all this day represents will find fulfilment of the promise that God made in your life. Let us patiently wait for it.

Your Brother in Christ

Fr Gary



Goodbye!

Hello Holy Trinity Family!

I wanted to thank you all for time, love & Support during my time at Holy Trinity for 2016. Gary has been extremely helpful as a leader, and training rector. In terms of items covered, he was very thorough, caring and thought provoking. He went through everything that needed to be covered and more. The Eucharist, Morning and Evening Prayer, Funeral Services, Memorial Services, Internment of Ashes, Burials were all worked on. Through ministering at funerals and memorials I gained more experience in dealing with bereaved families in different contexts. His interaction with me regarding my preaching was also very helpful. I was involved with Bible studies, and lead two confirmation classes, one here at Holy Trinity and the other at Kearsney College. Gary also made sure I was doing regular home visits and taking communion to people's homes. Hospital visits happened regularly as well. I learnt a lot about marriage preparation and officiating at a wedding ceremony, along with baptisms and baptism preparation. In terms of preparation of services, I learnt through his thoroughness with things like music choice, liturgy, etc. We also performed a car blessing. In terms of leadership, he was an example in terms of chairing council and exec meetings, drafting agendas, doing training, along with planning vestry, vestry agenda, and chairing vestry. His advice was extremely helpful when it came to OIT, regional clergy meetings, liaising with the Diocese, etc. We went on retreat together as well. He assisted me with thoughts on rule of life and liaising with my spiritual directors. The reflections on my ministry were extremely helpful. I really appreciate everything my Holy Trinity family have done for me, and would strongly recommend the parish as a future training parish. I praise and thank God for sending me to Hillcrest, every day.

Enid has also been an amazing pillar of strength for me to rely on whenever I have needed anything. I have really appreciated her advice and input to my ministry at Holy Trinity. I have also found working with Althea, Jenipher and Harold, along with the other volunteers in Messy Church very helpful as I grow my ministry. In terms of spirituality, being part of the prayer team which meets monthly, as well as the monthly prayer meetings on a Saturday morning have been an amazing way of interceding for me. I have also received so much from worshipping as a team with morning prayer during the week. Being part of a bible study with the Watt's has been an amazing experience. Helping with services at Waterfall Gardens, Rob Roy Retirement Village and the Hillcrest Hospital have helped me grow in my ministry too. I have learned so much being part of parish council. Thank you all!

And all of you have made me feel so welcome in all of your homes whenever I have visited or taken communion.

Thank you very much. I am going to miss you all. God Bless!!

Bruce



*Pause your pace
to create space
to prepare your heart
for the coming
of the Christ Child*
-Katie Oldham



"We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable, or dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying new-borns, skinny as a rake or could afford to lose a few pounds. You're welcome if you are Old Leigh, New Leigh, Not Leigh, or just passing by. We welcome you if you can sing like Pavarotti or can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing,' just woke up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been in church since little Jack's christening.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists,

tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like 'organised religion.' We've been there too!

If you blew all your money on the horses, you're welcome here. We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, 'work too hard,' don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost on the London Road and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts... and you!"



The Eucharist is our encounter and our communion with the Blessed Trinity. That is the heart of life. It's the source of life. It's the summit of life. Communion with the Blessed Trinity is the very definition of heaven, so it doesn't get any better than that. The amazing thing is that we have heaven in every Mass." Scott Hahn



"The presence of a significant number of disciples changes everything:



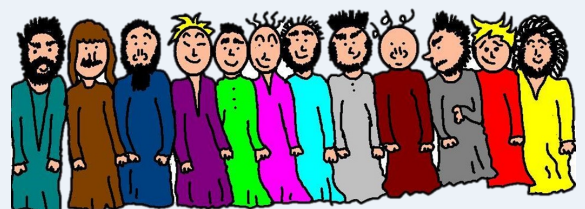
a parish's spiritual tone,
energy level,
attendance,
bottom line,
and what parishioners ask of their leaders.



Disciples pray with passion.
Disciples worship.
Disciples love the Church and serve her with energy and joy.
Disciples give lavishly.
Disciples hunger to learn more about their faith.
Disciples fill every formation class in a parish or diocese.

Disciples manifest charisms and discern vocations.
They clamor to discern God's call because they long to live it.
Disciples evangelize because they have really good news to share.
Disciples share their faith with their children.
Disciples care about the poor and about issues of justice.
Disciples take risks for the Kingdom of God."

Shelley Weddell: **Forming Intentional Disciples.**





Love,
Jesus

*If you look for me at Christmas,
You won't need a special star.
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.
You may not be aware of Me,
Amid the celebrations.
You'll have to look beyond the stores,
And all the decorations.
But if you take a moment,
From your list of things to do,
And listen to your heart, you'll find
I'm waiting there for you.
You're the one I want to be with,
You're the reason that I came.
And you'll find Me in the stillness,
As I'm whispering your name.*

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS:

Rector:		Companionship		Glenys Dickson	031 767 2213
Rev Gary Thompson		Environmental		Maggie Fleming	031 765 7157
031 765 2578	082 442 3241	Evening Women's Gp		Lynette Reynolds	031 716 8161
Deacon:		Flowers		Margaret Vorwerk	031 765 4390
Rev Bruce Woolley		Food Parcels		Rosemary Dickinson	031 765 2782
079 544 7566		Garden		Jill Howard	031 765 1061
Church Wardens:		Hospital Visitors		Elaine Hutt	031 765 2188
Peter Craig		Lay Ministers		Rosemary Combes	031 762 1176
Harold Walker		Martha's Friends		Ann Maud	031 765 2111
Alternate Warden:		Morning Women's Gp		Ann Maud	031 765 2111
Murray Phillpott		Musicians		Matthew du Sart	082 526 3518
031-7655494		Music Group		Pat Dawson	031 765 8013
Treasurer		Prayer Chain		Julia Evans	079 814 9679
Denis Saville		Publications		Enid Vreedenburgh	031 765 5942
031 765 1111		Recorder			
Young Church		Readers		Sue Yates	031-716 8632
Akos Railston Brown		Sacristans		Brenda Saville	031 765 1111
078 1064332		Sides people		Errol Hicks	031 716 8872
Parish Ministries:		Tea Pourers		Margaret Ballard	031-776 3019
Audio Visual		Warwick Link		Rosemary Combes	031 762 1176
Enid Vreedenburgh	031 765 5942				
Bookkeeper	Doreen Hood				
	082 550 8387				

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Please check our website, www.holytrinity.co.za, for all the latest news and activities!