



# Corpus Christi Anglican Church, Garsfontein

## Parish Magazine

### November/December 2017

#### Rector:

The Ven: Rev:Dr: Meshak Mariri

082 701 6887

The Rev'd Prof Stephen Verryn

#### Churchwardens:

Mr André Joubert  
082 493 7490

Mr Obed Radebe  
082 881 9388

Alternate:  
Mr Les Rudman  
082 777 8386

#### Parish Administrator:

Mrs Cheryl Rogers

#### Office Contact Details:

☎ 012 993 5161  
☎ 086 654 6883

#### Office Hours:

08:00—13:00  
Monday to Friday

#### Parish Email:

corpus.christi@telkomsa.net  
Skype ID: garsfontein.acsa

#### Postal Address:

P O Box 39845  
Garsfontein East  
0060

#### Physical Address:

482 de Bron Road  
Garsfontein

#### Regular Worship Services:

##### Children's Ministry.

##### Services to be advised

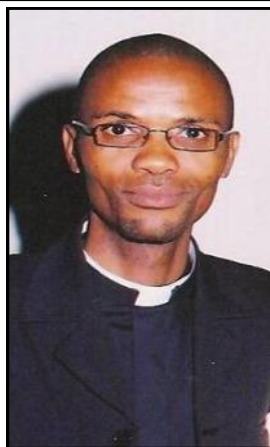
##### Other Sundays

07:00  
Holy Communion (Said)

09:00  
Holy Communion (Sung)  
&  
Sunday School / Teen Church  
(in Government School  
terms)

##### Wednesdays

09:00  
Holy Communion (Said)



The Rector's farewell message . . .

*Dominus vobiscum (The Lord be with you)*

I write to you – my farewell article – to thank you for your love, prayer and support over the years I have been privileged to serve you as your rector. "It is mixed emotions that I feel for leaving because I'm looking forward to a new challenge but I also feel sad at leaving ... I have been deeply touched by the many greetings, and messages of goodwill that I have received as I assume my new responsibilities as rector of St Francis of Assisi, Waterkloof – and I thank you for them all. As

I will continue to pray for you, so I ask that you will continue to remember me in your prayers for this new phase of my ministry. Pray also for the Revd. Canon Vernon Foster as he takes over as my successor.

Are we there yet???"Are we there yet!" that dreaded cry that comes from the back seat of the car. We have all either said it or heard it and it fills most parents with dread. We can't wait to get to where we are going - the park, a funfair, a visit to see relatives; it just seems to take forever to get there. But a journey is not just about reaching your destination - the quickest route from A to B - it is also about the time it takes to get there and the things we learn along the way.....

Life is full of so many journeys from the cradle to the grave and for God's people even death is not the final destination but the start of yet another life. During a lifetime we come into contact with so many people, one can only imagine even the briefest moment when we touch someone else's life - many times without even knowing it - the touch of a hand, a glance across a room - all these people become part of our life's journey.

Life experiences in turn also shape us and change us - the good times and the hard times. The times we have cried until there are no more tears to cry and the times we have laughed until we thought we were going to burst. These all make up our journey. Our journey brought us to Corpus Christi 4 years ago...

Archbishop William Slattery, the Catholic Archbishop of Pretoria, who is also spokesperson for the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, told Vatican Radio in March 2016, that "There is institutional racism throughout the country, which is still dominated by white culture". The archbishop described apartheid, South Africa's system of racial segregation that ended in 1994 as having separated people racially, economically, geographically and linguistically..."Integration is happening in churches and other places, but the pace of change is too slow," he said. The Catholic Archbishop couldn't have been further from the truth...Following being appointed and subsequently licensed and instituted as rector of Corpus Christi, I had some enquiries which I believe I'm the only rector of this parish whose had to deal with such, and that was simply because of the colour of my skin. "Fr Meshack how long will you be here at Corpus Christi?" with motives not having to do with the things of God - such was one of the

questions that came my way by those brave enough to come say that to my face. There was never an occasion where questions about mission and ministry were asked by such. *Several times, my intentions, integrity and intelligence have been demonstrably doubted and contemptuously thrown back into my face.* One doesn't expect such from 'a practising Anglican Christian' – for two simple reasons, among many. First, we are a Synodically governed and Episcopally led church and secondly, Jesus said on Maundy Thursday, *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."* (John 13: 34-35 NIV) and ... *If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.* (1 John 4:20-21) – that's a qualification of being Christian – a disciple. As I took such parishioners into my confidence, I not only offered a lesson on Anglicanism 101 but taught about the radical message of Christ as well as a lesson on emancipation from mental slavery, drawing inspiration from the occasion of Jesus counselling the rich young ruler (Matthew 19: 16-22). And proverbially, like the rich young ruler some left the parish for they could not allow themselves to be ministered to by a black rector while others stayed and put up with the *status quo*. Myths had been shattered forever. Some got to learn that I don't take kindly nor am I shaken by threats, as I dealt with such swiftly and head on. And once again God manifested Godself in a least expected and desirable way. "God has an incredible sense of humour. There are those who think they are superior because they have lighter skin. The greatest joke is every single one of us is from Africa. It has been scientifically proven that we belong in one family, the human family," Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said. Such racial gimmicks never deterred me. My sights were always set on the goal (Philippians 3:14). Some took note of these and articulated their displeasure of that attitude to me. One wise senior parishioner succinctly put it then: "it is sad that people are more loyal to prejudices than to God" and so I intentionally and prayerfully took to fighting internalised and normalised racist practices, processes and attitudes and any other prejudice – I was unapologetic in my engagements, articles, sermons and teachings. But these did not even dominate my ministry here nor was it a highlight whatsoever - a minute part of the journey noted. We live in changing and challenging times, which demand of each and all of us a deep faithfulness in our Christian discipleship, and a waiting on God in prayer. We need to go deep if we are to speak the truth of God about the meaning and purpose of our human lives. Be assured – God holds us deeply and securely in God's love and care.

There is a bigger, dominant and blissful side of the journey with the community of Corpus Christi. On the journey we have shared together in the last 4 years in this parish, God has richly blessed us. We have changed from being a Church of membership to a Church of mission and we have achieved so much together. Our congregations have grown and changed; and while we've been growing we have had fun along the way at, among other things, the cultural/heritage days and rector's birthdays (which we have shared with Tumelong Maboloka Haven and Louis Botha Home), the Men's Fishing Weekend, evenings with the Men in Red, church picnics and braais, christenings and confirmations, the celebrations of birthdays and anniversaries, and through it all we have grown together and helped one another to grow spiritually and lovingly. I was glad to be there for you and walk with you through times of bereavement and rejoice with you at the birth of new children. To hold your hand and pray with you and for you in your darkest moments and to help to raise you to new hope. We have struggled together, we have cried together and we have laughed, played and rejoiced together.

I give thanks to God for the opportunity to share the ministry of leadership with our assistant clergy – Frs Danny and Steve; the Churchwardens: the Uncle Lex, Tuelo, Lolo team and the Messrs Joubert, Radebe, Rudman team - who have supported me in all my work throughout my four years; Parish Councils and our Synod representatives; our parish administrator; Ministries within the parish; and, of course, each and every one of you who share so generously your time, talent and treasure so that together we may increasingly become channels through which Jesus' love may be made visible – conspicuous - here among us, and beyond. A special mention and thank you to Children's ministry and those who look after, clean and decorate our church. Thank you all who supported me in my role as rector. Last but not least, the community of Corpus Christi for being the lovely congregation I've had the privilege of serving as a priest. It has been my privilege to have been called by God to serve you as rector these last 4 years and I leave your future now in God's hands. My final service will be on Sunday 31st December 2017.

As our time at Corpus Christi comes to an end we have been recalling to mind our time here. As a family we have had contact with so many people, we have experienced laughter, tears, birth, death, and friendship. A rich tapestry of experience in 4 years. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank those whom we have journeyed with and all who have been there for us in many roles. Many thanks to the fellowship of those who always welcomed us as one of their own and where Charmaine, and I and Otlotleng have made so many friends.

In Philippians 1 verse 6, Paul says, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Here at Corpus Christi a good work has begun and our Lord will bring it to completion. It has started. There are many good things going on here. But there are a couple of important ideas to remember from this passage. The good work is not done. You are not finished. You must continue to work for the Lord and to work for others. When it gets hard and there are problems, keep working! Continue to live the lives that you have been called to live. Continue to be generous, gracious, patient, and loving. As Paul says in verse 9, and this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight. Seek after the things of God and the will of God and let your love shine so that all may see. Christ is the one that began the good work in you. And he will see it through. You are not on your own.

You are not by yourself, as an individual or a parish. You have been given the Holy Spirit - the living God is with you and in you; and will continue to work through you until all the work is complete when Christ comes again. What a great assurance we have because of what has been done for us. What a truly remarkable, wonderful, AWESOME God we have.

From the love that God gives to us, we give to others. I have been a recipient of that love throughout this past 4 years and so has my family. I am sure that Fr Vernon will also see that love. As will the rector after that and so on. However, resist the temptation to stop there. Show the love to others, and let them see how gracious you are. There is no one in this world that won't benefit from seeing the love of Christ. So tell and show everyone what he has done. Be filled with the righteousness of Christ and let all people experience the works of the Lord through you. May the Lord Almighty continue to bless and keep you and give you the comfort and peace that only God can give.

So "Are we there yet?" - Not likely! As we move on to our new Parish in St Francis of Assisi, Waterkloof, we begin a whole new journey with new people to meet and new places to discover. As T. S. Eliot wrote in the Four Quartets - In my beginning is my end and no less in my end is my beginning.

As Eliot also wrote:

The hint half guessed, the gift half understood is Incarnation. And so:

With the drawing of this Love and the voice of this Calling  
We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.

As the Psalmist reminds us: Fret not yourself because of the ungodly. The temptation of fretfulness is all too easy, and there is too much fretting in the Church today. In quietness and confidence shall be your strength. The Lord Jesus encouraged His disciples on the eve of His Passion with the promise of His peace: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." (John 14:27) And so, as we bid you farewell, continue, therefore, in that Peace of Christ to love and serve the Lord.

For now... Godspeed, Goodbye and God bless...With love always, Meshack, Charmaine & Otlotleng

(1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8)

## SPECIAL ELECTIVE VESTRY MEETING

**This** meeting was held on Sunday 29th October 2017 immediately after the 9am service. The following persons were elected to serve as councillors on the 2018 Corpus Christi council:

### CHURCHWARDENS:

Andre Joubert;

Obed Radebe

Les Rudman (Alternate)

### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Jody Cedras

Tato Farirai

Janet Ketcher

Mulalo Mathode

Dikeledi Mondono

Tuelo Mogashoa

Andre Petersen

Evah Radebe.

May we take this opportunity in wishing Fr Vernon and the council members well in the coming year .

## DATES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2017

- ◆ 4 November – Rectors and Churchwardens Meeting 08:30
- ◆ 4 November – Women’s Ministry Quiet Morning 09:00 – 13:00
- ◆ 5 November – All Saints & Baptisms
- ◆ 7 November – Ministry Team Meeting 19:00
- ◆ 8 November – Executive Meeting 18:00
- ◆ 21 November – Parish Council Meeting 18:00
- ◆ 23 November – Archdeaconry Council Meeting 18:00
- ◆ 6 December – Executive Meeting 18:00
- ◆ 24 December – Eucharist Services 07:00 & 09:00
- ◆ 25 December – Christmas Day Service 08:00



## TAKE TIME



Take time TO THINK...

It is the fountain of strength.

Take Time TO LOVE and BE LOVED...

It is a God-given privilege.

Take Time TO LAUGH...

It is the music of the soul.

Take Time to PRAY..

It is the greatest power on earth.

Take Time TO READ...

It is the foundation of wisdom.

Take Time TO WORK...

It is the price of success.

Take Time TO BE FRIENDLY..

It is the road to happiness

Take time TO GIVE..

It is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time TO PLAY

It is the secret of perpetual youth

Take Time TO SAVE...

It is the foundation of your future.

Take Time TO KEEP YOUR HEALTH...

It is above all gold and treasure.

Anon.

No matter who I am, Or where I've been

No matter what I've done, Or what I have seen

No matter what I have, Or where I go

No matter what I do, Or how I grow

No matter what I risk , Or what I fear.

No matter what I face, Or what is near

No matter what the days, Or what the years

No matter my joys, Or all my fears.

God will direct me

God will correct me

God will protect me

God will accept me.

(origin unknown)

Place a guard around my thought,  
Lift from me all my apprehensions  
Teach me, Oh Lord, to control my worries and my fears  
Give me faith and strength to face all things with thee  
Forbid all negative thoughts and make them positive  
Make me willing to live one day at a time.

Ivy

### DID YOU KNOWTHAT:



Celebrating Christmas dates back to the 16th century and one of the beliefs was that you should eat a mince pie on each of the Twelve Days of Christmas: this would then bring you 12 months of happiness.

In Britain, the Holy Days and Fasting Days Act of 1551, which has not yet been repealed (I think) states that every citizen MUST attend a Christian church service on Christmas Day, and must not use any kind of vehicle to get to the service.

La Befana, a kindly witch, rides a broomstick down the chimney to fill Italian children's stockings. Legend has it that Befana was sweeping her floors when the three Wise Men stopped and asked her to come and see the Baby Jesus. "No" she said "I am much too busy". Later she changed her mind but it was too late, so to this day she goes out on Christmas Eve searching for the Holy child and leaving gifts for the holy child in every household.

The abbreviation for Christmas is not irreligious. The first letter of Christ, in Greek is chi, which is identical to our X. Xmas was originally an ecclesiastical abbreviation that was used in tables and charts.

(NOTE:) Urban Legends reference pages says that the above fact is False. Who cares it is a nice idea

# **O**UR ANGLICAN CHURCH explained.

## The basis of our Liturgy in the practice of the early church.

Apparently the word, **LITURGY** comes from the Greek word for "*the peoples work*", and as a definition is very helpful in describing the work that we, as Christians, have to do in the Christian church. We are "sent out" into the world to be the salt of the earth, and part of our task is the act of worship, and the principal part of that worship is the Eucharist, the Lord's supper, the **LITURGY**. The first part of the service, Bible readings, psalm and the sermon is sometimes referred to as the Liturgy of the Word, but is still a part of the main Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Why do we use **Bells**? These are also known as the Sanctus Bells, and vary from church to church. Some churches have a large gong which when sounded at the appropriate time is an indication for the church bells to be rung three times; an adaptation of the cry of the Seraphim, "**Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts**", (**Isaiah 6:3**). The bells announce that the most sacred part of the service, the Prayer of Consecration is about to begin.

Several hundred years ago, when the priest conducted the service with his back to the congregation, the sound of the bells was an indication to the people that part of the service had been reached. The workers in the fields in the fields would also be made aware of this particular part and could join in with their own personal devotions. The Sanctus bells are rung again after the consecration of the Bread, indicating that Christ is now present in the bread, and again after the consecration of the Wine; Christ's presence in the wine.

### **Why more than one Creed?**

The **APOSTLES CREED** was **not** written by the Apostles, but is a summary of the doctrine which was taught by them, It is a statement of Faith and is used by the Western churches: it is called the Apostle's Creed because legend has it that each apostle, before leaving on their various missions after Pentecost, contributed a clause. The Creed is in three sections, dealing with God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. It a shortened form of our belief and was originally used for the preparation for Baptism candidates: it is the oldest form of a creed in existence today and would appear to be an earlier version known as the Old Roman Creed, which was found in a letter written to Julius bishop of Rome about AD 341 and the Church of Rome keeps and guards in its entirety

The **NICENE CREED** was drawn up in Nicaea in 325 and used to defend the orthodox faith against Arianism; a 4th century heresy written by Arius, a priest who denied the Trinity, claiming the there was only one God, and that Jesus was a man like the rest of mankind. It is a much longer statement of our faith because it clarifies and responds to the Arian heresy. The key sentence in this Creed is "**Was incarnate of the Holy Spirit...and was made Man**".

The **ATHANASIAN CREED** is a Christian statement of belief focussed on the Trinitarian doctrine and Christology and has been in use in Christian churches since the 6th century. It was the first Creed which explicitly equated the equality of the three persons of the Trinity and differs from the other two with its inclusion of the condemnation of those who disagreed with the creed. Widely accepted in the West it has now become less popular and is being used less and less. The idea was created by Athanasius, a Greek from Alexandria, and was written in Latin; he himself never mentioned it's authorship and neither did his contemporaries.

Another one is the **BAPTISMAL CREED** which is an abbreviated statement in the form of the Trinity and is sometimes used in place of the Apostles Creed. Very succinct, to the point and devastatingly simple, it encompasses the three most important statements in three simple verses.

Jj & Wikipedia previously