

Archdiocesan News

A PUBLICATION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CAPE TOWN • ISSUE NO. 116 • APRIL-SEPTEMBER 2025 • 30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

**As an INTERACTIVE EDITION. all hyperlinks are highlighted in blue. Be sure to click on them for additional information.*



THIRTY YEARS OF FAITHFUL WITNESS Archdiocesan News Marks a Milestone in the Jubilee Year



In a year imbued with grace and reflection, as the global Church celebrates the Jubilee Year 2025 under the theme “Pilgrims of Hope,” the Archdiocesan News marks an extraordinary milestone: thirty years of continuous publication in service of the Church in Cape Town. This anniversary is more than a commemoration of years; it is a testimony to perseverance, prophetic witness, and the shared faith journey of our local Catholic community.

A Voice for the Archdiocese

Founded in 1995, in the wake of South Africa’s democratic transition, Archdiocesan News emerged as a much-needed platform for the Church to speak, teach, and listen; both within and beyond the pews. Over three decades, it has chronicled the life of the local Church: from the voices of young catechumens and jubilarians, to synodal listening sessions, vocations, pastoral outreach, and stories of hope from our parishes, schools, and missions.

The publication has grown from a modest quarterly newsletter into a vital communication tool, reaching Catholics across the Archdiocese and beyond. Through the work of dedicated editors, contributors, clergy, and laity, it has borne consistent witness to the Gospel amid changing social, political, and technological landscapes.

Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

This year, the Church has been invited into a sacred time of pilgrimage and renewal, a Jubilee. With its roots in the biblical tradition of liberation, rest, and restoration, the Jubilee Year calls the faithful to reconciliation with God, neighbour, and creation.

Locally, Archdiocesan News has embraced this invitation by highlighting pilgrimages, parish missions, the reopening of Holy Doors, and testimonies of spiritual renewal. The themes of mercy, healing, and ecological conversion echoing Laudato Si’, and the recent Laudate Deum have found their way into the pages of each issue.

In a time when the world is marked by conflict, climate crises, and a hunger for meaning, the Church’s mission to be a beacon of hope is more vital than ever. The publication has remained committed to amplifying stories that reflect the resilience and solidarity of the faithful, from social justice ministries to the tireless work of Catholic healthcare, Caritas, and education professionals.

Walking Together: A Synodal Church

In alignment with the spirit of the ongoing Synod on Synodality, Archdiocesan News has championed the Church’s call to journey together. Through special features, interviews, and community voices, the paper has fostered a deeper awareness of synodality as a lived reality and not just a concept. It has provided space for dialogue, lament, gratitude, and dreaming; a true accompaniment of the people of God.

Looking Ahead with Gratitude

As we celebrate thirty years, we also give thanks for all who have contributed: from founding editors and publishers, layout designers to parish correspondents, photographers, and readers. Their commitment has shaped Archdiocesan News into more than just a publication. It has become a ministry.

Looking ahead, the mission continues. In the words of St. Paul, “We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord” (2 Cor 4:5). As the Archdiocese embraces the Jubilee invitation to hope and mission, Archdiocesan News renews its commitment to proclaiming Christ, and to journeying with the people of Cape Town in faith, justice, and love.

Ad multos annos. Here’s to many more years as pilgrims of hope, walking together.

+ Sylvester David OMI

Auxiliary Bishop of Cape Town

Laudato Si’ Movement - South Africa
Thanks and Congratulates the ADCT News on
this 30th Anniversary of sharing the lifestories
and events of our Catholic Church



LAUDATO SI'
MOVEMENT
SOUTH AFRICA



Across the Archdiocese of Cape Town and in the coming months (August – October), we will be having Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Elections. Each PPC is elected to serve a term of three years, so this is an important process that affects every parish, and indeed every parishioner.

The parish is a home, a family, a community of communities. In the Great Commission (Matt 28: 19-20) Jesus says “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and know that I am with until the close of the age.” This is the Church’s missionary mandate, and it follows that this is the core mission of every parish – our purpose.

“The Parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration.” Evangelii Gaudium #28

The parish is the place where people encounter Jesus and live their shared faith as believed and celebrated through a community. It is a place where people feel they belong and where they give of their time, talents and expertise, for the benefit of others and for the glory of God. It is a place of sanctuary, where the thirsty rest on their journey of life, and it acts as a ‘field hospital’ where the hurt and wounded go for healing. The parish focusses on encouraging and forming members so that they reach out to others, even beyond the parish, with the Good News to achieve its core missionary mandate.

The Parish Pastoral Council

The parish priest (with the assistant priest and deacon(s)), vicar of and appointed by the Archbishop, leads the parish, and the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is there to assist, support and offer counsel to the parish priest. The PPC’s purpose is therefore to provide effective participation of clergy and laity in all the parish’s pastoral life to achieve the Missionary Mandate of the church.

The PPC is governed by the Archdiocese Statutes 2022 which describe how PPC’s should operate and organise in order to achieve this mission. These statutes in turn conform with the SACBC Pastoral Plan.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is made up of people who have been elected to represent the members of the parish. The priest can also appoint members for their particular expertise and knowledge of the parish. In addition, there are ex-officio members (eg Child Safeguarding, PFC representative), and representatives from religious orders and secular institutes present in the parish. Each parish is unique and the exact details and number for each parish may vary depending on its needs.

All pastoral parish life is expressed through seven portfolios that are represented on the PPC:

Liturgy (all our worship), Faith Formation (adult and catechism), Evangelization (how we reach out beyond the parish), Parish Community Building (forming communities within communities and loving, caring relationships); Youth and young adults (supporting the younger generations – the future of the Church), Marriage and Family (nurturing the domestic church), and Community Engagement (caring for our world

THE PPC PORTFOLIOS

- ✦ **Liturgy Portfolio** Priest; Deacon; EMHC Team; Proclaimers Team; Altar Servers Team; Hospitality Team; Music Team; Sacristans Team
- ✦ **Evangelisation Portfolio** Alpha or Similar Team; Ecumenical Team; Vocations Team
- ✦ **Faith Formation Portfolio** RCIA Team; Catechetics Team; Baptism prep Team; Adult Faith Formation Team
- ✦ **Parish Community Building Portfolio** Small Christian Community Team; Social Events Team; Parish Communications Team
- ✦ **Marriage and Family Portfolio** Marriage Preparation Team; Marriage Support Team; Parenting Support Team.
- ✦ **Youth and Young Adults Portfolio** Youth Team; Young Adult Team
- ✦ **Community Engagement Portfolio** Poverty Relief Team; Bereavement Team; Aged Support Team; Justice & Peace Team; Sick & Housebound Support Team; Migrant & Refugee Support Team

and environment and those outside our parish with outreach and acts of charity in justice & peace).

The Elections

The PPC Elections will be held in each of the parishes and some guidelines have been provided to assist and guide this process. Also, some resources have been prepared and are available to parishes that can be accessed via the Parish Alive website at <https://parishalive.com/ppc-elections-2025/>

The Election is a broad process, and each parish may decide its precise process.

Awareness and Planning: This is a time for the priest and PPC’s to plan their elections. It is a time to communicate to parishioners what a PPC is and explain the election procedure. This is also a time for people to discern their role in the parish, where God is calling them and what gifts they have to share with the Church.

Nominations: During this time, people are nominated for the PPC. *Continued on page 2*

THE ROLE OF THE PPC

....the Parish Pastoral Council is the forum for the effective participation of clergy and laity in the mission of the parish which is the mission of the Church.”

Statutes for Parish Pastoral Councils 2022 Archdiocese of Cape Town

Youth Day Jubilee Para-liturgy and Battle of the Bands

On Youth Day, 16 June 2025, our Youth and Young Adults celebrated a powerful Jubilee para-liturgy with Bishop Sylvester David, who echoed the inspiring words of Pope Francis from World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon.

To all our young people:
You are not just the future – you are the now of God. Your voice matters. Your energy is needed. The Church and the world need your courage, creativity, and compassion today.
“You are the now of God. He calls you, as you are, with

all your gifts and limitations, to be a light in the world. The Church needs you – not tomorrow, but today! Don’t be afraid to speak up, to make noise, and to share your joy.”
– Pope Francis, WYD 2023
May our youth continue to stand up, speak out, and lead with love – bringing Christ’s light into every corner of our communities.
Thank you to all who attended, and particularly those who took part and shared their God-given talents in the Battle of the Bands competition.



ABOVE: Some of the pilgrims from Cape Town attending the Jubilee for Young People in Rome in the last week of July; BELOW: The two Cap Town groups at the airport



Continued from page 1

It may be easy to think of the portfolios and where people can serve best. When the nominations are in, they are published so that everyone in the parish can get to know more about the nominees.

Elections: Over a specified weekend the actual voting will take place. Ballot papers will be issued and anyone who is a registered parishioner and who has been confirmed may vote.

After the voting has taken place, the votes are counted and the final PPC structure is decided and announced.

Handover and Transition: The new PPC will elect the Executive (PPC chair, vice chair and secretary). This is also an important time for the outgoing PPC to give a quality handover to the new PPC to ensure that they are equipped to carry the baton of leadership into the coming years.

Thanks

As we go through the process of Elections and look to the future, we also express our deep appreciation to those who have served on the PPC in the past years. Many people on the outgoing PPC’s have served two terms and therefore given 6 years of service to the church. We also recall that many of these outgoing members of

the PPC served through the difficult time of COVID. It is a time we barely remember but it was a dark time for the church and the world, and we are forever grateful to the Lord for carrying us through these times.

White Smoke – First and foremost a prayerful election

As we enter these Elections, let us remember and follow the remarkable example that we witnessed of the conclave earlier this year in which Pope Leo XIV was elected as the successor to St Peter. Our own Cardinal Stephen Brislin, who was in the Sistine Chapel, described the process as being immensely calm with the strong presence of the Holy Spirit. He described the unity of all the cardinals in the process. The whole Catholic church watched with bated breath and rejoiced when on the second day, white smoke billowed from the famous chimney in St Peters square. We are not electing a Pope, but we are electing servant leaders who will lead our parishes for the next three years. Above all else, let us do this prayerfully. Let us put aside politics and follow the example set for us a few months. Let us pray hard and make room for the Holy Spirit to work in us and in our parishes.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
AUG - OCT 2025



Visit our
WEBSITE

To get more information and download Resources

parishalive.com/ppc-elections-2025

Download posters, presentations, webinar, templates, prayers, forms, handbook and more...

AWARENESS NOMINATIONS VOTING NEW PPC



Deacons Paul Moore and James Rice, together with Bishop Sylvester David (centre) and flanked by their parents and a number of priests, deacons and seminarians/servers at the ordination, at Holy Redeemer Church, Bergvliet.



Bishop Sylvester David OMI preaching at the Diaconate Ordination at Holy Redeemer Church, Bergvliet

Two New Deacons for the Archdiocese of Cape Town

On Saturday 31st May the Archdiocese of Cape Town rejoiced in the diaconal ordination of two young men, who are now preparing to become priests. They are Paul Carlo Moore, 30 years old, from Glasgow (Scotland) and James Anthony Rice, 27, from Denver (Colorado, USA). For both of them this calling arose and grew within the Neocatechumenal Way and they have received their formation together in the Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary of Cape Town.

After many years of preparation and discernment, which also included the completion of their theological studies in the Gregorian Pontifical University of Rome, and numerous experiences of missionary work in South Africa as well as abroad (for Paul in the Holy Land and for James in the United States, in Belize and in Zambia) they were found ready to receive this first seal on their vocation with the sacrament of Holy Orders.

This took place at Holy Redeemer parish in Bergvliet, thanks to the generous hospitality of the Redemptorists, and was presided over by Cape Town's auxiliary, Bishop Sylvester David OMI, on the Feast of Our Lady of the Visitation. In his homily, commenting the Gospel of the day, the bishop underlined how fitting this date was for

a diaconal ordination, since on this very occasion Mary shows herself as the true “handmaiden of the Lord”, who as soon as she received the good news of the Annunciation, went without delay to share the Word and to put herself at the service of others. Addressing the candidates, he invited them to follow her example in their ministry, reawakening the spirit of all those to whom they will announce the Gospel, just as Mary's salutation made the baby leap in Elizabeth's womb.

The celebration was attended by a large and joyful assembly, made up of their families – who came for the occasion from abroad, their fellow seminarians and formators, and the many brothers and sisters in Christ coming from different parishes, especially the communities of Bridgetown and Bishop Lavis who closely accompanied them in these years.

We pray for these two new deacons, asking God that, by the intercession of the Virgin Mary, they may always be faithful servants of Christ and his Church and courageous announcers of his Word. Indeed, with Mary we can sing: “the Lord has done great things for us”!

**Pietro Poggiali
Seminarian**

Pope Leo XIV receives Kiko Argüello, founder of the Neocatechumenal Way

On Thursday, June 5th, at 11.00 am, our Holy Father Leo XIV received for the first time in private audience the International Team of the Neocatechumenal Way, Kiko Argüello, Fr Mario Pezzi, and María Ascensión Romero in the Apostolic Palace.

Kiko greeted the Pope, telling him that he was very happy that God had given us a missionary Pope, because this is also the mission of the Neocatechumenal Way, both in countries that do not know Christ and in countries that have abandoned him.

Kiko gave him a copy of the icon of the Virgin of the Way, which is located in a chapel in Madrid Cathedral, where the words that summarize the mission of the Way are written: “We must build communities like the Holy Family of Nazareth, living in humility, simplicity, and praise. The other is Christ.” He also gave the Holy Father a copy of the latest book containing more than 400 quotes from Carmen on women, an expression of her theology: “Undivided Heart, Mission and Virginity,” a gift that the Pope greatly appreciated.

Kiko also recalled that it was a source of great joy that his election took place on May 8, because this commemoration has a special meaning for the Way.

The Pope was surprised by this coincidence, and Kiko told him how, on 8 May 1968, just after arriving in Italy with Carmen Hernández, he was taken to Pompeii to place

the Way under the protection of Our Lady of Pompeii. Also on 8 May 1974, for the first time, Pope St Paul VI received the initiators of the Way and some itinerants in audience, Kiko recounted, saying some very prophetic words that have been of great help to the Way: “Behold the fruits of the Council... You, being what you are, are already doing apostolic work.” “You are doing what the early Church did before baptism; you are doing it afterwards; but whether before or after is secondary. What is important is that you are seeking the authenticity of Christian life, and this is something that comforts us enormously.”

During the very cordial meeting the Team was able to inform the Pope about the numerous activities that the Way is carrying out in the Church: through a program of Christian initiation offered to parishes and dioceses; supporting families in the face of the challenges of the modern world; living their vocation; open to life in its fullness; giving many young people the opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ, the only one who truly responds to their concerns.

Pope Leo XIV also marveled at the large number of families who, grateful to the Lord for the new life offered to them, have made themselves available to help the Church's mission in the poorest and most difficult areas of the world. He was also struck by the presence of the Way in 138 countries and the number of Redemptoris Mater seminaries currently open in more than 100 dioceses on



Pope Leo XIV receives the International Team of the Neocatechumenal Way, Fr Mario Pezzi, Kiko Argüello, and María Ascensión Romero

five continents, as well as the many seminarians preparing to become diocesan missionary priests.

The Holy Father encouraged them to continue this ministry, so precious for the life of the Church, and with his blessing he confirmed the Gospel of St John for that day (Jn 17:20-26), which speaks of love and unity, the way that leads people today to encounter faith, a word so dear to the Holy Father that he has placed it as a motto on his coat of arms: “In illo Uno, Unum,” and so present in Kiko's experience and constitutive of the itinerary of the Neocatechumenal Way.

Álvaro de Juana

Celebrating Compassion, Community and the 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY of the Archdiocesan News



IMAGINATIVE PRAYER



MARIAN PRAYER



PSALMS

JUBILEE PRAYER SERIES

LET US PRAY

SEASON II 2025

A series of three prayer sessions for parish small faith-sharing communities

Recommended to run in 3 weeks in August / early September before the Archdiocese Jubilee Mass on 14 September 2025.



DOWNLOAD
from the Jubilee 2025 website:
<https://jubilee2025-capetown.com/prayer-series-let-us-pray-season-ii-2025/>

We are delighted to announce the latest **JUBILEE PRAYER SERIES - LET US PRAY** Season II that is now available for all parishes. It is a 3 part series ideal for small faith sharing groups. You can read more and download the booklet from the Archdiocese Jubilee 2025 website <https://jubilee2025-capetown.com/prayer-series-let-us-pray-season-ii-2025/>

All parishes are encouraged to run this series in August or early September before the Archdiocese Jubilee Mass on 14 September. It is available in English now, and by the end of July will also be available in Afrikaans and isiXhosa.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact Alison Dunn on alisondunn1957@gmail.com.



Bishop Sylvester David OMI and Fr David de Caires e Freitas, together with the three Cape Town seminarians currently at St John Vianney, at a lunch break during their retreat from 6-9 July, at the Christian Brothers' Centre in Stellenbosch



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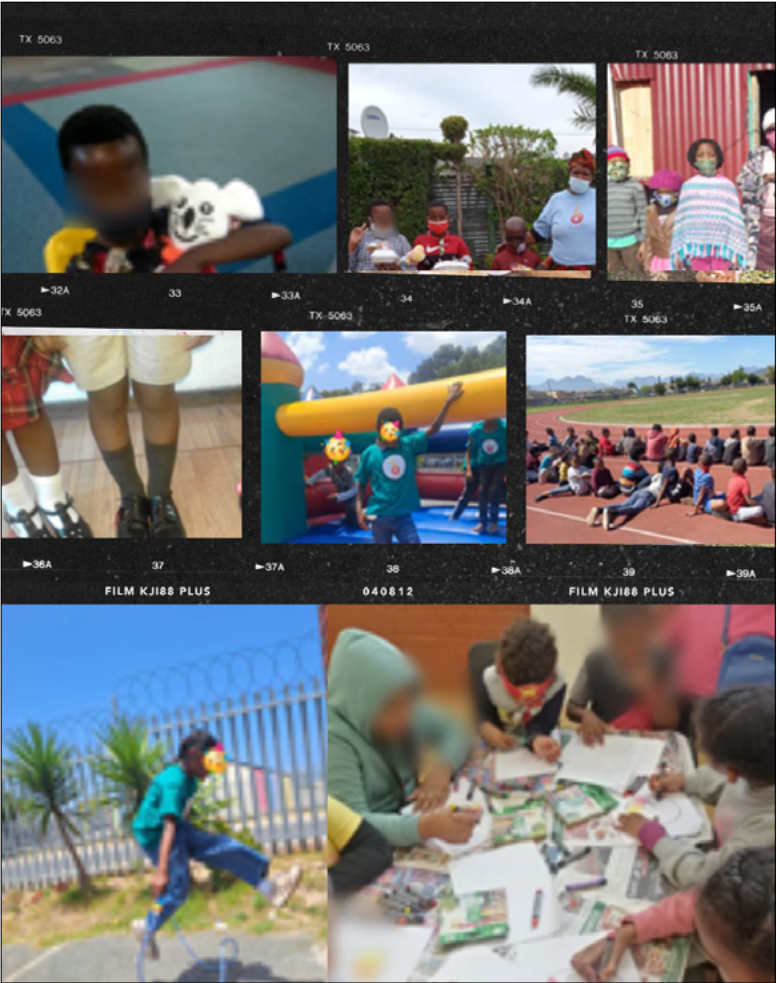
In a world where headlines often focus on what's wrong, St Kizito Children's Programme is joyfully shouting about what's right – 30 glorious years of the Archdiocesan News, and the community of care it has helped grow!

St Kizito Children's Programme's mission is to support orphans and vulnerable children – not just with the basics, but with love, dignity, and the kind of joy that makes childhood sparkle.

Over the years we have hunted down the coolest school shoes made from recycled medical supplies for our School Shoe Drive, sneaked body creams into Toiletry Hampers, and provided a surprise treat in our Food Drive parcels.

But we don't stop at survival – we're all about thriving. With the support of donors, volunteers, and the ever-encouraging Archdiocesan News, we try to make childhood magical through excursions, holiday fun, life skill programmes, and surprise outings that remind every child just how valued they are. We are helping our beneficiaries to become resilient, faith-filled young humans who know that they matter.

And along the way? We've been blessed to walk hand-in-hand with the Archdiocesan News, whose pages have echoed our stories, shared our calls for help, and celebrated our milestones. They've helped transform readers into volunteers, subscribers into donors, and the curious into committed companions on this journey.



We are grateful for the opportunity to be part of this milestone – 30 years of a publication that continues to inform, uplift, and unite the Catholic community. It is through partnerships like these that we are reminded that when the Church, its people, and its mission come together, we can transform lives.

Congratulations to Archdiocesan News on this special occasion. May you continue to be a beacon of truth, faith, and hope for many years to come.



PILGRIMAGES TO ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

This year all parishes have been invited to undertake a Jubilee pilgrimage to St Mary's Cathedral. This pilgrimage is an official designated jubilee event, and will consist of a tour of the Cathedral, Exposition, Confession, Adoration and Benediction, with light refreshments thereafter. If you parish still wants to book a pilgrimage, go to <https://stmary039scathedral.setmore.com>

Photos by Joan Armstrong



CELEBRATING A MILESTONE:

First Cohort of SETA-Qualified Machinists Showcases Talent and Triumph

On Friday, 30 May, a sense of pride and achievement filled the Salesian Institute Youth Projects (SIYP) Campus as the first cohort of SETA-accredited machinists proudly presented their completed sewing projects. This showcase marked a significant milestone for both the students and the Stitch Ahead Sewing programme, which aims to equip young people with marketable skills for sustainable employment in the textile and manufacturing industries.

A total of 16 students graduated from the programme, having completed four-months of intensive training, practical assessments, and creative projects. Each final sewing piece displayed at the event reflected their technical skills, creativity, and personal growth.

“These graduates have proven what’s possible when young people are given access to skills training, support, and an opportunity to thrive,” said Fr Francois Dufour, CEO of SIYP, who addressed attendees at the showcase. “They are not just machinists – they are makers of their own futures.”

The Stitch Ahead initiative is committed to developing a skilled workforce, particularly among youth, and contributes to a more inclusive and empowered local economy. The programme is accredited by the Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) and offers both technical training and soft skills development.

This celebration of success is not just an endpoint, but a new beginning. Many of the graduates are already exploring employment opportunities or considering launching their own micro-enterprises in the textile and garment industry.

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The first cohort of SETA-Qualified machinists proudly present their completed sewing projects



Salesian Youth Projects Empowering Youth through Skills and Opportunity

A proud moment unfolded this week at Old Mutual’s Mutualpark campus in Cape Town, as 175 young people graduated from the Salesian Institute Youth Projects’ (SIYP) NEETs Youth Employment Programme, receiving SETA-accredited certificates in Wholesale and Retail, New Venture Creation and Certificates for Solar Photovoltaic Mounter courses

The graduation ceremony marks a powerful chapter in a programme designed to offer a second chance to unemployed youth. The NEETs (Not in Employment, Education or Training) Programme was the vision of Fr Pat Naughton, conceptualised in 2020 and officially launched in 2021. Since then, it has evolved into a dynamic vehicle of youth empowerment.

Originally structured as a 12-month programme in New Venture Creation, it has expanded to include a 6- or 12-month Solar Photovoltaic Mounter / Installer course, equipping youth for participation in South Africa’s growing green energy sector.

“This is about restoring dignity and hope,” said Fr François Dufour, CEO of SIYP.

“We believe in the resilience and potential of every young person who walks through our doors. These graduates are now equipped with the skills to create opportunities, not just for themselves, but for their communities too.”

Gabriel Hamuy, Programme Manager, added:

“We’ve seen real transformation through this programme. Many of our graduates are already launching micro-enterprises or entering the workforce with confidence. It’s incredibly rewarding to see their growth and determination.”

Hosted in partnership with Old Mutual, the graduation ceremony was attended by proud families, donors, and partners, all gathered to celebrate the resilience, hard work, and potential of these young individuals.

Watch the full graduation ceremony here:
<https://tinyurl.com/mumk5h8b>

About Salesian Institute Youth Projects

For over 115 years, the Salesian Institute has provided education, skills development, and psychosocial support to vulnerable youth in Cape Town. The NEETs Youth Employment Programme is one of several SIYP initiatives aimed at breaking cycles of poverty and building brighter futures.

Frieda Pehlivan



Graduation ceremony at Old Mutual’s Mutualpark campus in Cape Town

NURTURING HOPE FOR 90 YEARS:

A legacy of learning and love in
Welcome Estate



In the heart of the Cape Flats, where challenges often outweigh opportunities, stands a beacon of hope and resilience – St Theresa’s Roman Catholic Primary School. For 90 years this school has been more than just a place of learning. It has been a sanctuary for generations of children, offering not only education but also nourishment, safety, a sense of belonging and Catholic values.

St Theresa’s was founded in 1935 through the unwavering commitment of the Holy Cross Sisters, whose mission to provide faith-based education laid the foundation for generations of young minds to thrive. Their legacy lives on in every classroom.

Over the decades the school has remained true to this mission, even as resources have dwindled and needs have grown.

Today, St Theresa’s Primary serves hundreds of children from some of the most disadvantaged communities of Cape Town. Yet, every day learners walk through the school gates with eager hearts, ready to learn.

We wish to acknowledge, with deep appreciation, the Capuchin Fathers who minister to the school community. Their guidance strengthens the faith that is central to the school’s identity and nurtures a spirit of unity and care within the school family. Their presence is a blessing.

The school provides two nutritious meals a day – for some children the only meal they can depend on. Children receive after school support, emotional counselling and a safe space where children can be shielded from the harsh realities that often lie



just outside the walls of the school.

As we prepare to celebrate our 90 years of faith and learning, we look to the future with hope. We reflect not only on our proud past, but also on the urgent needs of the present. Maintaining our programmes requires constant effort and resources. To continue feeding hungry mouths, supporting dedicated teachers and keeping our doors open to every child in need, we rely heavily on the generosity of donors.

Our building, though rich in history, is now showing its age. It tells

the story of nine decades of dedication, but they also tell us it’s time for renewal. Help us restore and renovate this beloved, sacred space.

Join us in honouring 90 years of unwavering commitment to education and community. Help us to continue this essential work and ensure that the next generation of learners has every opportunity to thrive.

We invite you to be part of this legacy. Your donation – no matter the size – can make a real difference. As our motto indicates: All for the greater honour and glory of God.

INVITATION TO THE

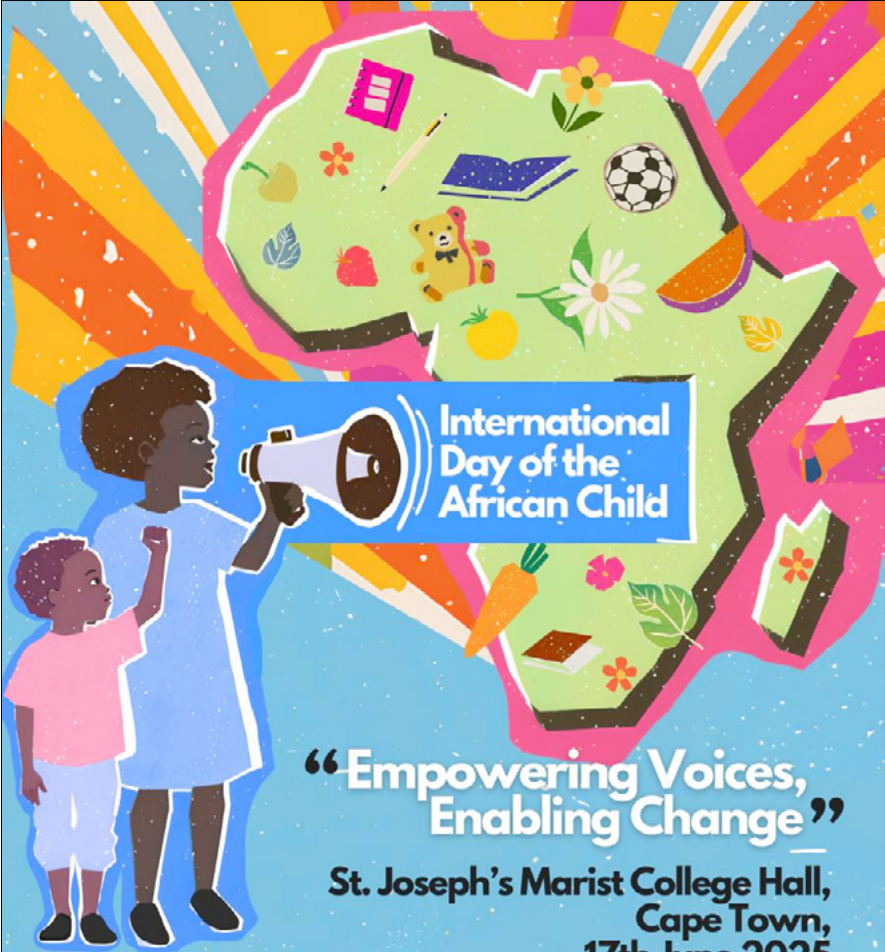
JUBILEE CHOIR
FESTIVALS 2025

We are very pleased to inform you that we have booked the City Hall for two festivals this year, both in Term Three. The dates for this year’s Choir Festivals in the City Hall are:

Sunday 17 August 2025 at 2.00 pm.
Sunday 21 September 2025 at 2.00 pm.

CLERGY, RELIGIOUS, PENSIONERS
AND UNDER 6 YEARS – GRATIS!!

International Day of the African Child –
Celebrated by St Joseph’s Marish College



“Empowering Voices,
Enabling Change”

St. Joseph’s Marist College Hall,
Cape Town,
17th June 2025

SCAN TO JOIN
THE MEETING







A presentation by Dr Patrick Lovett at St Dominic’s Convent – A Peep into the Vatican”



Regional Religious
Educators Conference

CATECHESIS



Mass of the Neophytes: The Mass of the Neophytes, in thanksgiving for all, in the RCIA process, who were received into the Church at Easter was held at Our Lady Help of Christians in Lansdowne on Saturday, 3 May.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Training and Formation A workshop for all RCIA facilitators, on the practical aspects of the RCIA Journey, was held at St Ignatius in Claremont on 21 June



Catechetical Deanery Meetings: The Catechetical Co-ordinators of the various Deaneries had the second of their quarterly meetings on 28 June. Pictured (above) are the Co-ordinators of the Eastern a Deanery.



Catechetical Deanery Meetings: The Catechetical Co-ordinators of the various Deaneries had the second of their quarterly meetings on 28 June. Pictured (above) are the Co-ordinators of the Peninsula Deanery.



Catechetical Co-ordinators: The Parish Catechetical Co-ordinators of the Archdiocese met on 5 July, at St Ignatius, Claremont. They were addressed by Fr Pierre Goldie and Fr Kees Thonissen on the importance of Evangelisation in the Catechetical Process.



The DEACONS' RECOMMITMENT MASS was held at the Christian Brothers' Retreat Centre, Stellenbosch on 4 May, and was presided over by Bishop Sylvester David OMI.



KOLPING SA IN PHOTOS



All garments were made by the participants of the Sewing Skills Course held at Nazareth House



Kolping Nail & Beauty Course offered at Nazareth House, Elsie's River



KSA's President, Zukile Tom (right) and Director Judith Turner (left) attend the G20 Symposium at UCT, invited by Aisling Foley of Caritas Cape Town (centre)



Young People Graduating at Nazareth House



Kolping Gugulethu Youth Day event



Crochet marathon at Nazareth House, Elsie's River



Kolping Langa soccer group at Family Day



Graduation of SPARK mothers celebrated on Friday 30 March at Nazareth House in Elsie's River



SPARK Nail Technician training at Nazareth House, Elsie's River



2025 AGM at Nazareth House, Elsie's River



SPARK Mothers Programme at Naz House



Manenberg parish Easter treats

KOLPING

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Kolping Sports Day at Koelenhof



Gugulethu Kitchen Garden



Kolping Strandfontein soccer group at family day



Zukile Tom, Kolping president attending international seminar in Germany



Youth Indaba at Kolping Naz House, Elsies River



AGM 2023



SPARK mothers employed as Home-Based Carers



Youth attending Catholic Social Teachings at Kolping Dysselsdorp



Gugulethu Kolping feeding those in need on Mandela Day



Home Kitchen garden programme in Matroosfontein



Kolping Netball group in Matroosfontein



Youth participating in Work Opportunity Programme Lifeskills Training at Naz, Elsies



Kolping staff therapeutic art workshop



Augsburg, Germany exchange programme with youth from CT, Oudtshoorn Jhb & PE



Crochet marathon prize giving



National office supporting the Netball World Cup



Germany 12 month volunteer exchange programme participants



Certificate handover to WOP plumbing graduate



Kolping Kids art & craft day at Naz



Manenberg Home Kitchen Garden training



Kolping Praeses and members at the 2023 opening Mass



Members attending the 2023 opening Mass



SPARK mothers programme at St Philip's, Strandfontein



WOP assistant chef training



Crochet Marathon Day



SPARK mothers programme in Delft



Gugulethu Kolping Family feeding those in need on Mandela Day

“Come, Follow Me”
A Seminarian’s Reflection on Vocation and Gratitude

As I sit down to write this article, I do so with deep gratitude, not only as a seminarian preparing for the priesthood, but also as a faithful reader of this newspaper, which now celebrates 30 years of service to our Archdiocese. For thirty years in the Archdiocese of Cape Town, this publication has been a source of inspiration, formation, and encouragement for countless Catholics, myself included. And it is precisely through these small seeds of faith planted in families, parishes, and yes, even in the pages of this newspaper – that vocations are born.

My own journey to the seminary did not begin with a clear voice from the heavens. It began quietly. It was the faithful witness of my parish priest, the silence of Adoration, the smile of a religious sister, and the gentle prompting of the Holy Spirit that gradually led me to ask the question: Could God be calling me to be a priest?

Saying “yes” to this call has not always been easy. Like many others, I wrestled with doubts, fears, and questions about whether I was truly worthy or capable. But through prayer, the support of others, and the peace that comes from being in God’s will, I discovered that the call to the priesthood is not about being perfect it’s about being willing.

As a seminarian, I have come to see that the priesthood is a beautiful mystery: to be a bridge between heaven and earth, to speak words that bring Christ into the Eucharist, to accompany people in their joys and sorrows, to offer hope when it is needed most. It is a vocation that demands everything, and yet it gives back even more.

In a world filled with noise and distractions, it can be difficult to hear the still, small voice of God. But I want to say to any young person reading this: if you feel even the smallest tug in your heart, take it seriously. Speak to a priest. Pray deeply. Be open.



Siyavuya Zangana

God’s plans are always greater than our own.

I also want to thank the readers and supporters of this newspaper. Your prayers, your encouragement, and your fidelity to the Church create the soil in which vocations can grow. Whether you are a parent, a teacher, a youth leader, or simply a faithful parishioner, know that you play an irreplaceable role in helping young people hear and respond to God’s call.

As we celebrate 30 years of the Archdiocesan News, may we also renew our commitment to fostering a culture of vocation. May this newspaper continue to be a light in the darkness and a reminder that Christ is still calling, and people are still answering.

And to all those discerning: do not be afraid. The Lord is faithful. Say yes, and you will never walk alone.

Siyavuya Zangana
Seminarian (1st Year Philosophy)



IN MEMORIAM MASS FOR POPE FRANCIS at St Mary’s Cathedral, in April, presided over by Bishop Sylvester David OMI



What’s Up, Stella Maris 2025?
A Year of Hope, Service, and Solidarity at Sea

Pilgrims of Hope at Sea

As the Church celebrates Jubilee 2025 under the theme “Pilgrims of Hope,” we are reminded that the journey of faith is not limited to those who walk on land. Across the oceans, seafarers and fishers live out their own faith and pilgrimage – often invisible, in solitude, hardship, and silence – far from their families, parishes and communities.

In this Jubilee Year, the Church invites all the faithful to rediscover hope – a hope that is rooted in Christ and shared with others through acts of mercy, justice, and solidarity. For Stella Maris, the maritime apostolate of the Catholic Church, this call is deeply meaningful. The chaplain and ship visitors consider themselves as modern apostles called by Jesus to be fishers of men. They serve as a lifeline between the Church and these seafarers and fishers at sea. Through ship visits the Church climbs aboard their vessels, walking alongside them in their joys and struggles, and reminding them that they are neither forgotten nor abandoned. Every ship visit, every Mass and blessing offered on board, every service provided to them is a sign of hope – a reminder that the Church cares and sails with them in spirit and prayer.

Just as pilgrims seek sacred encounters along their journey, seafarers and fishers too are pilgrims – navigating not only the physical seas but also the spiritual and emotional tides of life. Stella Maris chaplains and volunteers visits them on board, offering companionship, sacraments, and support that reflect the mercy and presence of Christ.

As we sail through Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope, Stella Maris is more active than ever – bringing faith, hope, friendship and support to seafarers and fishers who are coming to the Port of Cape Town. Here’s what’s happening this year:

Faith on the waves

On a daily basis, Stella Maris campaigns for strengthening the faith of the people of the sea. The primary apostolate of Stella Maris is to provide spiritual assistance to seafarers and fishers every time their vessels dock in the port and on some occasions at the anchorage. The Port Chaplain and ship visitor volunteers go onboard ships to celebrate Holy Mass or give blessings or pray and distribute faith materials. Seafarers and fishers need not wait at the end of their employment contract and go back to their parish to attend Holy Mass. Stella Maris brings the Eucharist on the vessel right where they are. Also, they are invited whenever possible to attend Sunday Mass at the Seafarers Centre. Furthermore, some of them go to St Mary’s Cathedral and Holy Cross to attend Sunday Mass. Last year, in Cape Town, at least 1016 seafarers and fishers attended Holy Mass at the Seafarers Centres, Holy Cross and on-board vessel. Also, we distributed 3010 faith materials. All this, we hope nourishes and strengthens their faith.

Seafarers Day

Every 25 June, the world celebrates the Day of the Seafarer. On this occasion, Stella Maris joins with the South African Maritime Safety Authority’s (SAMSA) celebration in Durban. There will also be local port celebration. The theme for this year is “My Harrassment-Free Ship”. This is a campaign and a call for action to promote a culture of respect and zero tolerance for bullying and harassment at sea. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) hopes to change the maritime culture to one where every seafarer feels safe, valued and protected at sea.

Sea Week

On July 13, the whole Church celebrated Sea Sunday, a day where the faithful is asked to reflect on the lives of seafarers and fishers, pray for them, and contribute to the ministry. This year, Stella launched SEA WEEK, from 7-13 July. Below were the daily events:

Videos on life at sea; Know Your Rights Workshops – Empowering seafarers and fishers; Voices from the Sea – A storytelling campaign sharing real-life experiences from the ocean; Presentation of Seafarers’ Poems; Novena Prayer of Stella Maris, Star of the Sea; Harbour Games; Pool and Table Tennis competition; Medical Mission on board a vessel or at Seafarers Centre; Environmental Action – Sea clean-ups and awareness drives with seafarers as eco-ambassadors; Videos on life at sea; Voices from the Sea – A storytelling campaign sharing real-life experiences from the ocean; Presentation of Seafarers’ Poems; Sunday Mass at Seafarers Centre

Please support the Sea Sunday collection. Your support helps us continue this vital apostolate. “Seafarers and fishers are not just workers – they are pilgrim people and children of God who have little access to the Church. Let’s be with them and pray for them”

Lastly, join us in prayer for seafarers and fishers.

Lord Jesus Christ, ruler of the waves and sea, keep Your blessed hand over the seafarers and fishers and protect them from any kind of illness, accident, and peril of the sea as You calmed the Sea of Galilee and protected the disciples. When the storm comes may they take heart and trust in You. Accompany them on their voyage and work. Inspire them to live their faith and be faithful to their Christian life aboard ship. Let the sea not cut them off from their families, friends and the Church.

May Our Lady, Star of the Sea, intercede and guide them and their families, and at the end of their employment contract bring them home safely. Amen.



Robin Hood Rides Again

A story by Fr Ralph de Hahn

The Peacedale neighbourhood was not that quiet. The parish priest of St Martin de Porres parish community was forever being called out to calm a family squabble or to become involved with the local police in handling the ‘Sizzling Gang’ who were then terrorizing the poor families.

In the home of Terry and Monica Dempsey, with their three sparkling, ever-active, children it was extremely difficult to find the hour to pray as a family – but pray they did!

The little brat, Jason, insisted that he was going to follow the adventurous life of Robin Hood, that loveable bandit of Sherwood Forest. He had his costume, his red cloak, a wooden sword, and his bow with a quiver packed with those deadly arrows. Now and again one could hear mother screaming as arrows flew across the lounge or even the kitchen (to land in the soup!) and there would be a nasty upheaval among family members. But Robin Hood he would be!

However dad had something to say: “Jason surely you don’t want to be like those hoodlums out there on the street?” And mother would gently add “...a nice neat altar server as you are would certainly not want to be a bandit as was Robin Hood!”

But the little man had his answer: “Don’t you folks understand the movies? He robbed the very rich in order to feed the very poor... very much like Martin de Porres!”

“No way!” barked dad Terry, “your Robin Hood was no Saint Martin!”

It was in the early stages of Lent that the little man fell awfully ill; he was diagnosed as suffering from a serious lung infection. Even in the hospital he insisted that his full costume, his feathered hat and his weapons lay alongside his bed – just in case! Even after five days it seemed Jason was not responding to treatment, and his parents, Terry and Monica, were wondering how they could possibly meet the medical bills. But they had another grave problem in the Dempsey family. The eldest girl, Lydia aged 17, was told she is pregnant. “I don’t want a baby, I’m too young to be a mother... I still have my whole life before me... I need an abortion.” The parents tearfully begged her not to think that way, but Lydia was fearful and adamant. Help was needed from beyond. Terry and Monica, together with their middle child, Wendy, went on their knees daily to make a Novena to St Martin; they pleaded for Jason’s recovery, they cried over Lydia’s dilemma. All this besides the heavy medical expenses, which haunted these humble parents day and night. Here was the hour for the real Robin Hood to serve the crying needs of the poor.

Doctor Peter Hindley, a caring Catholic specialist who knew the family for many years, was somewhat distressed over Jason’s slow progress. He was fully aware of Jason’s dream and urged the lad to fight back with the will to come right and so fulfill his dream. On one particular visit, with the parents present, Dr Hindley was heard to mutter: “I’m going to try something very unusual.” He then took possession of the boy’s costume, placed the feathered hat on Jason’s head, wrapped the red cloak over his chest, set the wooden sword into his right hand and the bow in his left. With a prayer in his heart, he stood before his patient and gently pleaded: “Jason open your eyes... Jason listen... Robin Hood must ride again. We need him.”

Slowly the young warrior opened his eyes wider and wider, and then

followed that triumphant smile. The happy doctor quickly examined his pulse and his heart in the normal manner saying: “You are a true soldier and I can tell you are much, much better.”

The parents were weeping joyfully and young Wendy was kissing her young brother and playing with his curly hair. Monica was still deeply concerned “doctor you have been so caring and so wonderful, thank you... but we will not be able to...”

Doctor Hindley interrupted “All your medical bills are already paid”, and throwing a glowing smile at Jason

“you see, that’s what Robin Hood does for people in need.”

Father Charles, the parish priest, appeared in the doorway. With him was Lydia who rushed to Jason’s bedside and kissed him crying: “Jason please, please pray for me... ask St Martin to help me. I need him so badly...”

Fr Charles knew the facts. Jason did not, yet he proudly proclaimed: “Sure Lydia, I’ll pray for you. And St Martin will help too, but I will always help the sick and the poor.”

All eyes were now on Lydia, still weeping, still confused. Father



Charles drew her closer to him.

“Lydia come now, you know what is the right thing to do... you know that all life is sacred... your life, Jason’s life, your parents... and the unborn child...” She looked boldly into his face: “But surely, Father, I have a choice...it’s my life!!” Father, in his own compassionate and fatherly manner, drew her yet closer and whispered “My dear child, you have a choice... but you have already made that choice when you said yes to your lover... now nature takes over... and God still loves you so much!”

It seemed like a bolt struck from heaven. Lydia fell into Father’s arms and wept and wept, until Fr Charles turned to Jason and smiled: “Your sister has been healed... she weeps

because she is blessed and is happy. I know your prayers and St Martin did this for her.”

“And Robin Hood!” came the quick response from the young warrior. “So what are your plans young man when you leave this hospital and grow up?” Jason sat up in bed, looked about him, cap on his head, and deadly weapons in his hands “Like Robin Hood I will care for the poor and the sick...”

The parish priest interrupted “and please give St Martin de Porres some credit.”

And so how did the story end? At the age of twenty-three the friar Brother Robin was serving the poor and homeless in the poverty-stricken location named Sherwood – with cheerful devotion.

In Loving Memory of Mario Leeson

Mario Leeson, a cherished member of St Joseph’s Parish in Goodwood, Cape Town, passed away on 24 May 2025.

Born a twin at St Mary’s Maternity Home in Umtata, Eastern Cape, on 20 January 1959, Mario was a beloved son of Olive and Eric Leeson. As the youngest of 12 children, he grew up in a home filled with love, resilience and community. His guiding philosophy in life was: “There are two important days in a person’s life – the day they are born and the day they discover why.”

Mario matriculated at St Columba’s High School in Cape Town, embarking on a journey marked by hard work, determination and an unwavering commitment to family. In 1980, he married his wife, Cindy. Their son, Eric, was born four years later, followed by twin daughters, Melissa and Meghan, six years after that. And four grandchildren years later.

For 27 years, Mario worked for Coca-Cola before venturing into entrepreneurship, founding Ye Olde Signs. His work ethic and vision set him apart but it was his positivity, loyalty and charisma that truly defined him. A disciplined and passionate cyclist, Mario faced and overcame numerous health challenges with remarkable strength and grace.

Mario’s warmth was felt by all who had the privilege of knowing him. A compassionate listener, a trusted confidant and a source of boundless encouragement, he touched lives with his words, his heartfelt smile and his embracing hugs. His soothing sing-

ing voice brought comfort, his stories inspired and his presence uplifted.

A dedicated and faithful member of St Joseph’s parish, Mario lived his faith with sincerity, kindness and humility. His zest for life was infectious, and his legacy reminds everyone to embrace each day with joy and purpose.

He evangelised through art, including plaques for the faithful departed in various gardens of remembrance in parishes from Mthatha to Cape Town, and signs at the Mimosa Shrine Chapel. He also crafted the Pilgrims of Hope plaque for St Saviour’s Cathedral in Oudtshoorn and for Cardinal Stephen Brislin on his appointment as Archbishop of Johannesburg last year. His final work, completed in March 2025, was The Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross and the Last Supper scene in the Rosary Garden at the Capuchin Convent in Swellendam.

He will forever hold a special place in many hearts. May he rest in peace, knowing he was deeply loved and will never be forgotten.

“Everything, even sweeping, scraping vegetables, weeding a garden and waiting on the sick could be a prayer, if it were offered to God.”
– St Martin de Porres



Mario Leeson, a disciplined and passionate cyclist

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A lifetime of love for all creation and being part of sodalities who care for the marginalised and the poor transformed when I attended the St Augustine University inauguration of the Laudato Si' – Care for our Common Home encyclical took place in June 2015 – I was captivated. The words of Pope Francis fully encompass assuming ecological kinship in social and in all justice and ecological environments. I became a certified Laudato Si Animator and in 2016 I joined the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM). As a member of the Cape Town Archdiocesan Catholic Environment Advisory and Laudato Si' committee, I worked with Father Bernard Makore, Father Chris Chatteris, Deacon Des Eyden and Annabel Horn. Laudato Si' was presented to the Archdiocese Justice and Peace members in 2017.

Many Laudato Si' workshops have taken place at parishes and within the Archdiocese. One workshop was held in July 2018 launching the Laudato Si' Care of our Common Home book written by Father Anthony Egan and Martin van Neirop and produced by the Jesuit Institute SA. Cardinal Stephen Brislin gave an engaging opening address. The Catholic Welfare and Development, Patrick Dowling (also a certified LSM Animator), and Rev. Rachel Mash of Green Anglicans were engaged in Laudato Si' Creation Care work, activities and promotion in the early days.

South Africa is represented on the Global platform in a number of Global GCCM/Laudato Si' Movement and the Laudato Si' Action Platform, webinars that were held during the Season of Creation and the Laudato Si' Week,

at prayer meetings, and other encounters including online written articles for the Southern Cross, Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office and Archdiocesan News platforms.



"Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world. Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity which affects not only relationships between individuals but also "macro-relationships, social, economic and political ones" 236 Laudato Si'

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The Letter Screening at the Labia in Cape Town August 2023



Events from 2022 to 2023
Justice and Peace
Training, interviewing
Dan Horan, and the youth
initiatives in Cape Town
with Prof Brian Williams
and Father Wim Lindique

Events and Encounters

In a synodal process that took over 18 months, GCCM transformed into the Laudato Si' Movement (LSM) in July 2021.

The inclusion of Creation Care in the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference (SACBC) Pastoral Plan and Pope Francis' Synod on Synodality is definitely shaping growth in Caring for Our Common Home throughout South Africa. The SACBC has linked climate (Creation Care) and social action (including Climate Justice Advocacy) with interconnected activities and events. "To work for the care of the earth is also to work for social justice."

The LSM SA Chapter offer training, guidance and support to all parishes to grow the momentum of Creation Care action, encouraging the change called for by Pope Francis with a choice to start an ecological conversion journey which, with discernment and collaborative commitment, will lead to an holistic integral ecology where peace and harmony will reign for all people and mother Earth now and in the future.

Encounters and events have shaped the presence of Laudato Si' in South Africa with activities and action throughout the year and specifically during important moments like the Laudato Si' Week and the Season of Creation. Holy Mass in Creation has taken place every year.

On the World Day of Prayer for Creation on 1 September 2020, during Covid 19, the first Radio Veritas - Laudato Si' Our Journey on Caring for our Common Home programme was broadcast. The programme has been running for five years now. Most programmes are available as podcasts.

Holy Mass in Creation held at the Christian Brother's Centre in Stellenbosch during the Season of Creation 2020



The Letter Screening held in Johannesburg 2023



SEASON OF CREATION ACTIVITIES COUNTRY WIDE

"I wish to address every person living on this planet. In my Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, I wrote to all the members of the Church with the aim of encouraging ongoing missionary renewal. In this Encyclical, I would like to enter into dialogue with all people about our common home." Laudato Si 3

Rev. Rachel Mash of Green Anglicans promoted Laudato Si from 2015 throughout all churches in Southern Africa. Representing the LSM, I became an 'Eco-Champion' with an ecumenical group including the Green Anglicans, Arocha SA, SAFCEI, the Lutheran church, New Dutch Reformed churches and the Methodist Church.

The LSM members joined various Eco-champion initiatives like prayer hikes, and prayer meetings, youth camps, biodiversity restoration events and social evenings like the Sustainable Dinners hosted by the Methodists in Newlands and Rondebosch.



Father Stan Muyebe, Father Peter-John, and Bishop Sylvester David were 3 of the Catholic representatives who attended the Eco-Bishop's Conference held in October 2024

An ecumenical Eco-Bishop's Conference organised by members of the SACC, including SAFCEI and the Green Anglicans is held annually. A successfully attended gathering took place in October 2024 in Noordhoek, Cape Town and Cardinal Stephen Brislin opened the conference and the Catholic Church had excellent participation.



James Irlam (A Rocha South Africa, Berni Crewe-Brown GCCM Rachel Mash (Green Anglicans), Patrick Dowling, Frank Molteno (SAFCEI), Erik van der Linden, Bino Makhallanyane, Peet Van Der Walt, Chris Coetzee, Vuyelwa Ntshinga, Coen Vreym, Ricardo Vasopolli



Cardinal Stephen Brislin receiving a thank you gift from Francesca De Gasparis, CEO of SAFCEI

Laudato Si' Partnerships in South Africa

The LSM SA Chapter and partners like Radio Veritas, Marfam, St Joseph's Theological Institute, Justice and Peace Commissions in the Archdioceses around the country offer training, guidance and support to all parishes to grow the momentum of Creation Care action, encouraging the change called for by Pope Francis with an ecological conversion journey which when all are committed will lead to Integral ecology.



Jane Alt, Bernie Daries, Jane Overmeyer, Nicola Cox, Sifiso Ndwandwe, Arlette Marais and Berni Crewe-Brown held a Regional Laudato Si' Encounter.

Throughout the 10 years of Laudato Si' all the South African LSM animators were linked to the LSM SA Chapter. 2024 saw amazing growth in Creation Care activities and events.



Deacon Des joins Sifiso, Bernie, Jane and Berni at Kolbe House after the Regional Encounter

When Laudato Si' Movement Country Chapters were first initiated through the Global LSM leadership, Dr Zanette Jansen accepted the role of Country Chapter leader. Arlette Marais and Berni Crewe-Brown worked with Zanette in gathering information, writing reports, attending meetings and promoting the movement.

Zanette stood down in November 2023. A team effort to develop and grow LSM SA Chapter began in early 2024 with Sifiso Ndwandwe voted in as Chairperson and Berni Crewe-Brown as the LSM SA Chapter co-chair/coordinator with the LSM Africa and Global offices. Nicola Cox, Gladys Tau, Lesego Letageng work together as Exec team.



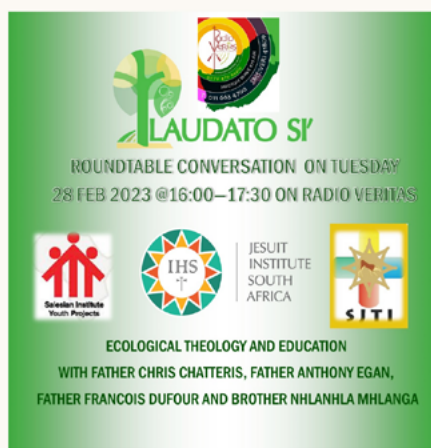
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Bringing everyone to the table to be heard:

.....This contemplation of creation allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us, since "for the believer, to contemplate creation is to hear a message, to listen to a paradoxical and silent voice". [57] We can say that "alongside revelation properly so-called, contained in sacred Scripture, there is a divine manifestation in the blaze of the sun and the fall of night"..... LS 85



During Covid, 2020, there were quite a number of people who became animators. COVID 19 hampered many actions and activities but also created the space for online dialogue. Many LSM SA webinars and Round Table debates, dialogues and discussions took place.



In 2021 Father Ben Ayodi and Prince Papa from LSM Africa office requested LSM SA be a member of the newly formed Climate Justice Coalition. Berni Crewe-Brown was on the CJC Steering Committee from 2022 - 2024. LSM SA has participated in Climate Justice Advocacy with protest action, lobbying and activism in actual events and supporting issues with written comments. As one of two faith-based organisations, LSM often brought an ethical and moral balance on issues, when required. Laudato Si' members participated in various Climate Change Protest actions.



Climate and Social Justice Advocacy



LSM SA MEMBERS PROTESTING FOR SYSTEM CHANGE



LSM SA MEMBERS PROTESTING FOR THE PLIGHT OF THE ARTISANAL MINORS IN STILFONTEIN

Dear Stephen,
On behalf of the Laudato Si' Movement South Africa, we would like to congratulate you on this 30th Anniversary of the ADCT News publication. Over the past 10 years, you have followed the footsteps of Pope Francis' Laudato Si' movement on the ground by sharing the stories of LSM Animators about the climate crisis and the actions taken to hear and respond to the Cry of the Earth with the Cry of the Poor.

The Laudato Si' Movement appreciate your support and wishes you well as you go over the threshold of 30 years into this new era with opportunities, challenges, and new technologies that could enhance and advance your news to the furthest corners of the Archdiocese and the world.

Many thanks and blessings to you and your team who have brought this publication to its present excellence.

Warm regards
Berni Crewe-Brown



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Letters to The Editor

Submissions should reach us by 1 October 2025 for the October to December 2025 edition.

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Hitting the High Notes at the Cape Town Annual Catholic Choral Festival

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach, advise and encourage one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and songs from the spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts” – Colossians 3:16

Music is a powerful expression of our faith and love for God. It allows us to express emotions that words alone may fail to capture. Be it joy or sorrow, music allows us to come together in harmonious praise to boldly proclaim our trust and reliance in God’s goodness and everlasting unconditional love. It nourishes our souls, uplifts our spirits and fosters a sense of belonging and community.

It is in this jubilation that the Xhosa and Sotho Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Cape Town held their 6th Annual Choral Music Festival on 28 April 2025. The event was hosted at the parish of Our Lady of Fatima in Bellville, under the guidance and stewardship of Fr Nkululeko Qokolo.

This festival is a continuation of what started in 2013 as a plea, or a campaign, by Archdiocesan co-conductor, Mr Rory Mfunda, along with several of the Apostolate’s musical directors and ambassadors, to bring together the best voices that the Catholic Church in the Western Cape has to offer and to attract, encourage and cultivate new talent.

Moreover, the aim was to have an annual event where singers and supporters of music, particularly choral music, could come together to challenge their musical abilities, to learn from each other and to unify and celebrate our community, and eventually the broader Catholic community when we become part of the National Annual Catholic Choral Festival held in Durban, KZN.

The first Cape Town festival was hosted by St Raphael’s Church, Khayelitsha at Lookout Hill Community Hall in 2013, where various vastly talented choirs from all over the Western Cape entertained and impressed audiences and invigilators alike with a selection of musical items, from western, vernacular, and hymns from the Bongan’iNkosi hymnbook, with accompaniment and without.

From then on, the number of choirs participating in the festival continued to grow and so did the level of musical literacy, musicality, confidence and passion in our choral community. So much so that the former Archbishop of Cape Town, Cardinal Stephen Brislin would often express and demonstrate immense support for this endeavour and product of which came to be what is now the Xhosa and Sotho Apostolate Archdiocesan Choir.

It is safe to say that the commencement of the Annual Western Cape Choral Festival, after it’s short pause, is truly something to look forward to each year. It is a beautiful demonstration of what we can create when we work together for a common goal, while striving to be exceptional versions of ourselves.

This was remarkably evident at Our Lady of Fatima in the way in which all the choirs that performed demonstrated a great deal of dedication and preparation. They brought their own unique uncompromising sound, and then some. What was even more surprising and exciting were the new and younger faces that joined the festival this year, as they came to represent their parish youth, namely the Our Lady Queen of Africa Youth Choir.



It is the hope of every community to share knowledge and wisdom and have this be received and bring forth visible fruits. The introduction of the youth choir was inspiring, as it gave the community hope for future musical stability and commitment to the ministry.

In closing, music ministry is an integral part of our faith. Through

music we express joy and unity, and we are able to truly immerse ourselves in celebrating the Holy Sacraments. It is our hope that the Annual Catholic Choral Festival continues to inspire all Catholics and the Christian community as a whole to seek God always, and to praise, worship and give thanks through the power of song.

Ziyanda Mthontsi



The celebration of the Feast of **OUR LADY OF FATIMA, BELLVILLE** commenced with Fr Nkululeko Qokolo blessing and incensing the litter and then narrating the beautiful story of Fatima. Thereafter parishioners joined in praying the Rosary. A special moment was seeing ‘Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta’ reverently praying too. The fifth decade was prayed as we proceeded into church.



BELLVILLE senior parishioners were treated to a lunch and entertained with singing by a fellow, much younger, parishioner. The Young Adults attended to their needs throughout.



During Valentine’s month **BELLVILLE** parish’s Seniors Group enjoyed their breakfast at Kirstenbosch Gardens and then wandered around in the glorious sunshine.



On the eve of the **BELLVILLE** Seniors Group meeting it was suggested that members wear something green or red for ‘Christmas in July’. As is the practice every month members brought along plates of sweet and savoury snacks.

The piping-hot butternut soup and bread were most welcome on

the chilly morning. Glasses were filled and the snacks enjoyed. There were two special celebrations too – a birthday and golden wedding anniversary. Everyone was also given a box of sweet treats to take home.

The surprise certainly warmed the cockles of our hearts.

Later in the day items knitted by some members were dropped off at St Joseph’s Intermediate Paediatric Care.



ADCT SECOND COLLECTIONS

PARISH	HOLY CHILDHOOD		LENTEN APPEAL		GOOD FRIDAY		ECCL EDUCATION FUND		PRIESTS' MEDICAL FUND	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Athlone	2 032.00	1 170.00	20 694.00	18 064.00	3 055.00	4 389.00	2 903.00	2 140.00	3 016.00	3 680.00
Atlantis	1 570.00	938.00	9 550.00	9 902.00	1 550.00	2 220.00	1 530.00	593.00	1 440.00	1 560.00
Belgravia	2 550.00	1 987.00	10 760.00	13 571.00	3 076.00	2 060.00	1 154.00	1 491.00	1 781.00	3 266.00
Belhar	1 000.00	940.00	14 880.00	10 041.00	3 859.00	1 536.00	1 200.00	984.00	1 045.00	1 134.00
Bellville	3 347.00	3 485.00	25 046.00	31 125.00	5 228.00	4 702.00	3 449.00	2 674.00	3 350.00	3 697.00
Bonteheuwel	364.00	292.00	3 552.50	3 103.50	1 307.50	1 159.50	328.00	343.00	244.00	301.00
Bothasig	4 797.90	5 318.50	39 796.90	49 527.40	14 938.40	8 527.70	5 320.10	5 305.30	3 051.70	5 853.00
Brackenfell	1 340.00	2 630.00	21 380.00	18 770.00	5 730.00	3 400.00	2 050.00	1 400.00	4 680.00	1 760.00
Bridgetown	513.00	337.00	7 165.00	7 571.00	1 645.00	949.00	382.00	508.50	600.00	531.00
Camps Bay	1 240.00	3 180.00	12 210.00	14 470.00	2 650.00	3 700.00	1 510.00	2 090.00	2 030.00	1 780.00
Cathedral	3 910.00	2 223.00	33 660.00	43 990.00	6 280.33	10 116.00	3 961.00	5 748.00	6 081.00	4 262.00
Claremont	320.00	0.00	12 873.20	11 640.40	1 940.50	1 634.90	1 020.00	724.00	1 603.00	2 145.20
Constantia	11 180.00	7 105.10	68 896.00	59 827.80	14 043.00	7 041.00	8 792.00	12 713.00	14 450.00	17 370.00
Delft	1 360.00	1 220.00	7 068.00	8 070.00	1 612.00	1 480.00	1 523.00	1 100.00	1 660.00	1 200.00
District Six	1 108.10	0.00	6 422.30	9 182.30	1 342.50	980.20		555.00	839.70	0.00
Durbanville	10 103.00	11 272.00	111 289.97	145 100.71	13 809.70	13 196.00	11 096.00	13 397.52	15 546.00	23 355.27
Elsie's River	1 440.00	1 200.00	8 100.00	9 210.00	1 200.00	3 530.00	620.00	1 430.00	690.00	1 110.00
Factreton		721.20	14 554.50	11 052.90	2 276.00	1 865.80	1 024.40	0.00	1 057.40	918.20
Fish Hoek	2 551.00	3 604.40	15 039.10	25 571.00	3 244.10	3 353.00	2 190.00	4 037.00	2 503.00	5 430.00
Goodwood	3 170.00	2 700.00	32 730.00	34 890.00	9 810.00	5 570.00	2 900.00	2 940.00	4 280.00	3 680.00
Grassy Park	2 231.00	1 860.00	22 766.00	21 606.00	7 000.00	3 714.50	1 797.00	2 771.00	2 180.00	3 050.00
Green Point	1 720.00	1 630.00	7 560.00	9 720.00	1 810.00	2 530.00	1 120.00	1 690.00	1 050.00	1 850.00
Gugulethu	840.00	1 045.00	6 979.00	4 644.00	1 000.00	2 390.00		150.00	960.00	900.00
Hanover Park	2 381.00	4 614.00	11 246.00	13 768.00	2 845.00	3 157.00	1 430.00	3 104.00	1 893.00	2 008.00
Heathfield	6 196.37	5 614.14	90 422.09	97 940.09	17 472.21	21 816.50	5 480.50	7 525.00	9 277.96	8 539.00
Hermanus	3 128.80	1 678.90	25 767.70	22 021.10	250.00	3 802.00	1 304.00	2 542.50	5 102.80	150.00
Hout Bay	1 860.00	2 040.00	14 120.00	14 340.00	2 360.00	1 880.00	1 780.00	2 840.00	1 680.00	3 000.00
Khayelitsha QoA	0.00	0.00	1 700.00	860.00	320.00	270.00	350.00	120.00	220.00	110.00
Khayeltisha StR	818.00	0.00	8 076.00	4 820.00	0.00	340.00		440.00	500.00	500.00
Kleinvlei	1 014.40	2 173.30	19 961.40	19 092.77	3 858.10	1 387.20		1 090.00	1 242.60	2 190.80
Koelenhof	560.00	250.00	4 270.00	2 540.00	1 160.00	1 140.00	230.00	260.00	450.00	260.00
Kommetjie	2 789.00	1 704.00	20 110.95	17 822.10	3 524.50	3 173.90	3 012.20	1 532.60	3 618.80	1 722.00
Kraaifontein	740.00	1 310.00	14 250.00	16 410.00	790.00	1 430.00	520.00	970.00	1 530.00	2 400.00
Kuils River	6 710.00	5 828.00	37 820.00	44 010.00	11 339.30	8 920.20	8 100.00	5 330.00	8 240.00	6 560.00
Lambert's Bay	300.00	689.00	2 920.00	8 669.00	1 200.00	749.50	300.00	512.50	400.00	417.20
Langa	360.00	300.00	9 750.00	10 470.00	1 920.00	1 190.00	740.00	380.00	660.00	670.00
Lansdowne	4 450.00	3 800.00	46 020.00	41 170.00	11 760.00	10 840.00	4 800.00	4 700.00	7 720.00	5 250.00
Lavistown	1 522.00	1 560.00	14 742.00	15 675.90	1 265.00	1 025.00	1 570.00	1 168.00	1 256.00	1 323.50
Lentegeur	4 530.00	3 947.20	33 100.00	31 284.00	5 390.00	4 274.40	2 740.00	2 695.80	2 900.00	3 935.40
Maitland	2 570.00	1 620.00	14 710.00	17 640.00	1 720.00	2 590.00	1 370.00	2 410.00	2 270.00	1 710.00
Malmesbury	234.00	208.60	4 444.80	4 664.10	0.00	0.00	210.50	195.30	327.30	389.70
Manenberg	551.00	0.00	10 820.00	7 953.20	1 298.60	0.00	1 670.40	1 935.10	1 057.00	1 084.00
Matroosfontein	2 718.00	3 020.00	11 880.00	14 137.90	4 000.00	4 947.10	1 930.00	2 840.00	1 520.00	3 410.00
Milnerton	4 240.00	6 080.00	33 410.00	34 980.00	6 360.00	8 160.00	6 290.00	5 780.00	7 670.00	6 250.00
Mowbray	450.00	3 780.00	29 280.00	32 625.15	3 780.00	3 570.00	4 690.00	0.00	5 600.00	6 254.54
Newlands	1 996.00	0.00	16 500.00	16 101.20	2 037.10	1 926.00	2 305.00	2 650.00	2 848.10	1 770.00
Nyanga	0.00	0.00	3 070.00	1 310.00	1 000.00	910.00		0.00	580.00	0.00
Observatory	0.00	0.00	0.00	9 682.00	1 756.00	2 482.00		0.00	1 000.00	0.00
Paarl	4 259.00	0.00	31 276.00	31 466.00	8 094.00	4 000.00	4 594.00	2 880.00	5 239.00	2 308.00
Parow	3 400.00	3 000.00	42 000.00	68 011.70	6 650.00	10 295.00	5 000.00	3 000.00	7 630.00	13 400.00
Parow Valley	752.00	1 220.00	11 509.00	11 310.00	1 109.00	2 240.00	1 124.00	1 190.00	1 408.30	1 180.00
Pinelands	2 768.40	5 062.50	14 786.34	24 588.50	3 897.90	3 896.00	1 888.00	3 102.00	3 424.70	2 745.50
Plumstead	3 820.00	7 284.50	44 346.10	54 380.00	5 350.00	5 825.10	8 040.00	7 120.00	6 730.00	7 080.00
Portuguese	1 340.00	2 940.00	3 500.00	27 230.00	3 700.00	4 720.00	880.00	3 060.00	0.00	0.00
Retreat	2 412.00	2 184.00	39 323.00	34 550.00	4 051.00	2 696.00	3 208.00	4 341.00	4 520.00	1 543.00
Rocklands	350.00	0.00	2 890.00	4 665.00	0.00	810.00		640.00	300.00	600.00
Rondebosch	6 641.20	8 660.00	68 495.10	85 058.10	14 922.00	16 385.20	12 347.00	8 465.60	14 226.50	14 619.70
Sea Point	3 760.00	4 020.00	22 738.70	28 330.00	5 440.00	7 190.00	4 960.00	3 110.00	4 500.00	3 460.00
Simon's Town	3 709.00	3 055.00	20 684.00	18 594.00	4 100.00	5 200.00	1 410.00	3 980.00	2 984.00	2 550.00
Somerset West	6 132.30	8 344.00	54 485.60	97 317.71	13 161.80	15 470.00	5 891.00	10 170.00	4 773.10	17 130.00
St James	3 842.20	2 082.60	17 025.35	19 319.60	1 567.30	1 473.00	3 161.00	2 777.20	2 824.00	2 734.00
Steenberg	1 890.80	1 281.80	15 124.20	10 715.10	5 234.00	3 834.10	1 116.20	1 557.50	1 745.00	1 473.50
Stellenbosch	2 259.00	0.00	27 231.70	31 397.60	6 329.60	5 909.20	2 495.00	2 128.90	4 384.80	7 002.90
Strand	1 990.00	2 190.00	13 840.00	12 380.00	900.00	1 130.00	1 900.00	1 700.00	4 170.00	2 000.00
Strandfontein	4 060.00	3 430.00	37 360.00	37 550.00	7 150.00	2 870.00	3 540.00	3 440.00	4 010.00	4 570.00
Table View	9 220.00	7 030.00	99 760.00	96 577.00	20 990.00	18 171.00	9 500.00	5 690.00	11 040.00	17 490.00
Tafelsig	590.00	800.00	5 657.20	7 385.90	600.00	400.00	700.00	210.00	350.00	210.00
Vredenburg	2 122.20	2 415.00	29 700.90	23 344.20	8 224.10	7 507.40	3 506.80	2 199.00	4 478.00	2 856.00
Welcome Estate	1 356.80	1 082.00	12 672.40	14 423.40	2 493.10	2 343.80	883.70	441.80	836.50	1 381.30
Westridge	840.00	1 500.00	3 930.00	7 440.00	1 130.00	2 000.00	1 550.00	2 440.00	2 000.00	1 930.00
Woodstock	790.00	1 050.00	3 080.00	9 490.00	1 400.00	2 210.00	1 320.00	810.00	1 000.00	1 300.00
Wynberg	2 650.00	3 200.00	43 190.00	39 610.00	4 870.00	6 660.00	4 990.00	3 570.00	4 830.00	5 100.00
TOTALS R	179 760.47	176 906.74	1 655 969.00	1 865 770.33	327 176.64	313 261.20	190 696.80	193 828.12	241 105.26	263 400.71

Our Lady of Light turns 75



1950 saw the birth of the church of Our Lady of Light, Hermanus. To celebrate the milestone, it was decided to celebrate with a birthday bash on the 30th January 2025.

Father Gerard opened the festivities with a prayer, and then handed over to Michael Clark, who regaled us on the history of our church.

Our Lady of Light Church as we know it today is a far cry from what it was prior to WW2. Then Mass was said in a marquis-type tent, and the priest had to travel all the way from Cape Town to celebrate Mass.

On the 23rd April 1948, three years after WW2, the land where our church is standing today was registered to the church in title deed 8429, with subsequent approval of the plans in July 1949. 1950 saw the birth of our church, a momentous occasion for the Catholic community of Hermanus and surrounding areas. Four years later, a garage and dwelling (now known as the hermitage) were built, and in 1965 the presbytery and extensions (confessional, strong room, sanctuary and vestry) were added.

The present garage and alterations to the presbytery were built in 1984. These alterations incorporated the building of the office, the entrance hall to the office and the house, and the extension of the lounge/dining room. The bell tower was added in 1988, and the hall in 1998.

From 1950 to present, 20 priests have served at Our Lady of Light.

Confirmations

On 2nd February this year, Bishop



Sylvester David OMI celebrated Mass and the Sacrament of Confirmation. In total there were 11 confirmandi, and of the 11 one married couple. Dane and Simone received the Sacrament of Baptism the previous Sunday, with their little boy being baptised prior to their Baptism. May the blessing of God be with you on your journey through life.

New Stations of the Cross

In the serenity of our garden, next to the Wall of Remembrance, an open-air Stations of the Cross has been created.

The Siyafunda Project
By James Robertson



Siyafunda, translated, literally means "We are Learning", however the ultimate aim is to teach young, mostly pre-school children from

disadvantaged backgrounds, to love books and reading, and to be able to read for meaning.

The project was started by Fr Gerard Walmsley in 2023 and is located in the church hall of the Martyrs of Africa Catholic Church in Zwelihle. It runs every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 4 to 5 pm, and on average there are between 24 and 32 children who attend, their ages ranging from between 4 to 9 years.

We are very fortunate to have two wonderful teachers in Nosipho and Lorraine who, between them, run the program. They are ably assisted by Bulelani, Nikitha and Karabo, three young teenagers from Zwelihle parish who help the teachers set up class, read to the children, and assist them with various tasks.

Not only do the children read – the little ones mainly in isiXhosa and the older ones in English – but they sing songs and partake in other educational activities.

Until now, we have not been feeding the children, however many come from a long day at school or with carers and have not eaten since breakfast, so this year we would like to try and make them sandwiches and fruit.

We have received wonderful support from the Rotary Club of Hermanus, Generations School, and many private donors.

On 12th March we held a fundraising event in the church hall where Mike Roy, a great story teller, came to Hermanus to tell the story of Desiree Barry of McGregor, and the love of her life, the second navigator onboard the SAAF Shackleton aircraft that crashed in nearby Stettyn's Kloof in 1963.

This story was of coincidence, of young lovers, of tragedy, of remarkable letters found in dusty suitcases. Mike gave us a glimpse into the magnificence of the Freedom Trail (a very challenging Mountain Bike race from Pietermaritzburg to Wellington), the route followed by the Freedom Challenge race, as he unveiled Desiree's story.

Stettyn Wines also supported the event, as not only are they located near Stettyn's Kloof where the accident occurred, but have a premier range of wines called Shackleton, named after the ill-fated aircraft.

The proceeds of his talk were donated to Siyafunda and we were able to raise over R8 000.

The 100 Club

Many years ago the '100 Club' was established in our parish. The purpose of the club is to raise funds for the church as well as for the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP). It is comprised of 100 members, with each member contributing R150 every quarter, or R600 per annum. Every quarter the funds raised for that quarter is divided into two, with half of the raised funds going to the church and the SSVP, and the other half between six parishioners.

To this day the club is going strong, raising an annual sum of R60 000.

Knitting project driven by Mychele Taylor/SSVP

A knitting project was started in the parish, where all who are proficient in the wielding of knitting needles would take wool and knit beanies or blankets, to be distributed where there is a need in society for something warm.

First communion

During Easter, Fr Christian Frantz celebrated the sacrament of Holy Communion in our parish. It was very emotional as everyone present in the congregation answered the same questions as those receiving communion for the very first time.



Interior of church and stained glass window



Exterior of church at night



Chalkboard on Main Road which many people stop to read



NEVER TOO OLD TO SERVE. At St Simon and Jude in Simonstown you are never too old to serve. In the attached picture which was taken on Good Friday, Fr Mark Foster is seen with Chris Moerdyk and James Elphick, two seniors of the parish assisting at the Good Friday service.

Justice and Peace – A Walk Down Memory Lane

From Grassroots to Greater Justice

Impact over the past few years: 2012 - 2025

The Justice and Peace Commission (J&P) of the Archdiocese of Cape Town is proud to share highlights of its work over the past 13 years. Despite being run by just one part-time staff member and supported by dedicated volunteers, J&P has made remarkable strides in promoting justice, healing, and hope across our communities.

Empowering Communities through Conscience: Justice & Peace Commission Leads “Making Good Choices” Initiative

Cape Town – In a society overwhelmed by conflicting choices and a rapidly evolving moral landscape, the Archdiocese of Cape Town’s Justice and Peace Commission has launched an inspiring initiative rooted in Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Titled “Making Good Choices”, this impactful programme reaches deep into communities, parishes and schools across the Western Cape, equipping youth and adults with values-based decision-making skills.

Founded on the belief that faith can shape positive personal and social transformation, the initiative has already reached over **1,200 participants** from 2012 to 2014 – spanning urban parishes, under-resourced schools, and community groups.

“Our freedom as South Africans brings both opportunities and confusion,” says project co-ordinator Bernadette Daries. “Many no longer have the moral compass needed to navigate today’s challenges. This program brings those compass points back into focus, offering enduring values rooted in faith and dignity.”

A Proven Programme Built on Catholic Social Teachings

The “*Making Good Choices*” program provides a structured, yet dynamic, series of workshops that empower participants to reflect on:

- Their relationship with self, others, and God
- Personal attitudes and behaviours
- Rights and responsibilities
- The ability to make informed, ethical choices

Delivered through engaging formats– including role plays, case studies, music, and social media – the training invites deep personal reflection and practical action. All sessions are highly participatory and tailored to context – whether in a classroom, catechism group, or parish hall.

One striking visual from the training depicts the self at the centre, surrounded by mental, emotional, physical and spiritual dimensions, underscoring CST’s holistic approach to justice and peace.



Anti-Domestic Violence & Peace Ambassadors

Cape Town continues to battle a **devastating rate of gender-based violence**, with women and children bearing the brunt. The Church in Cape Town, holding firm to the CST principle of the **life and dignity of the human person**, conducted a Anti-Domestic Violence programmes in collaboration with Government and the EPWP (Expanded Public Works Programme). A partnership was formed with the City of Cape Town and the Edmund Rice Justice Desk. We reached 360 females in nine Cape Flats areas which experience domestic violence on a daily basis. The programme enables self-confidence and skills to deal with and/or avoid violent situations, and procedures to follow when situations are unavoidable.

Post-pandemic efforts saw the return of the **Peace Programme**, with training for Peace Ambassadors led by Prof Brian Williams at St Luke’s parish in Factreton. Churches across Athlone and surrounding areas united to combat domestic violence and promote safety for all.



Substance Abuse & Anti-Bullying Awareness

In collaboration with NOAH (Neighbourhood Old Age Homes), schools, and the Department of Education, J&P launched community workshops and participated in the Teen Suicide Prevention Week. Rondebosch Girls High participated in knitting 100 blankets, and NOAH seniors made 120 scarves to support this awareness programme.

DRUG AWARENESS AND ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAMME

This programme was conducted with Men’s groups in six Cape Flats parishes. 86 men in total attended these workshops. The workshop facilitates training for those who work with youth and families within parishes that experience drug abuse and bullying.



In August 2024, in collaboration with NOAH, 22 seniors were trained as trauma “First Responders” through a 3-month course by Mrs Claudia Roodt (a qualified Motivational Speaker, Trauma Informed Workshop Facilitator & Individual, Couple or Group Therapist). These trained elders now offer support in holding space for trauma victims, while “Connect Benches” offer safe spaces for those in need in their communities.

Community Engagement & Caritas Collaboration

The **Parish Alive** programme deepened engagement through workshops on Catholic Social Teaching and **Asset-Based Community Development** (ABCD). Parishes such as St Kevin’s in Northpine, All Saints in Brackenfell and Ss John and Paul in Belhar are now leading by example in inclusive ministry, and building on assets to create a more sustainable community.



Community Engagement Workshop attended by CEL’s across Cape Town.

Laudato Si & Care of Creation

Through the leadership of Berni Crewe-Brown (J&P and Laudato ‘Si) and Toni Rowland (Marfam), Jane Overmeyer promoted eco-friendly lifestyles through the structures of Catechesis and Family life in parishes across the Cape Flats. Parish visits, environmental training, and talks took place at the parishes of Athlone, Belgravia, Hanover Park, Lansdowne, Northpine, and more. Currently Cape Town has approximately 11 trained Laudato ‘Si Animators and we appeal for more animators to be trained. Care for Creation is our Christian responsibility, “Creation is God’s gift, and we must protect it.”



Advocacy Through Action

J&P stood in **solidarity with miners and anti-nuclear activists** at the Mining Indaba and participated in peace marches against violence in Palestine, Israel, Africa, and Cape Town. The Commission continues to be a visible voice for justice in public spaces.



Other areas of solidarity for J&P are for the Elderly, Disabled, Political imbalances, Human trafficking, Unemployed and the list goes on.

Democratic Participation

Parishioners from Constantia and Athlone parishes, and others, served as **election monitors** in national elections over the past few years, with Election training and information provided to parishes.



Refugees and migrants were also welcomed to participate in the All Nations Mass at Athlone Civic Centre.



Victim Support Launch

Launched in 2024, this programme addresses the urgent need for support in parishes affected by gender-based violence. Initial workshops were conducted by David Hendricks and Ursula Van Horsten-Schenker. These workshops were powerful, with many attendees bravely stepping forward as both survivors and volunteers. The way forward for implementation in parishes is under consideration.

Special Events & Celebrations

J&P Factreton hosted the **Music for Peace Festival**, sharing stories of healing and victory through music, poetry and prayer. A seminar led by Prof Brian Williams featured the late General Andre Lincoln, reflecting on his journey from parish work to national leadership.



More recent Events

Cape Town Hosted a Groundbreaking G20 Symposium on Global Justice and Solidarity

In a powerful show of unity and purpose, global faith leaders, policymakers, academics and civil society actors converged at the University of Cape Town for the *G20 Symposium on Global Justice and Solidarity*, held from 23-24 June 2025. Themed “*Solidarity for One Humanity, One Future*,” the international symposium aimed to reshape the global development agenda by placing Africa’s voice and leadership at the heart of the G20 process.

The event was co-convened by the South African Catholic Bishops’ Conference and UCT’s Centre for African Studies, in partnership with global justice organizations including Caritas Internationalis, Yale University’s Global Justice Program, and the Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network–Africa.

As South Africa prepares to assume the G20 presidency in 2025, the symposium served as a high-level platform to advance bold, people-centred proposals designed to tackle inequality, climate change, debt injustice, and food insecurity



Thank you to our volunteers, partners and parishioners. Your prayers, time and generosity make this mission possible.

“If you want peace, work for justice.” – **Justice and Peace Commission, Archdiocese of Cape Town.**

Stay Connected

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Could I be the next Community Engagement Leader in my parish?

Jesus identifies loving one's neighbour as a central and fundamental commandment, alongside loving God. The Bible provides numerous examples of how to practically care for our neighbours, even those who may be perceived as our enemies (remember the parable of the Good Samaritan?).

The idea of loving one's neighbour highlights the importance of the interconnectedness of people and of community.

With the introduction in the Archdiocese of Cape Town of the new PPC Statutes in 2022, we saw seven portfolios created on every Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). This new parish structure helped to ensure that those members of the PPC who headed up those portfolios could dedicate themselves to certain aspects of the running and management of parish life.

One of these portfolios is the 'Community Engagement' Portfolio. This concept, although carried out in different forms every day in parishes and communities, was a new concept on the PPC. We know that Catholic 'social action', which is simply the act of reaching out to those in need (or 'Ubuntu' in African terms) is a fundamental part of our Catholic faith. We could not imagine a world in which long established parish-based organisations such as St Vincent de Paul, Catholic Women's League, Knights of de Gama, Kolping and St Kizito's didn't exist. These organisations have become the hands and feet of the Catholic church for those who need a helping hand.

With such huge demands on these organisations, and with the number of people needing assistance increasing year on year, the Community Engagement portfolio was born. It came into being not to replace these organisations, but to support their existing work, collaborate with them and try to supplement their wonderful work in our communities. As the saying goes 'many hands make light work' and we know that we can never have enough volunteers to work in our outreach programs.

Each Community Engagement portfolio is headed up by a Community Engagement Leader ('CEL') appointed by the PPC. It is important to be aware that this person is not expected to do all the work for the portfolio but merely to be the voice of the parishioners, and wider community, on the PPC. We encourage every CEL to try to recruit a small 'team' of at least one or two others to work with him/her so that the responsibilities of the portfolio can be shared.

What type of person might enjoy being a CEL?

Any person can become a CEL, but it probably helps if you:

- Are passionate about reaching out to those in need in the local or wider community.
- Want to make an impact on those in the community who are vulnerable e.g. elderly, low-income households, children.
- Like to be part of a team working with the PPC, the community and with the Caritas Cape Town Co-ordinator.
- Are good at encouraging others to participate in parish activities & programs.

As the saying goes "No man (or woman) is an island", and

at Caritas Cape Town we support all parish CELs through group training workshops and also offer one on one individualised training and support for individual parishes on site. We try to assist parishes in strengthening their existing outreach activities and help them to identify the assets/resources in their community (people, donations in kind, money, etc) and use these effectively to help set up small local programs. These don't have to be large or even long term. Sometimes they are one-off activities like food drives, winter clothing drives, community clean ups and other times they are longer term programs such as food gardens and support groups. We always advocate starting small and if it works, then you can grow.

Given the wide scope of the Community Engagement portfolio, the 'Parish Alive Program' (which is essentially the roadmap of action for the seven portfolios) suggests that in time the CEL can try to appoint others in the parish to represent particular interests in the fields of justice & peace, environmental and care of people on the move. To this end, CELs are encouraged to appoint one, or all, of the following people to help them in their mission of community engagement and outreach:

- Representative for Justice & Peace
- Representative for Care of Creation/Laudato 'Si
- Representative for Migrants & Refugees

Once again to ensure that these 'parish representatives' are not left to take on this role alone, each of the three of them has a corresponding 'Support Organisation' as outlined in the diagram to guide, support and advise them.



Community Engagement workshop at Pineland parish hall

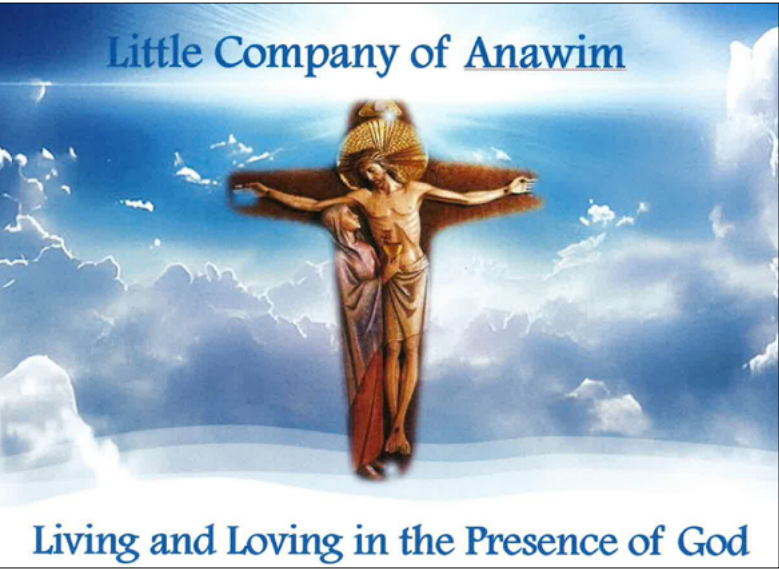
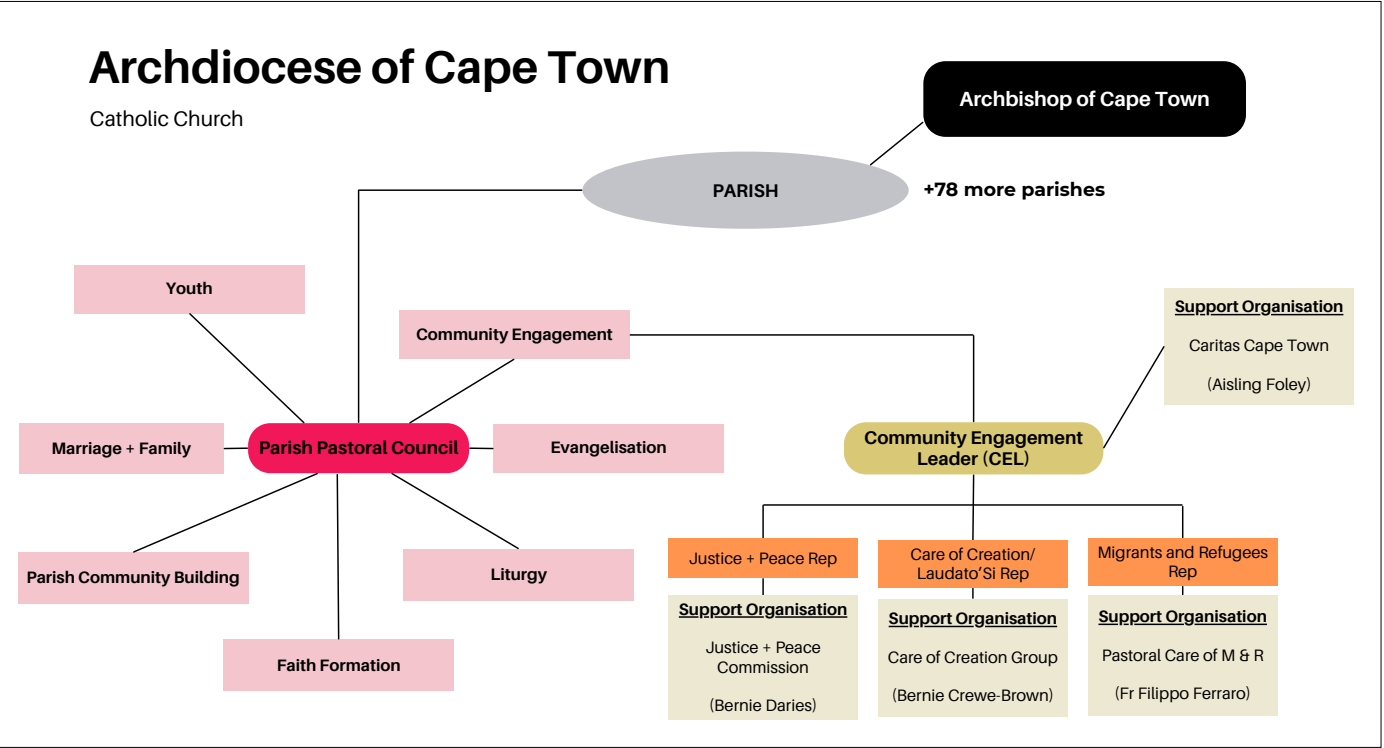
For example, Justice & Peace offer extensive training around peace building within homes and communities along with psycho-socio support.

We know that taking on any new role in the parish can be somewhat daunting, but please know that you are not alone. CCT will be there to walk the journey with you, and you may even find that giving can bring even more joy than receiving.

"Kindness to the poor is a loan to the LORD, and He will repay the lender" – Proverbs 19:17

For more information about the Community Engagement Portfolio please contact the CCT Co-ordinator at coordinator@caritas.capetown or 069 126 4841.

Aisling Foley
Caritas CT Co-ordinator



Early beginnings with Archbishop Brislin



Full community 2025 with Fr Robert Bissell

We are an association of lay women of mature age who follow the evangelical counsels and lead a contemplative life within our own environment in Cape Town.

We come together frequently to help each other to follow the spirit of the biblical anawim, i.e. those who entrust themselves entirely to the Lord's providence and seek His will in all things.

We take Mary's union with Jesus as our model of

how to "live and love in his presence" as our motto states. Opening ourselves to the working of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the coming of the kingdom.

Our charism focuses on faithfully living in God's presence through adoration, intimate prayer and intercession for all the needs of our sisters and brothers. We have existed in the Archdiocese for over 25 years and have 13 members.

Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference PARLIAMENTARY LIAISON OFFICE

28 years of Advocacy in the Public Domain



Operation New Broom

RESPONSE of 12th June 2025

In its statement of 28th May, the Cabinet welcomed the launch of 'Operation New Broom' by the Department of Home Affairs. At one level it is part of a five point promise made by the Minister at the end of 2024, which included an acceleration of digital processes to boost efficiency in the Department. This efficiency included control over undocumented persons.

Operation New Broom is a nationwide, technology-driven strategy aimed at tightening and increasing the possibilities for arrest, conviction and deportation of undocumented immigrants occupying public spaces. It uses biometric verification technology to detect fraudulent documentation and to confirm the immigration status of those suspected of immigration infringements. The technology includes fingerprints and facial recognition scans. Amongst other possibilities, this technology reduces reliance on paper-based documentation which is easily corrupted through forgery, counterfeits, illegal reproductions and the like. Such corruption has long been a curse of DHA operations. The Minister was quoted as saying that this process was in line with the rule of law. "It is a commitment that both motivates us to do more to combat illegality and to uphold due process and legal compliance in the process." He emphasised that this capacity would also be available to entities associated with DHA such as the Border Management Authority. The launch of the operation came with a strong warning from the Minister that those in South Africa illegally should 'self deport' now or face arrest and the prohibition of attaining legal status in the country. The Minister confirmed that, in its initial phase, twenty five people were arrested in District 6, Cape Town, using this technology.

In cautiously welcoming the biometric-verification system, the Public Service Association noted that this could not be

a replacement for feet on the ground, but acknowledged that it would streamline valuable processes, including "strengthening the legal framework for addressing illegal immigration." They also pointed out – an important issue – that the department had not clarified matters pertaining to privacy and the security of personal information and data. They went on to say: "It is important to ensure that robust data protection measures are in place to safeguard what is personal."

It was interesting to note that, when addressing the issue of Operation New Broom and its function as identifying undocumented persons in her cabinet report back, Minister in the Presidency Khumbodzo Ntshavheni said that the operation would help the government fight crime. Whether inadvertently or not, she conflated undocumented persons with crime, thus strengthening a dangerous stereotype – that undocumented foreigners are prone to commit crimes.

This system has been used in other parts of the world for a while already. It has proven to be useful for mobile people to validate their identity where they have no other documentation, and it has also been useful in mapping out aid responses and preventing fraud with regard to documentation. Yet, as Ashraf Farraj points out, "the application of bio-metrics to refugees, migrants and asylum seekers raises several concerns including violation of privacy, stigmatisation, the potential to block meritorious asylum applications and misidentification." It thus behoves those applying such technology, especially in a society such as ours where xenophobia, corruption and prejudice is so rife, to be particularly cautious in protecting an already vulnerable demographic.

Peter-John Pearson
Director



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