

## CHURCH NOTICES



- **MESSY CORNER** : Thank you to everyone who has supported Messy Church through donations of materials, time and/or prayer. Our next Messy Church is scheduled for **Saturday 12 November** at 3pm. Be sure to be there - bring your friends and families for an afternoon of fun, fellowship and good food! If you would like to be blessed, indulge your creativity and faith and help facilitate this rewarding ministry, please sign up on the notice-board in the narthex, or contact Jean 083 234 3371 or Fr Mike.
- **HELP NEEDED WITH BREAD COLLECTION & DELIVERY TO COSMO CITY:** With Margaret Steward moving to the Cape we have empty slots in the bread collection roster. If you can help one or two Wednesday or Friday mornings a month contact Di Levinsohn 082 441 1221 or dit@global.co.za . Please see details on the Notice Board.
- **CARING CONVERSATIONS:** A problem shared is always a problem halved. We therefore invite you to come and halve your problems. You may also just want to talk about the faith and your spiritual journey. In all this self help is no help! Come and talk to someone—call Brenda at the office and she will set it up.
- **PEW LEAFLET** If you have any ideas or suggestions as to what you would like included in the leaflet please email to Brenda at : allsaintsadmin@yebo.co.za.
- **JUMBLE SALE:** A very big thank you to all those who helped with the jumble sale yesterday.

### Contact Details:

Wardens:	Talfryn Davies	083 643 3054
	Dennis Hammond	082 495 0221
Alt Warden:	Tshepo Manyaka	082 847 9470
Parish Ministers:	Liz Davies	011 465 1096
Prayer Requests:	Liz Davies	011 465 1096 / 0723729825
Sunday School:	Jackie Bergstedt	072 459 1581
Music:	Daniel Rossouw	072 455 6727
Outreach:	Di Levinsohn	082 441 1221 email: dit@global.co.za

**Church Office:** Hours Mon to Frid 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

Brenda Wallenda Church Office: 011 022 5842 or 082 355 9061  
Incoming Fax: 086 652 8937 allsaintsadmin@yebo.co.za

**All Saints banking details:** The Parish of All Saints,  
Standard Bank Fourways Crossing  
Branch Code: 009953 Account No: 421 462 507

**Postal Address:**  
Postnet Bryanston  
Pvt Bag X51,  
Bryanston 2021

## THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS

*This cup is the symbol of this Parish.*

*It is the Christ Cup;*

*It is the ciborium of Grace, the chalice of forgiveness.*

*It is the Presence of Christ whom we encounter in this Eucharist.*

**Rector: Rev'd Michael Oliphant**

**Tel: 083 534 5333**

**Fax: 086 652 9060**

**Email: mdjoliphant@yebo.co.za**

**All Saints website: [www.allsaints.co.za](http://www.allsaints.co.za).**

**Diocesan Website : [www.cpsajoburg.org.za](http://www.cpsajoburg.org.za)**

**Assistant Priest: Rev'd Nigel Mollink**

**Email: nmollink@mweb.co.za Tel: 011 706 2695 Cell: 073 822 3578**

### Our Vision:

*is to achieve a shared vision and practice of the ministry of all believers. This means that every parishioner takes responsibility to contribute to the life of the faith community and be a witness in the broader community. This requires the spiritual growth of all believers, a deepening relationship with God, others, oneself and creation.*

*The spiritual growth and ministry of all believers is dependent on vibrant Christian community.*

**6 NOVEMBER 2011**

**(THE THIRTY–SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR)**

*We welcome all who are worshipping with us today,  
particularly our newcomers and visitors.  
May God bless your encounter with Him.  
We invite you to join us for tea after the 9.00 am service.*

### THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

God our Father  
your Son came in love to deliver us  
and to equip us for eternal life:  
free us from all that hinders us  
from running the race you have set before us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## READINGS FOR ALL SAINTS DAY:

**FIRST READING: AMOS 5:18-24** 18 Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD! Why do you long for the day of the LORD? That day will be darkness, not light. 19 It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. 20 Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light; pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness? 21 "I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies. 22 Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. 23 Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. 24 But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

**PSALM 50: 7-15** (Page 664 of the APB)

**SECOND READING: 1 THES 4:13-18** 13 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. 14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will

be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage each other with these words. (NIV)

**GOSPEL: MT 25:1-13** 1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! come out to meet him!' 7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 9 "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' 10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. 11 "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' They said. 'Open the door for us!' 12 "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' 13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. (NIV)

**PRAYERS:** Denise Morton, Jean Mann, Paddy Sander, Mike & Lindi, Marlene Palm, Deborah Lewis, Lynda Main, Keith Johnson, Andrew Edward, Lynn Edward, Charlie Kekana, Alexandra & Olivia Kessell, Abby Dinger, Kristin Pepper, Shirley Vermeulen, Casey Bennett.

## Questions:

### For self reflection:

1. Is my prayer life, my worship, and the community of faith the non-negotiable givens around which the rest of life is fitted? Or is work the non-negotiable around which everything else must be fitted? Speak to God about this: ask God to show you where and how you could change the patterns of your life so that your life might more truly be a baptismal, Eucharistic life.
2. Do the things I say about what is happening in the world and in South Africa reflect despair or hope? And is that despair or hope shaped more by secular hopes and fears, than by the One who brings hope in the midst of chaos and despair? Reflect on the Eucharist as a promise and symbol of hope. Pray that your life might be filled with that hope.

## ALL SAINTS DIARY: NOVEMBER 2011

### REGULAR MEETINGS:

- **MONDAYS** 13H30 BRIDGE (Beginners Welcome)
- **TUESDAYS** 12h30 PRAYER GROUP
- **SATURDAYS** 12H00 TO 13H00 BELL RINGING PRACTICE (CONTACT BRIAN STACEY ON 0824946453)
- **1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH** : 13H30 SENIOR'S OUTING
- **3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH** 16H00 FINANCE COMMITTEE
- **3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH:** WORSHIP MEETING AT 19H30
- **3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH:** PARISH MINISTERS MEETING
- **4TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH:** 17H00 EXCO MEETING  
18H00 COUNCIL
- **4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH:** CHOIR PRACTICE AT 14H30
- **LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH:** FLOWER GUILD AT 09H00

### DIARY:

Friday 11	09h00	Concert Rehearsal
Saturday 12	09h00	Nursery School Concert
	14h30	Art Exhibition
	15h00	Messy Church

radical trust in One who offers hope precisely at the point when, in human terms, there is no hope. If the church is the baptised people of God – people who have gone through the waters of death and been raised to new life in Christ – then our calling to be a counter-cultural community of faith that in some way participates in, and makes visible God’s ongoing work in the world is our primary vocation. All life, and all its demands, is to be lived out in the light of our vocation as Christians. The church is the only place where we can be equipped to do this work of ministry.

A number of years ago, after one of the addresses at a Benedictine Experience retreat, a clergy person came up and said that the talk had profoundly challenged him about his own life and that of his ministry. I was somewhat surprised because the priest in question is a good and godly man and a fine priest, so I asked him what had struck him so forcibly. He responded, “Benedict, in his Rule, makes prayer the central non-negotiable of monastic life. The times of prayer are a non-negotiable given and the rest of life is fitted in around that. I just suddenly realised that my life and the life of those in my parish is totally the other way around. Our work is the non-negotiable around which everything else must be fitted: it is work, then family, and only then, maybe, if we are lucky, prayer. Prayer and church commitments gets fitted in around everything else. And it shows.”

Those words have stayed with me ever since I heard them. How much of the malaise of the church – diminished giving, falling attendances, growing marginalisation – is due to the fact that the church competes with the world for a little bit of space and time, instead of being the place where we are shaped into a counter-cultural community whose life and faithfulness reshapes and reforms the values of the world around it.

And that brings me to the last of my thoughts: “Is the church unreasonable in its demands?” Space does not permit exploring this in any meaningful way, so let me rather just say that, given the pressures and demands on the lives of our parishioners, we need constantly to check ourselves to ensure that our demands are not „unreasonable“. Meetings should not be frivolous, nor should they be a waste of time. Every activity should be intentional in growing our people in faith and service. All meetings and every act of worship should be transformative; forming us into that new creation whose life is shaped by hope. Only if God is at the centre and the rest of our lives fitted in around that, can we truly become what we already are – a Eucharistic community bringing hope to a despairing world.

May the faith that forms us transform the chaos of our times into the moment of God’s grace.

+ Søren

**YEARS MIND:** Robin Harry Dare, Tinky Murray, Majorie Heimann.

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**THANK YOU:**

A very big thanks from the parish and especially from myself to all who were involved in making last Sunday possible. Once again we achieved our objectives and then some. I was really proud of all of the family and their complete commitment to the event and I think we have grown a little closer to each other, a little deeper in our faith and in our capacity to love God. God bless you all. I am pleased beyond measure.

Mike

**STOP HUNGER NOW**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the food packing on Sunday. It was a wonderful occasion, with good vibes, and a great outcome. 990 meals packed for the hungry. 10% were kept by Stop Hunger Now Southern Africa for disaster relief and we are well down the road to identifying who will receive our 900 meals. On Wednesday one box of 217 meals together with 24 blankets went to those whose shacks burnt down in Zandspruit .

Itsoseng informal settlement will feed 129 adults twice a week from the clinic premises.

In Cosmo City from New Creation Church kitchen 80 adults and Liberty Church kitchen 80 adults. We are still working on the 3<sup>rd</sup> venue.

Oasis clinic staff will give educational talks on HIV testing, Aids, TB, pregnancy prevention, maternity checks, high blood pressure etc and we will encourage people to learn a skill eg sewing through our programme or computers through Oasis and Cafcar’s programme.

We are also working on identifying and implementing assistance for pre school children.

Thank you ALL for making All Saints able to give this gift to those in need. Di Levinsohn, Outreach Co-ordinator

Dear Friends in Christ,

There are times when the Spirit settles on us and allows Her whisper to resonate in our hearts. Today, enclosed in your Pew Leaflet, is the November Ad Clerum and I am certain this comes from a man who is attuned to that Spirit. It asks pertinent questions which, if given the space and time, could be vital to our understanding of community, hope, the Eucharist and our spirituality. It is an invitation to go deeper and it is multi-dimensional. The trail could be revelatory and exciting.

In short it is most worthy of your read!

Importantly, it is not an accusatory letter casting guilt. Nor has the Bishop made it a final word. Rather it is a letter that invites us to continue prayerfully and diligently. It brings into question some very core issues and understandings.

Over the next few weeks we will publish some thoughts and opinions. If you feel would like to add something please send them to Brenda who will forward it to me.

Next week, we will publish an article on “hope” – it is both brilliant and moving.

Find a space in your lives, in your homes or in your offices, where you can read and meditate on the article. Don’t try too hard – allow the Spirit to “highlight” a passage or even just a word. This is one of the ways in which God speaks to the uniqueness that is you. You will know if it is Spirit led by the life-giving nature of your thoughts. Underline freely and move on only when you are comfortable to do so. You can also use the first of the two questions that +Brian has set.

I may be wrong and you may decide to ignore this exercise, for whatever reason. However, exploration of things spiritual leads us away from a spiritual stagnation, denying the “more” of God. This quote from Timothy Radcliffe sort of says it:

*“Claiming that you have got the truth wrapped up does breed violence and intolerance.”*

God Bless You.

Gerald

## **AD CLERUM- NOVEMBER 2011**

Dear People of God,

I was talking to some parishioners the other day – just a casual conversation about nothing in particular. And then, apropos of some comment that had been made, one of them said, “Our priest says that the church is unreasonable in the demands it makes on our lives. It doesn’t seem to realise that we all lead busy lives and already have too many demands on our time.”

Although I didn’t respond to the comment, a variety of thoughts immediately flashed through my mind:-

\* I was struck by the authoritative way in which it was said. The statement probably reflected the person’s own perception, but the fact that the priest had said it gave it authority and made it true. And that speaks to the authority vested in us as leaders and the responsibility to use that authority wisely for the building of God’s kingdom.

\* I didn’t think that the priest was suggesting that their expectations or that of their parish was unreasonable; it was some other entity, probably the “diocese,” that was being unreasonable in its demands. And that raises questions about our loyalty to, and support of, the wider church of which we are a part, and the extent to which we undermine and damage the unity of the church by our words. It also raises questions about how we use our experiences and perceptions to help shape and build a better and more faithful church. The right words in the wrong place can do more harm than good.

\* I thought that the comment was especially sad coming from a church leader because, intentionally or not, it reflects a worldview in which the church is on the margins of our life and world. And that raises profound theological questions about the nature of the church and its purpose in the world.

\* The comment also raises an important question: “Is the church unreasonable in its demands? What is “unreasonable” as against “reasonable”? And what is meant when we talk of “demands”?”

My first two thoughts relate to our role as clergy and leaders, about the nature of the authority invested in us, and about the way we use or abuse it. These are all matters for ongoing reflection and prayer. But it is on my last two thoughts that I want to focus this reflection.

In his superb little book “What is the Point of Being a Christian?” Timothy Radcliffe speaks of the growing loss of hope in our ability to transform the world and make it a better place and, drawing from leading scholars and thinkers, says that the evidence suggest that, despite the explosion of wealth in many parts of the world, we are increasingly suffering from a collective depression that holds very little hope for the future. He then goes on to explore the Eucharist as a symbol of hope for hopeless times. The institution of the Eucharist happens at the Last Supper; at the start of calamitous events that stripped the disciples of everything that they had believed in and hoped for. He writes:-

“As Christians we gather to remember the story of that Last Supper. It is our foundational story, the one in which we find the meaning of our lives. And yet it is a story which tells of the moment when there was no story to tell, when the future disappeared. We gather as a community around the altar and remember the night that the community disintegrated: our founding story is of the collapse of any story at all, and our community looks back to when it fell apart.”

Our faith and our worship is thus profoundly counter-cultural. It speaks of a