

Archdiocesan News

A PUBLICATION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CAPE TOWN • ISSUE NO. 119 • MAY – AUGUST 2026

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



Archbishop receives the Pallium from Pope Leo XIV

On 29 June 2026, on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Archbishop Sithembele Sipuka, together with other newly-elevated metropolitan archbishops, received the pallium from Pope Leo XIV in Rome.

The pallium is a ceremonial neck-stole or ecclesiastical vestment originally peculiar to the Pope, but now presented by the Pope to newly elevated metropolitan archbishops and primates to symbolise their union with the papacy. It is symbolic of the lamb which Jesus carries on his shoulders in artwork, portraying him as the Good Shepherd.

The word pallium is derived from the Roman *pallium* or *palla*, meaning a woolen cloak. The Archbishop's pallium is woven from the wool of lambs raised by Trappist monks. The lambs whose fleeces are destined for pallia are solemnly presented at the altar by the nuns of the convent of St Agnes Outside the Walls, in Rome. It is in this church that on the feast day of St Agnes (January 21), two lambs are specially blessed, usually by the pope after a pontifical high Mass. The Benedictine nuns of Santa Cecilia in Trastevere weave their

wool into pallia.

The new pallia are solemnly blessed after the First Vespers on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, and are then kept in a special silver-gilt casket near the *Confessio Petri* (tomb of St Peter) until required.

A metropolitan archbishop may wear his pallium as a mark of his jurisdiction not only in his own archdiocese but also anywhere in his ecclesiastical province, whenever he celebrates Mass.



Christ as the Good Shepherd, carrying a lamb on his shoulders. A mosaic from circa AD 300-350 at the Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta, Aquileia.



Archbishop Sithembele Sipuka is warmly greeted by Pope Leo XIV as he receives the pallium, at St Peter's in Rome. The pallium is a ceremonial neckstole or ecclesiastical vestment given by the Pope to newly elevated metropolitan archbishops and primates, to symbolise their union with the papacy.

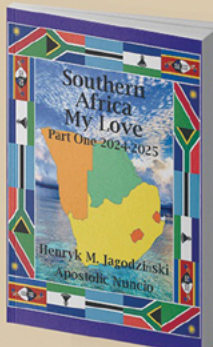


THE CAPE TOWN BOOK launch
"SOUTHERN AFRICA MY LOVE"
by
His Excellency Archbishop Henryk M. Jagodziński KC*HS
Apostolic Nuncio to Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Eswatini and Lesotho

was held
ON WED, 29 JULY 2026
AT 18:00
At Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Green Point

Book published by
The Commissariat of the Holy Land for Southern Africa
Copies of the book will be on sale for R200 each.
All proceeds will be donated to the Holy Land.

Order your copy today from
Fr Bogdan Buksa on 073 738 4912



At the launch, the book was introduced and evaluated by Bishop Sylvester David OMI; Archbishop Sithembele Sipuka then gave the keynote address, emphasizing the importance of bridge building; and Archbishop Jagodziński responded, speaking about the book in his own words. Fr Robert Bissell was MC for the evening and introduced all the speakers.

Mr Cacho Cabral also introduced the work of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. The event was co-ordinated and hosted by Fr Bogdan Buksa, parish priest of Green Point. Light refreshments were enjoyed by all afterwards.



Archbishop urges President to act decisively on the issue of violence towards foreign nationals

Archbishop Sithembele Sipuka, as President of the South African Council of Churches, met with President Cyril Ramaphosa on the 17th of June at the Union Buildings. Archbishop Sipuka and the delegation of member churches used this opportunity to share with the President the concerns expressed in their pastoral letter, chief among them the inhumane treatment of fellow human beings, most of them fellow Africans, who have been harassed, displaced, had their livelihoods destroyed and their lives threatened.

They called on the government to act decisively against the illegal actions of movements that have taken the law into their own hands against foreign nationals. At the same time, they noted honestly that the failure of the State in providing basic services, unemployment, the collapse of service delivery, corruption, have been significant contributing factors to the frustration that lies behind this hostility. This does not condone the behaviour, but it must be acknowledged if we are to address the root causes.

They also raised with the President the much spoken about March planned for 30th June and urged the government to ensure that law enforcement agents be in place to prevent further harm to foreign nationals. They were given assurance that law enforcement will indeed be deployed. While appreciating the five pillars

outlined by the President in his address to the nation on 7th June for managing this challenge, we urged that these commitments must now move to action and visible implementation.

Commitments on paper are not enough. Archbishop Sipuka continues to urge all Christians and all people of goodwill to desist from and discourage acts of hatred and violence against foreign nationals and to leave matters of irregular migration to law enforcement where they belong. He calls on our communities to assist those who have been impacted with whatever humanitarian need they may have, be it food, accommodation, medication, and above all, closeness and human solidarity in this difficult time.

May God guide us towards a just and compassionate resolution.

IN RELATED NEWS: World Council of Churches General Secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay and the Presidium of the South African Council of Churches met with President Cyril Ramaphosa on 30 July 2026. The delegation included Archbishop Sithembele Sipuka, as President of the South African Council of Churches.

<https://oikoumene.org/news/wcc-general-secretary-leadership-of-south-african-council-of-churches-meet-with-south-african-president-cyril-ramaphosa>



Group photo at the Youth Empower Workshop in Wellington

DEANERY ACTIVITIES

EASTERN DEANERY



BRIDGING THE GAP: Praise and worship evening, hosted by the Eastern Deanery and the Anglican Athlone Archdeaconry Youth Groups.

The first Bridging the gap event focused on how we as youth need each other as we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, denomination should not be something that divides us!

We were blessed with amazing music by Alexis Petersen and Theodore Lawrence from St Mary of the Angels Catholic Church in Athlone and the Youth band from the Anglican Church in Manenberg.

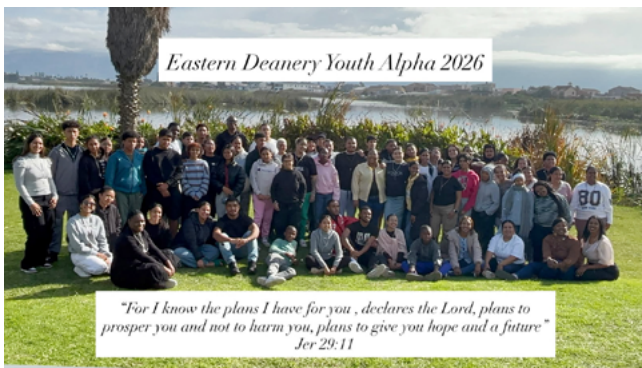
2 Guest speakers namely Mikyle Bester from the Catholic Church who focused on the topic “Bridging the gap in everyday life” and Keenan Farquhar from the Anglican Church who focused on the topic “bridging the gap between Jesus, God and us!”.

The Holy Spirit was present and our kids had such an amazing time together, bridging gaps, holding space for each other and being able to praise like no one was watching.

This event was aimed at the youth but we had people of all ages present praising and worshipping without shame.

EAST COAST DEANERY

First XLT of the East Coast Deanery included praise and worship, adoration, benediction and opportunities for confessions. St Stephen’s visits St Catherine’s youth as part of their Deanery Collaborative initiatives



First ever Eastern Deanery Youth Alpha! And what a time was, we sang, danced and questioned with every week that passed!

This group of young people came as strangers but absolutely left as family, watching them over these past 12 weeks blossom into the vibrant God fearing youth that you are today!

We were a mixed group of youth and leader from across the Deanery, namely Regina Coeli- Belgravia, Holy Family of Nazareth- Manenberg, Our Lady of good council-Bridgetown and St Theresa’s-Welcome Estate making a grand total of 80 odd people youth and leader!

CITY BOWL DEANERY



City Bowl Deanery XLT evening at St Luke’s, Factretton

CENTRAL DEANERY

Central Deanery had an XLT on June 26th at St Joseph’s, Goodwood. They had Fr Temi as a guest speaker and Fr Francesco leading adoration and benediction.



PENINSULA DEANERY



Peninsula Deanery’s first meeting for Youth Co-ordinators and PPC representatives

Youth Leaders’ Empower Conference 2026

From 10–12 April 2026, more than 100 youth leaders gathered at Bainskloof, Wellington for the annual Youth Leaders’ Empower Conference, embracing Life Teen’s theme for the year, *Radiant Hope*.

The weekend provided an opportunity for leaders to deepen their faith through the Rosary, daily Mass, praise and worship, Adoration, Benediction and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Sunday Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Sithembale Sipuka. Through inspiring workshops and breakaway sessions, participants were further equipped for youth ministry while strengthening relationships and collaboration between parish representatives across the Archdiocese.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Life Teen for their generous support in providing transport and subsidising attendance, making the conference accessible to many leaders. We also thank the parishes that invested in sending their youth leaders, whose formation and growth are vital to the future of youth ministry in our Archdiocese.



The Youth Chaplaincy Team

Spiritual Accompaniment

What a journey it has been!



This course so far has been a wonderful experience, and I recommend it to everyone. It equips you with the skills to listen, to heal, to learn from one another, and to teach young people the profound value of prayer and a relationship with Christ. I have never felt so seen and heard. There is immense power in listening to each other and having a safe, non-judgmental space to heal, share, and unapologetically discuss our faith journeys. I am so thankful to the team for providing this sanctuary, grounded in an agreed-upon contract and shared commitment. It made us all feel included, and every participant respected that boundary. The facilitating team is such a blessing; they work seamlessly together and do an incredible job of leading topics and guiding group sessions. I am forever grateful to Father Emmanuel Siljeur for serving as our spiritual guide and Father, alongside the rest of his wonderful team.

I deeply appreciate all the careful planning and thought that went into this program. Initially, I was nervous and hesitant to embark on this journey. I had recently stepped into a youth leadership role and was recommended to take this course, and it has truly helped me grow and improve as a leader through prayer, communication, and guidance. I still remember early on, when we were asked to share a personal challenge we wanted to work on. I admitted my fear of praying spontaneously in front of a group—reciting traditional prayers always felt easier because they are familiar. However, through the wonderful advice I received and a growing closeness to God, I have found the confidence to form my own prayers and speak them aloud.

If I could see myself a year ago, I would be shocked. Where did this confidence come from? It comes from allowing the Holy Spirit and Jesus to truly enter my life. It comes from letting go of what others think, reminding myself that I am doing this for Him, and knowing that He strengthens me through it all. I eagerly look forward to the remaining sessions as this journey continues.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” – Philippians 4:13

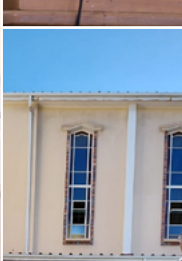
WEST COAST DEANERY

West Coast Deanery’s Sports Day held at Holy Cross Brooklyn





YOUTH DAY 2026





ABOVE: Seven ladies graduate from Kolping’s Vocational Skills Training Program at Kolping, Nazareth House in Elsie’s River – five in Basic Sewing Skills and two in Beauty and Nail Art. **RIGHT:** Kolping SA held its 36th Annual General Meeting at St Clare’s parish in Elsie’s River. Sr Aine Hughes was the Guest Speaker on the topic of Bringing Hope for our Communities.



An empowering, gentle companion for anyone standing at the crossroads of heartbreak

On a winter afternoon in late 2008, a single envelope shattered the carefully planned design of my life. It contained divorce papers. For years, I was the person who meticulously mapped out every detail, naïve enough to believe that enough prayer and hard work could shield my timeline from disappointment. While that course of my life deviated from the original plan, the years that followed forged a far more resilient outcome.

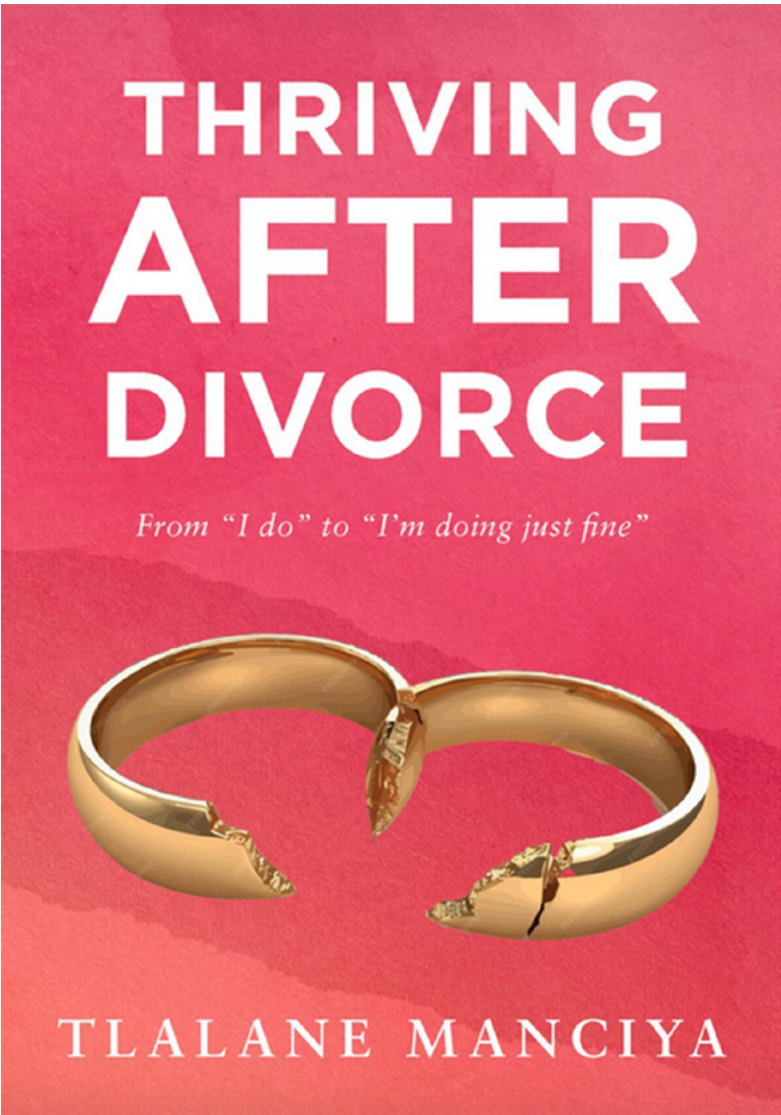
Divorce is one of the most emotionally and financially draining life transitions, and no one needs to tell you how difficult it can be to adjust. If you’ve been through it, you already know that settling into life after divorce is not an instant process. It took dozens of raw, unfiltered journal entries and years of slow, messy deliberate choices to finally rebuild my footing. I had to learn the hard way that life after such a life changing event doesn’t just instantly happen to you, you must actively shape it, one single brick at a time.

So I made a deliberate decision. I refused to remain trapped in the misery, I chose to actively pick up the bricks and design a spectacular new chapter on my own terms, month after month, year after year.

As I watched and listened to those around me who were struggling with what I once struggled with, I realised that my survival was not meant to be kept a secret. So many people out there are struggling with how to get back to having life after a divorce, their minds become entirely numb from the trauma that the first few weeks and even months become an absolute blur.

That’s why I decided to write the book. I wrote *Thriving After Divorce* because people are entirely lost when the legal paperwork ends. We talk endlessly about court dates, but people are rarely prepared for the deafening silence of the weeks and years that follow. This book is my way of standing beside the next person in the dark, proving they are not alone, to say it is possible to build from scratch, and that they can navigate their own wasteland.

Rather than prescribing firm instructions. The book addresses the immediate logistical and emotional hurdles, such as announcing the separation, managing workplace communication, and establishing firm personal



Tlalane Manciya is a Cape Town based mother and writer who transformed her personal tragedy into a mission to help others. *Thriving After Divorce* is more than just a memoir; it is a guide for those feeling lost after a split. It addresses: **The spiritual struggle:** Reconciling the pain of divorce with a God who “hates divorce” but loves the person; **The “Admin” of Life:** Practical advice on breaking the news to children and managing financial independence; **Healing through Faith:** The importance of prayer, scripture, and returning to the sanctuary of the Church for peace.

boundaries with social circles.

Beyond initial survival, the book also guides readers towards holistic renewal, as it dives into the necessities of establishing financial independence, cultivating mental and physical wellness, and embracing personal styles that celebrate self-discovery. Rooted deeply in faith, the book also explores how spiritual reflection, prayer, and community support can turn a painful ending into a powerful catalyst for personal transformation and growth.

This book serves as a vital reminder

that while a marriage may end, a person’s story does not. The book is an empowering, gentle companion for anyone standing at the crossroads of heartbreak, proving that it is entirely possible to take off the superhero cape, process the pain, and step confidently into a bright tomorrow and thrive.

Should you wish to purchase the book, please go to: <https://tlalanemanciya.co.za/> Also, for all orders or enquiries go to tlalane@tlalanemanciya.co.za or call 084 417 0061.

KOLPING SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Kolping’s income generation Sewing Hub is in need of the following:

- An Embroidery Machine
- Domestic sewing machines

If you are able to donate to this worthy cause then kindly contact our office at 021 – 975 9722 during office hours. Thank You. Judith

KOLPING

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CONFERENCE VENUE
WEDDING CHAPEL

Situated in a tranquil garden setting in the centre of Durbanville, Kolping Guest House (KGH) offers tastefully decorated Bed & Breakfast accommodation and self-catering units, with pool and braai facilities, alongside conference and event facilities, and a beautiful chapel, which makes KGH perfect for corporate functions, weddings, and private celebrations.

With wheelchair-friendly access, secure parking, and in a prime location, our guesthouse is within walking distance of local shops, restaurants, banks, and close to Durbanville Catholic Church. Our guesthouse ensures both comfort and convenience for each and every guest.

We would like to be your home away from home.

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Letters to The Editor

Submissions should reach us by **15 September** for the **September to December 2026** edition.

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Layout. Production & Advertising: Stephen Docherty



WARDEN OF KOLBE HOUSE CAPE TOWN

The Kolbe Trust invites applications for **Warden at Kolbe House**, the home of the UCT Catholic Chaplaincy.

The Warden manages and oversees the historical property which houses the Kolbe Chapel and a residence for 21 students. This supports and complements the work of the vibrant university Chaplaincy.

The Warden looks after the property and the needs of the residents and the Chaplaincy. He or she resides free of charge in a cottage on the property. The post also carries a modest stipend. This is not a commercially remunerated position, but an opportunity for service.

The ideal candidate holds strong Catholic values and has good management and inter-personal skills, enabling him or her to work closely with the Chaplain, the Trustees, staff, students and residents.

The appointment will be on a fixed-term basis, subject to probation, ideally commencing in December 2026/January 2027. The duration is negotiable.

Please submit a CV, together with a letter of motivation and two character references, to trustees@kolbehouse.org.za by no later than **21 August 2026**.

Interviews of short-listed candidates will be conducted.

Enquiries for further information can also be sent to trustees@kolbehouse.org.za

The most recent APC meeting was held at Immaculate Conception, Parow on 23 May 2026. From the top: Attendees listening attentively; Breaking into group discussion; Fr Paul Taylor giving a presentation; The Catholic Bookshop at the APC – from L-R, Tim Smith, Barbara Houghton, Archbishop Sitembele Sipuka

From the HEART

The Pallium: Leadership, Communion, and Mission.

On 29 June, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, I received the pallium from the Holy Father in St Peter's Basilica. The pallium is a band of white wool worn on the shoulders of a metropolitan archbishop. Its image is that of the Good Shepherd who lifts the lost sheep and carries it home. I am grateful to the Catholic faithful of the Archdiocese of Cape Town, who accompanied this moment with their prayers; it is the prayerful communion of the whole Church that makes any act of pastoral office meaningful. As I received this sign, two reflections came to me that I share with you.

On leadership

My life has, in ways I did not always choose, revolved around leadership again and again. What the pallium has helped me understand more deeply is that leadership in the Church is never about status or being served. It is about this: carrying others on one's shoulders. The shepherd does not walk ahead demanding that the flock keep up; the shepherd lifts the one who has fallen and brings them home. That is the kind of leadership the Gospel commissions, and it is the kind to which this sign calls me anew as your Archbishop. I am grateful to those who have and continue to carry me as I carry others because a shepherd also needs to be a lamb.

Peter and Paul: United and Sent

In the two apostles whose feast we kept on the day of the pallium, I heard my own motto spoken back to me. In Peter



I read united. The pallium is, before all else, a bond of communion, binding me and this Church of Cape Town to the Successor of Peter and through him to the Church spread throughout the world. We do not stand alone; we are held in the one communion that Peter guards.

In Paul I read sent. Paul is the apostle driven out to the nations, to the peripheries, to every people and every tongue, the apostle of the stranger and of the one who comes from afar. The same pallium that gathers us into unity is the pallium that sends us out in mission, to walk with our people in every language and on every margin.

To be a shepherd is to be both: gathered into one with Peter and sent out with Paul. United and Sent. And it is telling, I think, that this sign was laid upon my shoulders during the time when our country is being tested over the question of the stranger, for Paul's mission was precisely the mission to the one who comes from elsewhere. The feast and the crisis spoke the same word: carry the one who has fallen; welcome the one who has come from afar.

Sitembele Sipuka

**+ Sitembele Sipuka
Archbishop of Cape Town**

St Kizito Children's Thanksgiving Mass

On Saturday 20th July, St Kizito Children's Programme held a Thanksgiving Mass to celebrate and give thanks for the dedication and service of its volunteer members. The Mass took place at St John the Evangelist in Fish Hoek, where approximately 75 members gathered in prayer and fellowship.

The Eucharistic celebration was led by Bishop Sylvester, with Fr Subeesh, the Chaplain of St Kizito assisting.

Following the Mass, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal together, providing an opportunity for members to celebrate, reconnect, and strengthen the bonds of friendship that are at the heart of St Kizito Children's Programme.

The day was a wonderful reminder of the blessings of service, the importance of giving thanks for God's guidance, and the generosity of all who support this vital ministry.



Parish Alive working with new Parish Leadership Teams



This year the Parish Alive Team has aligned itself very closely with the newly elected PPC members, as they take up their leadership roles. There has been a general realization across all parishes that serving on a PPC has to be taken seriously and with a deep sense of commitment. It is not a role where one will enjoy status in a community but rather a role where, like Christ, we bend low to serve others and to serve the will of our Lord. The term ‘servant leadership’ has perhaps become too commonly used and not fully comprehended. To serve others as Christ did, we need qualities of humility and selflessness; and then in our hearts we need to listen to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit directing us in God’s ways and His Will. This is not the popular view of leadership in our modern world of charismatic leaders with massive egos and insatiable appetites for fame and fortune. But this is our Church, our beloved Catholic Church, and our model today is Pope Leo XIV who is perhaps the only voice for truth in the world and whose message to us all is strong and unequivocal.

Parish Alive has evolved and strengthened since its start in 2022 and now it is made up of a core team that works closely with the *Centre of Pastoral Development* (CPD). Then there is the *Parish Alive Support Team* which consists of teams that support the seven main PPC Portfolios: Evangelisation, Community Engagement, Parish Community Building, Faith Formation, Youth and Young Adults, Marriage and Family, and Liturgy. In addition to these teams there is the Leadership and Communications team that supports parish leadership specifically.

To help new PPC members, Parish Alive has run several workshops and webinars and is planning more through the year. So far, the workshops and webinar topics include

- Getting started for PPC Chairpersons
- Follow up Leadership training for PPC Chairs and Vice Chairs – “Walking in the Footsteps of Another”
- Webinar – “You are in Change and that’s OK”
- Eastern Deanery Workshop – “Moving from ‘I’ to ‘WE’ – What could be possible.”

Taking on a leadership role in the PPC and the Church is not a trifling matter. Leadership looks different in the church because it is God’s work that we are doing.

We must turn to the Holy Spirit for guidance and inspiration. Listening – truly listening – becomes so important. The synodal church is teaching us to become a church that searches deeply and discerns intently to hear the will of God. God speaks to us in many ways, including through prayer and through others. But if we are not attuned to listening, we will never hear.

Much of our training and workshops have focused on learning and practicing the skills of listening. How often are we in meetings and are so preoccupied with our own thoughts or our own preconceived opinions on a matter that we do not hear what others are saying. We possibly do not even care, are not willing to consider an alternative. Or we may even not want to learn and grow through simply giving our full listening attention to what is being said, who is saying it and how it is being said. These listening skills spill over into our attitudes towards others and our behaviour patterns.

Other themes of the workshops have included sound principles of leadership applied to a Church context and environment. For example, topics have included change and change management. Outgoing PPC leaders have been handing over their ministries and portfolios to new leaders. This change is inevitably hard for both parties – letting go of something you were passionate about is not easy, and taking on something new can be intimidating, challenging

and exciting. Appreciating all the emotions as normal aspects of change helps everyone to exercise a transition with empathy and understanding, as well with open and Christ-like generosity.

The workshops covered the topic of how to transform conflict into a constructive exercise, rather than seeing it as something that should be feared. And always at the core are our skills of listening to the other, empathy for and love of our neighbour. Many people look at the same situation from different perspectives. Seeing the other’s perspective helps us build understanding.

The workshops have also very much focused on establishing PPC’s with strong foundations. It has been an inspiration to see how PPC leadership have embraced this and are working through creating a vision and mission for their parishes. Some beautiful mission statements have been shared and each really seems to capture the uniqueness of that parish. For example, St Mary’s Cathedral mission statement is “As St Mary’s Cathedral Parish, we are a Catholic community united in faith and in Christ, serving as a beacon for our city – a spiritual home and refuge where all find belonging, hope, and love, under the patronage of Our Lady of the Flight into Egypt.”

Establishing the foundations of the PPC also importantly includes setting up the structure of the seven portfolios, appointing the right people to lead them and setting up teams for each portfolio. Much hard work is taking place in this area, and many leaders are now requesting further clarity on the roles and responsibilities of each portfolio and also how portfolios interact with each other. Collaboration and teamwork are vital, as well as dialogue and discussion. The central role of the parish priest cannot be over emphasized. The parish priest is the shepherd for his parish and without him, the community is lost. Teamwork on a PPC revolves around the parish priest.

A simple principle for creating effective teams is for the team members to get to know each other more and to develop personal friendships and relationships. Just knowing that a parent has a sick child at home helps a team come together to support one another. Or just knowing that someone is late to a meeting because they have worked on a difficult deadline, brings a team together in unity.

Continued on the following page



Evangelisation

Faith Formation

Community Engagement

Parish Community Building

Youth & Young Adults

Marriage & Family

Liturgy

Leadership & Communication



FOCUS ON CATECHETICS

Catechetical Formation Programme (CFP)

This initial training for Catechists is being held in seven venues: Atlantis/Vredenburg, Bellville, Cathedral, Claremont, Khayeltsha, Strand, Westridge (four of the venues pictured above).

Special Religious Development (SPRED) (pictured right) is a catechesis for people with special needs. A morning of listening and discernment about the way forward was held at St Ignatius, Claremont on 25 July 2026. The session was facilitated by Sr Teresa-Marie Healy, the National SPRED Co-ordinator and Stephen Engelbrecht, the Archdiocesan Co-ordinator.

RCIA Practical Session (pictured left) focused on the period of formation - the Catechumenate, was held at St Ignatius, Claremont on 18 July.

Liturgical Ministry Training 2026

Within the Liturgy Portfolio in the Archdiocese, there are seven Ministries, namely:

- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- Proclaimers
- Music Ministers
- Sacristans
- Hospitality Ministers
- Altar Servers
- Liturgical Dancers

Within each Parish Pastoral Council, there is a Liturgical Portfolio Co-Ordinator, whose responsibility it is, together with the Parish Priest, to co-ordinate these seven Liturgical Ministries. No small task indeed! There would be a significant number of people serving their parish within these Ministries, all of whom enhance the liturgies in the parish with their individual and specific service. Parishioners attending Masses within their parish are often unaware of the amount of time, effort and commitment that goes into the celebration of each Mass.

Part of the work of the Centre for Pastoral Development in the Archdiocese is to provide training for these Ministries. We are very pleased to report that between February and June this year, training workshops took place for all seven Ministries, and we reached over 1 000 people who gave up their time to attend the training. This was double the number of people who attended training in 2025. Each training session was approximately three hours in

length, and included spiritual input and reflection, specific input on the requirements and practices of the Ministry, and a question-and-answer session. Practical sessions were also held within the Music and Liturgical Dancing sessions.

In 2025 we were able to offer Handbooks for ministers within four of the Ministries, namely Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Music, Hospitality and Proclaimers. This year we were thrilled to launch a Sacristans Handbook at our training. These handbooks are available for download on the Archdiocesan website with the link <https://adct.org.za/resources/>. We hope to have the last two ministry handbooks for Altar Servers and Liturgical Dancers completed and available for the 2027 training.

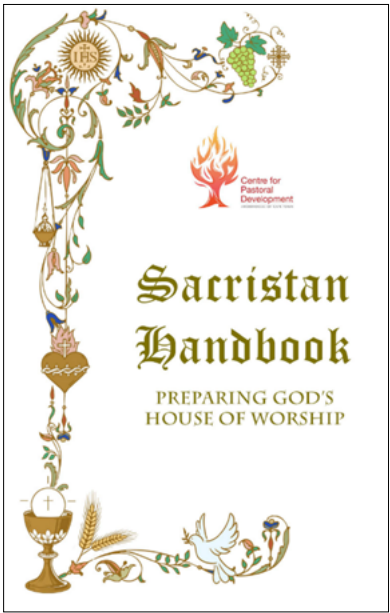
We are enormously grateful to the experts in their specific ministry who assisted with the training this year, as well as to the parishes who hosted the training sessions. We are also extremely grateful for the enormous support we receive from Father Zane Godwin, Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Development and Chaplain to our Liturgical Ministry Portfolio.

Our aim for 2027 is to begin the year with a morning session for all Liturgical Co-ordinators in all our PPCs, followed by training sessions for all seven Ministries.

Alison Dunn
Archdiocesan Liturgy Portfolio Co-ordinator



ABOVE: Group discussions at EMHC training in Sea Point
LEFT: Our recently launched Sacristans' Handbook
BELOW & RIGHT: Liturgical Dance training workshop



Continued from previous page.

The cornerstone of Parish Alive has always been to transform parishes from Maintenance to Mission and to realize that our purpose – and that of the church as given to us by Jesus himself – is a missionary one

"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 behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matt 28:19-20).

We have to be outward facing. A church or parish that is inward looking is a dying church or parish. Our Archbishop Sithembale Sipuka has given us his motto to follow – "United and Sent". In Parish Alive we embrace this motto and are inspired by it. It provides us with a compass in which to navigate our future based on the strong and firm foundations we are all, as a united church, creating now.

Karen Parkin





Responsible team of the Neocatechumenal Way in South Africa meet with Archbishop Sithembele Sipuka

United and sent! Evangelization in the Archdiocese of Cape Town

The meeting between the Responsible team of the Neocatechumenal Way and Archbishop Sipuka provided an important opportunity for communion and sharing, during which it was possible to present the evangelizing work that the Lord is carrying out through the Neocatechumenal Way in Cape Town since 1986, highlighting its activities, pastoral initiatives, and the fruits that have emerged from this mission.

The conversation took place in an atmosphere of great cordiality, mutual listening, and authentic synodality, fostering a constructive and fraternal exchange. “We give thanks to the Lord for this moment of grace and for the

Archbishop’s closeness and pastoral care, entrusting to his prayers the continuation of the evangelizing mission within the Archdiocese” said Dino Furgione, Responsible for Southern Africa.

Although originally scheduled for fifteen minutes, the meeting extended to nearly two hours, reflecting the depth and quality of the dialogue that was established.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Archbishop expressed his appreciation and encouragement with these words: “You are the fruit of the Holy Spirit. I support you and encourage you to continue the evangelising mission in my Archdiocese.”

Symphony for the Suffering of the Innocents



Kiko, Ascension and Fr Mario together with Dino and Roberta Furgione



“The Messiah Lion, in order to conquer, became a Lamb to suffer.”

The notes of the symphony filled the square of the Basilica of the Holy House of Nazareth at Our Lady of Loreto Shrine.

Welcoming more than 1,200 people who gathered to witness the performance of Kiko Argüello’s Symphonic Work, composed of two parts: The Suffering of the Innocents and The Messiah.

As the sun set over the Italian hills and night gradually descended, the profound significance of presenting this work in Loreto became increasingly evident. This musical masterpiece has already been performed in some of the world’s most important and symbolic locations, including Auschwitz, Jerusalem, New York, Japan, and the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican, among many others.

Following the performance in Loreto, the orchestra presented the same symphonic work at the picturesque and renowned Sferisterio of Macerata, where approximately 2,500 people attended the event. The concert was organized by the International Father Matteo Ricci Foundation, named after the Jesuit missionary who was among the pioneers of the proclamation of the Gospel in China.

Indeed, evangelization lies at the heart of this entire symphonic work. Its purpose is to remind every baptized

Christian of the call to proclaim the Gospel to the men and women of today.

The local bishop welcomed those present and emphasized the importance of proclaiming the kerygma through art. “This evening,” he said, “we are being offered an adventure of the heart, of art, and of faith.”

Among those attending were Dino and Roberta Furgione, responsible for the Neocatechumenal Way in South Africa.

Speaking after the performance, Dino Furgione said: “This symphony is a form of evangelization that leads people back to the beauty of God the Father and restores their divine sonship. Art and music have the power to communicate faith, allowing disarmed hearts to experience the love of God.”

He also expressed the hope that the symphony could one day be performed in South Africa: “We hope to welcome this symphony to South Africa as a way of honoring the suffering of so many innocent people in a nation that continues to bear the wounds of social injustice.”

Through its powerful combination of music, faith, and artistic beauty, Kiko Argüello’s symphonic work continues to touch audiences around the world, inviting them to contemplate the mystery of suffering, redemption, and the universal call to proclaim the Good News.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CREATION

1 SEPTEMBER 2026

(note Sunday, September 6, 2026 for the Mass)



THE SCRIPTURE & PROPHECY

“Wherever the river flows, every living creature will live.” — Ezekiel 47:9

The Symbol: Immersion in Living Water
The Meaning: An orb of Earth filled with the moving waves of God’s Spirit. Calls us to step deeper into the river of ecological transformation.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Parishes in the Archdiocese of Cape Town are encouraged to celebrate the Care of Creation Mass on the World Day of Prayer for Creation on September 1, 2026 or Sunday September 6, 2026. Using the [Decree on the formulary \(bit.ly/VaticanDecree\)](#). Combine the sacred elements of our Holy Catholic Mass with environmental action, focusing on the theme of “Immersion in Living Water.”

   **DOWNLOAD PARISH MATERIAL:**
bit.ly/SOC226 | youtu.be/xVVZ8LSpcRk | seasonofcreation.org



SEASON OF CREATION

1 SEPTEMBER — 4 OCTOBER 2026

CELEBRATION GUIDE 2026

LIVING WATER

Immersion in Living Water
Ezekiel 47:9, 12



THE PROPHECY & THE CALL

Wherever the river flows, every living creature will live. — Ezekiel 47:9

Guided by the hopeful vision of the prophet Ezekiel (47:1-12): a river flowing from the temple of God, which grows without stopping and brings life. **Water heals, restores, and makes creation flourish.** But it also challenges us: To recognize ecological damage. To embrace our global interconnectedness. **To immerse in the responsibility of restoring our Common Home.**

THREE PILLARS: TRANSFORMING AWARENESS INTO ACTION



[SPIRITUAL]

Water-themed liturgies
Ecumenical prayer sets
Creation-focused prayer



[PRACTICAL]

Stream & river cleanups
Ecosystem restoration
Plastic-free choices



[ADVOCACY]

Water security focus
Climate justice steps
Policy transformation

RESOURCES FOR YOUR CONGREGATION

 Theological Guide: bit.ly/SOC226
 Invitation Video: youtu.be/xVVZ8LSpcRk
 Official Toolkits: seasonofcreation.org

“With the immersion in love we become capable of working together to care for our common home.” — Pope Francis



The Bishops of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference will meet for their Plenary Session from 3-7 August at St John Vianney Seminary in Pretoria. Please continue to keep our leaders and shepherds in your prayers as they meet to guide the church forward



MEET AND GREET: Representatives of the Western Cape Religious Leaders Forum met with Archbishop Sitembele Sipuka and Bishop Sylvester David in the Chancery Boardroom on 13 May 2026.

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From the BOOK



Beating swords into ploughshares (Isaiah 2:1-5).

In the Cantic of Isaiah (Is 2:2-5), prayed in Morning Prayer, the prophet lifts our eyes to a breathtaking vision of God’s peace. He describes a day when nations will stream to the mountain of the Lord, seeking divine instruction. The structural climax of this prophecy contains one of the most powerful metaphors in Sacred Scripture: “They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks”. This transformation is not merely an ancient poetic dream. It is a profound, active blueprint for Christian discipleship and for social justice. Social justice is the term indicating right relationships with the neighbours and with the ecology.

The tools of war, viz. swords and spears, are designed to take life, destroy communities, and leave the earth barren. By converting these weapons into plowshares and pruning hooks, humanity undergoes a radical conversion. We move from an economy of death to an economy of life. The very metal once forged to spill blood is refashioned to cultivate the soil. Notice the weapons named: Swords are used to kill in close combat, while spears are hurled from a distance. Biblically there is a technical term for this. The indication is the extremes and everything in between will be effected. The use of these two terms indicate that the destruction of the weaponry is total. This is the biblical vision.

Turning weapons into farming instruments directly addresses our call to uphold human dignity. When resources are poured into weaponry, fields lie fallow and the poor starve. When those resources are redirected toward agriculture, the earth can produce food. In Catholic social teaching, feeding the hungry is a corporal work of mercy. Isaiah reminds us that peace is not just the absence of war; it is the presence of justice, visible in a harvest that sustains every human life.

As a Eucharistic people, we understand the spiritual weight of farming instruments. It is through “the work of human hands” on the cultivated earth that we receive the bread and wine which become the Body and Blood of Christ. By rejecting violence and investing in the tools that feed the world, we answer the cantic’s final invitation: “O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!”

The grammatical and semantic choices in the Hebrew text reveal an intentional, poetic symmetry. The text contrasts complete destruction with precise cultivation. “And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks”. This is the iconic prophetic image of weapons being transformed into agricultural tools. This image needs to become the guiding principle for nations which spend excessive amounts on weapons and neglect the feeding of the poor.

The text itself, being poetic, shows the nouns arranged in a strict chiasmic and parallel structural match: Weapon A to Tool A, followed by Weapon B to Tool B. Here is a table to help us see this feature:

War Weapon	Agricultural Tool	Functional Shift
Swords	Plowshare / Mattock	Wide-slashing blade to deep soil-turning point
Spears	Pruning hook / Knife	Long-range piercing shaft to precise harvesting blade

The root word for “swords” is linked to the word which means “to lie desolate” or “to waste”. The sword is inherently tied to desolation and bleeding.

The word translated “into plowshares” refers to the heavy iron tips used to line wooden plows. It represents the rough, foundational work of preparing the earth. The word translated “and their spears” indicates a weapon meant for piercing or throwing from a distance. The word translated “into pruning hooks” derives from the root which indicates “to trim, prune, or sing/make music”. It is linked to a curved knife used to carefully tend vineyards. This is creative and is the opposite of killing someone.

The verbs indicate a forceful transformation. The primary action verb driving this metamorphosis carries a surprisingly violent physical meaning. “And they shall beat” is in an intensive perfect verb meaning “they will violently hammer, crush, or shatter”. Isaiah does not use a gentle verb like “to change” or “to melt”. The metal must undergo gruelling, heavy blacksmith-type of work to be reformed. The intensive nature of the verb. “Shall not lift up” as used later in the verse (“nation shall not lift up sword against nation”) means to carry, raise, or bear. By pairing the crushing verb with the cessation of lifting, the text establishes that once the physical weapons are crushed, the psychological impulse to threaten the neighbour disappears. “Neither shall they learn” indicates that war is a trained, cultural behaviour. By stripping away the tools of war, the multi-generational institutional knowledge of combat is entirely forgotten.

How nice!

Bishop Sylvester David OMI
VG/Auxiliary Bishop: Cape Town

Safeguarding Formation Workshops Strengthens Commitment to Safe School Communities

The Catholic Schools Office hosted a safeguarding formation workshop for Designated Child Safeguarding Officers (DCSO's) from schools across the Archdiocese of Cape Town on 1 June, reaffirming our shared commitment to the protection, dignity, and wellbeing of every child and vulnerable person entrusted to our care.

We were privileged to welcome Haley Walker once again as our facilitator. Through her expertise, practical guidance, and deep passion for safeguarding, Haley provided participants with valuable opportunities for ongoing formation, reflection, and professional development. The workshops encouraged meaningful discussion and strengthened the capacity of our safeguarding officers to respond effectively and compassionately within their school communities.

Safeguarding is not merely a compliance requirement within Catholic education; it is a fundamental expression of our Catholic ethos. Rooted in the Gospel and the inherent dignity of every human person, our schools strive to create environments where children, young people, and vulnerable persons are respected, protected, and empowered to flourish.

The role of the Designated Child Safeguarding Officer is therefore vital in ensuring that our schools remain places of safety, trust, and care. Through ongoing training and collaboration, these dedicated staff members help foster a culture in which safeguarding is understood as the responsibility of the entire school community.



Celebrating a Decade of Dedicated Service

This year, the Catholic Board of Education proudly recognised Kim van der Westhuizen-Oliphant for ten years of faithful and dedicated service to the organisation. Kim's unwavering commitment and generous support have made a lasting contribution to Catholic education in the Western Cape. We congratulate her on this significant milestone and thank her for the passion and dedication she has shown over the past decade. We wish her every blessing as she continues to serve our schools and communities.



SOFA Quiz – faith-filled learning, collaboration and friendly competition

The annual SOFA Quiz continues to be a highlight on the Catholic schools' calendar, bringing together learners from Grades 4 to 7 for a day of faith-filled learning, collaboration, and friendly competition.

Rather than competing as individual schools, learners are placed into mixed teams, providing a wonderful opportunity to meet peers from other Catholic schools while testing their Religious Education knowledge in a fun and engaging environment.

Our schools participated in two SOFA Quiz events on 30 April. One was hosted by Holy Cross Primary School in Bellville for schools in the Northern Suburbs,

while the second took place at St Anne's Primary School in Plumstead for schools in the Southern Suburbs.

For the first time, the Cape Town quizzes were conducted using the online Kahoot! platform, adding a new level of excitement and energy to the events. The interactive format kept learners fully engaged as teams raced to answer questions and climb the leaderboard.

We extend our sincere thanks to the host schools, staff, volunteers, and organisers who made these events possible, and to all the learners who participated with such enthusiasm and spirit.



Wellness Retreat Brings Educators Together

Educators from Catholic schools across Cape Town recently gathered at the Christian Brothers' Centre in Stellenbosch for a Wellness Retreat focused on holistic wellbeing and personal renewal.

The retreat explored the interconnected dimensions of wellness, including social, physical, financial, mental, and spiritual wellbeing. Through inspiring guest speakers, meaningful discussions, and engaging activities, participants were encouraged to reflect on their own wellbeing and develop practices to support a balanced and fulfilling life.

The retreat also provided a valuable opportunity for teachers to step away from the demands of the classroom, focus on personal growth, and reconnect with colleagues in a supportive and uplifting environment.

As Catholic educators, caring for our own wellbeing enables us to better accompany and serve the young people entrusted to our care. The retreat was a powerful reminder of the importance of nurturing the whole person and fostering communities of support and encouragement.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all who attended and contributed to making the retreat such a meaningful and memorable experience.



Caritas helps strengthen social outreach in parishes



Following the PPC elections towards the end of last year, Caritas Cape Town (CCT) extended an invitation to all parish Community Engagement Leaders (CELs), as well as all those interested in social outreach activities, to attend a series of two workshops being hosted by CCT.

The purpose of the workshops was to help CELs, particularly those who were newly elected to their role, to understand better how they could begin the process of either starting and/or strengthening social outreach programs and projects in their parishes.

Our first workshop, held on 28th February 2026, had representatives from 47 parishes across the Archdiocese of Cape Town – a fantastic turnout. The purpose of this workshop was to support and equip CELs with ways to identify the ‘assets/resources’ and also the current outreach activities happening in their parish and wider community. Presentations were given to the entire group, as well as opportunities for smaller groups to work together with other parishes in nearby geographical areas.

By the end of the first workshop, CELs had been given some tools to assess the “assets/resources” and “outreach activities” in their community, to build on the outreach work that they are already doing, or to go about discerning how they might want to start something new as a parish.

The period between the first and second workshops was a chance for CELs to put some of the assessment tools into practice in their parishes and to build a strong outreach team to continue to take the work forward.

For the second workshop on 20th June (attended by representatives of 32 parishes across the Archdiocese of Cape Town) we gathered again to work mainly in smaller groups with each person, mapping out their own parish community. We had lots of fun working with paper and coloured khoki pens and by the end of the morning session we had mapped out 32 parishes within the Archdiocese. From there we learned how a parish could prepare a simple Community Engagement Plan for the activities it wished to carry out over the coming months. A strong emphasis of this workshop was to equip and network for the plans that were emerging so that CELs felt supported and well networked in the work that they are hoping to do going forward.

Later in the year CCT hopes to hold a third workshop, with an emphasis on parish programs aimed at skills training and employment opportunities. CCT is always available to work with Parish PPCs and Parish CELs on a ‘one on one’ basis providing support and guidance.

We felt that the Holy Spirit was with us in both our workshops to animate, inspire and guide us with the way forward in our parish work.

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour” Ecclesiastes 4:9

If you would like to know more about the support that CCT provides to parish CELs, please feel free to contact Caritas Cape Town Co-ordinator Aisling Foley at coordinator@caritas.capetown or 069 126 4841. Also see our website at <https://caritas.capetown>



47 parishes represented at the workshop on 28 February 2026



CELs learning more about identifying their parish ‘assets’ and ‘outreach activities’ at the workshop on 28 February 2026



Parishes represented at the CEL workshop on 20 June 2026



We are proud to show how we mapped out 32 parishes within the Archdiocese of Cape Town

Social Development Group Network – developing social action in the Archdiocese of Cape Town

Although primarily focused on parish-based initiatives, Caritas Cape Town (‘CCT’) is also aware that one of the Church’s greatest treasures is the Catholic social action which takes place locally by many social outreach and development organisations within the Archdiocese. The lives which are changed by the work undertaken by these organisations is often on a greater scale than we realise. As the late Pope Benedict XVI said, “Charity is the principal driving force behind the authentic development of every person and of all humanity”.

In recognition of this work, CCT wanted to ensure that its mandate extended to bringing together all of these wonderful organizations so that they could get to know each other better, collaborate, discuss opportunities to work together and attend workshops on topics relevant to those in the social development field. As it says in Ecclesiastes 4:9 “Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labour”.

Our ‘Social Development Group Network’ was proud to hold its first gathering of 2026 on 11th June which was kindly hosted by Giulia Treves, Director of the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town, and Fr Filippo Ferraro of SIHMA. A presentation was given by members of the Scalabrini Centre legal team, focusing on the challenges facing people on the move, particularly those who are undocumented and the children of non-nationals. The Scalabrini Centre itself is a beacon of light and hope providing a variety of services to asylum seekers, migrants and refugees including English courses, welfare assistance, employment access assistance and paralegal advice within its advocacy programs.

We were also delighted to welcome a special guest of honour, Archbishop Sithembele Sipuka, whose



Archbishop Sithembele Sipuka (centre front) and Fr Filippo Ferraro (centre back row) and some of the members of the Social Development Group Network representing Caritas Cape Town, the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town, Life Choices, Kolping SA, St Kizito’s Children’s Program, Prison Care Support Network, Salesian Youth Institute, Mater Domini, NOAH, St Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Women’s League, WeCan, Justice & Peace Commission, Knights of de Gama and St Joseph’s Children’s Hospital.

presence and wise words provided hope and inspiration, reminding us that the stranger in our midst is not a threat but a gift from God.

The presentation topic and venue were timely, given the unfolding situation regarding the repatriation of migrants and refugees to home countries such as Malawi and Zimbabwe throughout the month of June. Caritas Cape Town became more involved as part of its Disaster Relief Program as this issue morphed into a huge interfaith humani-

tarian relief effort with thousands of people fleeing their homes trying to leave South Africa, fearing anti-foreigner reprisals and violence.

If you would like to know more about Caritas Cape Town or the work we do, please feel free to contact us at:

Fr Paul Taylor (CCT Chairperson) chairperson@caritas.capetown Cell: 072 592 3472

Aisling Foley (CCT Co-ordinator) coordinator@caritas.capetown Cell: 069 126 4841



As part of their social outreach programme, the RCIA of St Matthew’s, Bonteheuwel prepared and organised a soup kitchen for the poor and needy in their neighbourhood.



A Century of Faith: Holy Trinity Matoosfontein celebrates 100 years of Faith and Service

On 30 May 2026, songs of praise echoed through Holy Trinity Catholic Church as the parish celebrated an extraordinary milestone – 100 years of faith, worship, and unwavering service to the people of Matroosfontein and the greater Elsie's River community.

Founded in 1926 by the Irish missionary Fr James Kelly, what began as a small mission serving a handful of Catholic families has grown into one of the Cape Flats' most enduring and influential faith communities. Today, Holy Trinity stands as a testament to resilience, compassion, and the enduring power of faith and community. The centenary celebrations provided an opportunity not only to reflect

on the rich history of the parish but also to bring together generations of parishioners, former clergy, alumni, and community members to honour a remarkable legacy built on faith, sacrifice, and service.

The main centenary celebration took place on Saturday, 30 May 2026, and was a truly joyful and memorable occasion for the entire parish family. The celebration was attended by numerous priests, religious sisters, and hundreds of faithful from Holy Trinity and neighbouring parishes. A special highlight of the celebrations was the unveiling of a commemorative plaque on 26 May 2026, marking the parish's centenary, together with

a commemorative display honouring the generations of priests who have built and sustained the church over the past century. Messages from Church leaders, including Auxiliary Bishop Sylvester David OMI and parish priest Fr Bibin Martin MSFS, described the centenary as both a celebration of the past and a renewed commitment to the future. They paid tribute to the countless clergy, religious sisters, lay leaders, and parishioners whose dedication and faithful service have shaped the parish throughout its hundred-year history.

Holy Trinity's story is deeply intertwined with that of Matroosfontein itself. During the hardships of the 1920s, Fr James Kelly travelled across the Cape Flats by bicycle in search of Catholic families before establishing the mission on Pentecost Sunday in May 1926. Through generous donations of land and financial support from benefactors, the first Holy Trinity Church famously designed in the shape of a shamrock to symbolise both the Blessed Trinity and Fr Kelly's Irish heritage, was built. From these humble beginnings, the parish flourished as more families embraced the Catholic faith and the community steadily expanded.

Education soon became central to the parish's mission. The Dominican Sisters established a convent and school, laying foundations that would educate generations of children through Holy Trinity Primary School and Marian High School. Together with the parish, these institutions nurtured both academic excellence and strong Christian values, leaving a lasting impact on thousands of families. As the Catholic population continued to grow, Holy Trinity became the "Mother Parish" of neighbouring communities, giving rise to St Martin de Porres Parish in Bishop Lavis and St Clare's Parish in Elsie's River. The present church building, completed and consecrated in 1992 after years of fundraising, sacrifice, and dedication by parishioners, stands as a powerful symbol of the community's perseverance and faith.

Throughout its history, the parish has weathered the challenges of apartheid, poverty, crime, and the COVID-19 pandemic while remaining a beacon of hope for local families. Ministries such as the Society of St Vincent de Paul, Legion of Mary, Men's and Women's groups, youth ministries, prayer groups, outreach programmes, and numerous volunteer initiatives have ensured that Holy Trinity's mission extends far beyond Sunday worship, providing practical assistance, spiritual guidance, and a genuine sense of belonging to those in need.

As Holy Trinity enters its second century, its focus remains firmly rooted in the Blessed Trinity and in

the mission entrusted to the Church. The vision is to continue welcoming all people, strengthening families, empowering young people, and living out Christ's message of love through faith in action. From a modest mission serving only a handful of believers to a thriving parish that has touched and transformed countless lives over the past century, Holy Trinity Catholic Church remains a powerful reminder that enduring faith, generous service, and a united community can leave a legacy that spans generations.

"To God be the glory for great things He has done."

Wendy Isaacs
PPC Chairperson

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Why should we not try out ‘married life’ before tying the knot and then finding it was a mistake?

Some recommendations to those intending to marry:

The level of your intimacy and the level of your commitment must match each other in courtship, and until your commitment is absolute, (and it is only made so by the public vows of matrimony), then neither should your intimacy be total. In other words, until you are ready for all that marriage entails, then you are not ready for all that sex means, and you cannot adequately express it in sexual intercourse.

Consider not living together at all before marriage. The majority of recent surveys conducted by secular institutes show that cohabitation is not helpful and may instead be harmful as a ‘try-out’ for marriage. There is no evidence that if you decide to cohabit before marriage, you will have a more successful marriage than those who don’t live together. On the contrary there is much evidence to suggest that if you live together before marriage, you are more likely to break up after marriage.

Media articles on marriage claim cohabitation can be helpful. In fact, with the 50% divorce rate, it’s a popular assumption that a “trial marriage” makes good sense. But cohabiting is far from harmless. Sociological studies show that living together before marriage increases the risk of divorce by as much as 50%. Former cohabiters

have higher levels of conflict, abuse and violence.

Cohabitation, some have claimed, is training for divorce! It is not so much the sinful nature of cohabitation but its grave sociological risks that the faith community is concerned about.

Sexual communication obstructs and diverts the development of essential verbal skills. There is a need to become best friends first and learn to be intimate in non-sexual ways.

Cohabitation is probably least harmful (though not necessarily helpful) when it is ‘prenuptial’; that is, when both partners are definitely planning to marry, have formally announced their engagement and have picked a wedding date.

If you have opted for it already, limit cohabitation to the shortest possible period of time. The longer you live together with a partner, the more likely it is that the low-commitment ethic of cohabitation will take hold, the opposite of what is required for a successful marriage. The longer a couple cohabit before making the total commitment of marriage, the more difficult the psychological adjustment required is afterwards. Once married, expectations of each other escalate. Annoyances which beforehand were tolerated for fear of a walk-out, no longer are, and pressures on the relationship therefore increase. Living



Fr Rohan Smuts with engaged couples at the Salesian Institute at the close of the Engaged Encounter Weekend in May

together is not like being married. It is “play-play” marriage with much pretention.

So, even though breaking up after living together is perhaps a little less complicated as having to work out a divorce settlement, it is just as painful. Better avoid both by relying on the time tested wisdom of tradition and the teaching of the church in line with God’s will!

Fr Francois Dufour SDB

FOCUS ON VOCATIONS

There’s no place like home

Over the past 6 months, I have been on a pastoral placement known as the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) program. One of the many benefits of this program is that it is conducted within one’s home diocese, in my case Cape Town, and truly there is no place like home.

For the first time in six years I enjoyed a full summer in Cape Town, filled with normal Capetonian activities – spending time with family, meeting friends, and exploring the beauty of the mother city. I took part and celebrated with the Archdiocese as we welcomed and installed our new archbishop, Sithembale Sipuka, as the new local ordinary of our Archdiocese. It was lovely to have been present at this event and also to welcome our new Archbishop into the Archdiocese.

It was also my first time being present at the Chrism Mass in Cape Town. This reminded me, as a seminarian of the Archdiocese of Cape Town who always attends the Chrism Mass in Pretoria, that I belong to and am preparing to work within the Archdiocese of Cape Town.

The past six months within the Archdiocese has also allowed me to meet many people that make up the Archdiocese. This has also reminded me that our Archdiocese stretches far beyond the boundaries of the Cape Metro, and that it is made up of people from all walks of life and backgrounds, united in one mission to serve God and make his Kingdom known, not just here in Cape Town but across the world.

Learning the inner workings of the Archdiocese has been a real privilege. Often one just sees the names of those who work in the Chancery and various other structures within our Archdiocese, but it has been great to put a name to the face and learn from these people about the inner dynamics of what keeps the Archdiocese



Serving at the Chrism Mass at Immaculate Conception, Parow

running.

One of the tougher challenges of being at home for a temporary period is that I saw the reality that gun violence, drugs and poverty are not far from my doorstep. I am well aware that these problems not only plague Cape Town, but they have also gotten worse over the years. It seems to have affected many families. However, the resilience that these families display has not only taught me lessons that I will carry with me for the rest of my life, but it has also shown me that hope is truly alive.

These challenges have taught me that one day, as a future priest in the Archdiocese of Cape Town, that this will be a reality I will have to face and deal with. But it has also taught me that the Church, not just here in Cape Town but universally, has an

obligation to speak out for what is wrong and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

As my time comes to an end in the mother city and within the Archdiocese, I carry the joys and also the hardships that I have witnessed, because they have shaped me into the person I am today and have shaped the way in which I may minister to the people of the Archdiocese of Cape Town and the universal Church.

Till we meet again in December, please be assured of my prayers for the Archdiocese of Cape Town and the many people who make up our Archdiocese. Please keep me, and also all the seminarians of our Archdiocese in your prayers, and pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Dylan Mc Callum

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JUSTICE AND PEACE INITIAL TRAINING

How to start a Justice and Peace Group

On Saturday 6 June 2026, the Justice & Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Cape Town held this very significant first workshop for Catholic parishes in Cape Town. It was co-ordinated by Ms Bernadette Daries and held at the Caritas Centre in Athlone, and was attended by 14 delegates representing 9 parishes in Cape Town.

Comprehensive notes and explanations were provided, and passionate discussions arose about the prime importance of justice and peace advocacy, guided by the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church.

The imperative roles of Justice and Peace in society were presented and discussed. Some questions raised: (1) what injustices exist in our communities? (2) who is affected?, and (3) how does this affect our faith?

A call was rendered to promote more attention to the key issues of respect for human dignity and support and protection of the poor and our children.



A majority feeling was expressed for a further, collective appeal to be made to (intentionally) pay more attention to our domestic, parochial and archdiocesan awareness of prayer and action for justice and peace. This was guided by our call to a deeper social unity as Universal Church. While enormous good exists, there is need for much more to effectively assist with spiritually impoverished

communities. The responsibility of people of the Catholic Church is hugely significant as much has been given to us by God through our Sacraments and our unique Christian journeys.

For further information or to run a similar workshop in your Deanery or Parish, please contact the Justice and Peace office – Bernie Daries – on ajusticeandpeace@gmail.com.

Cape Community Crime Coalition

An Interfaith Dialogue committee forum 4C – Cape Community Crime Coalition, of which Justice and Peace is a member, held two very significant meetings this year, one at the Islamia Mosque in Lansdowne and the other at the Calvyn Protestant Church Athlone. A document of concern was sent to Government about the amount of money spent on redeployment of security / army, for only a period of 4 month in gang ridden areas.



Interfaith Celebration



On Freedom Day, St George's Anglican Cathedral in Cape Town hosted an Interfaith celebration with various prominent speakers, and with Dr Alan Boesak as the guest speaker. The picture above is of Catholic Justice and Peace representatives from various parishes who attended.

J&P Victim Support workshops



J&P Victim Support workshops are being held in various communities and parishes by David Hendricks and Ursula Van Horsten-Schenker. Currently workshops are conducted at Goodwood Parish / Deanery on 11th July and at Athlone Parish / Deanery on the 25th July.

OUR TRAINING AND SUPPORT TO PARISHES

Justice and Peace Commission
Archdiocese of Cape Town

Empowering Parishes • Building Communities • Living Our Faith in Action

OUR TRAINING & PROGRAMMES

How to start a Justice and Peace Group
(Focus on Justice and Peace Spirituality)
– J&P Team

Leadership and Advocacy Training
(Know Your Rights & Engaging with Government)
– J&P Team

ABCD – Asset Based Community Development
– J&P Team

Spiritual Retreats & Reflection Mornings
(Based on Scripture & Catholic Social Teaching)
– J&P Team

Victim Support & Training
(Journeying with the Victim)
– Outsourced Professional Team

Making Good Choices Programme
(Catholic Social Teaching for Adults, Youth & Children)
– J&P Team

Peace Ambassador's Training
(Focus on Mobilising Communities around Peace Initiatives)
– Prof. Brian Williams

CONTACT US

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"Working for justice, living the Gospel, and building peaceful communities."

The above poster presents all the Justice and Peace trainings offered for 2026. After many Peace Ambassador planning meetings, the training will now proceed with a high-level training programme, facilitated by Prof. Brian Williams. Sacred Heart University Certificates will be issued to all participants on completion of this training.



Spiritual and Reflection morning with St Ninian's Men's ministry.



Human Rights Day – Awareness Campaign, "We stand for People, Planet and Justice"



Gender Based Violence, placard demonstration in collaboration with SAPS Athlone.



Specialist Care at a critical stage

When a child is clinically stable but not yet ready to leave hospital, this is where specialist care continues.

A new name, a continued mission: ST JOSEPH’S CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

Nearly 90 years of compassionate care continue under a name that reflects its role as a children’s hospital.

Cape Town, South Africa | 23 April 2026

For generations of South Africans, the legacy of the Pallottine Sisters is deeply woven into the country’s healthcare story.

From the founding of Vincent Pallotti Hospital to decades of service to vulnerable communities, their work has been marked by compassion, dignity, and a commitment to care for those most in need.

Today, that legacy continues at St Joseph’s Children’s Hospital, which has adopted a new name to better reflect its role in caring for children at a critical stage of recovery.

Previously known as St Joseph’s Intermediate Paediatric Care, the hospital is now formally recognised as a children’s hospital – one that provides ongoing, round-the-clock care for children who are not yet ready to return home after serious illness or injury.

Located along the N2 near Cape Town International Airport, St Joseph’s is a 175-bed hospital that many have passed without realising the life-changing work taking place inside.

Here, children receive not only medical care, but also the time, support, and compassion needed to recover with dignity.

Care rooted in dignity and hope

Children at St Joseph’s are often at a vulnerable point in their journey – no longer in immediate danger, but not yet strong enough to go home.

The hospital supports them through this period by providing:

- daily nursing care
- therapy to help them regain strength and

independence

- support for families preparing to care for their children at home.

Each child’s journey is treated with patience, compassion, and respect.

Continuing a Catholic healthcare legacy

Founded in 1935 by the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottine Missionary Sisters), St Joseph’s remains the last Catholic-owned and run hospital in South Africa.

“For nearly 90 years, our mission has remained the same,” says Christelle Cornelius, Chief Executive Officer.

“To care for children with dignity, compassion, and love, regardless of their background or circumstances.”

The hospital continues to welcome children and families of all faiths, staying true to its founding values while working closely with the public healthcare system.

A role that remains essential

St Joseph’s Children’s Hospital is also the only facility of its kind in South Africa, providing a vital bridge between hospital care and home.

Each year, approximately 300 children pass through its wards, receiving care at no cost to their families.

While the name has changed, the mission remains unchanged:

to care for the most vulnerable children with compassion, dignity, and excellence.

For more information, visit www.stjosephs.org.za

In 1935, five sisters travelled from Germany to Cape Town and set up eleven hospital beds in an empty building.

No funding guaranteed. No roadmap.

Just a deep, unwavering belief that every child who needed care deserved to receive it – no matter where they came from or what their family could afford.

Ninety years later, that belief is still the heartbeat of this hospital.

Today, that mission lives on in every child who comes through our doors. Right now, there is a child in one of our beds who has come through surgery, illness, or injury. She is clinically stable, but she is not ready to go home yet. Her body still needs time, specialist care, and patient support to heal – even to relearn things it used to know how to do, like eating a full meal on her own.

St Joseph’s Children’s Hospital cares for medically fragile children who are clinically stable after serious illness or injury, but not yet ready to go home.

These are children who need more than a hospital discharge date. They need specialist rehabilitation, nourishing meals, a dedicated care team, and the steady, patient presence that helps them grow strong enough to return home.

And today, your kindness helps keep that mission alive. Your gift gives children the food, care, and time they need to heal and find their way home.

Donate R150 to help a child heal.

Your gift helps provide nourishing meals for one of the approximately 300 children who pass through our care each year – giving their bodies what they need to recover, grow stronger, and go home.

Every gift, every share, and every conversation bring us closer to our goal.

Every child here deserves the chance to find their way home. Thank you for helping make that possible.

DONATE HERE

You can help a child grow

Every Rand strengthens a child's journey

[Donate](#)[How to help](#)

NPO 002/908 | Section 18A Tax Certificates | PBO 130000399

Being stable enough to leave hospital doesn't always mean being ready for home. Your donation strengthens the care that bridges that gap.

Select your country from the dropdown

South Africa

[Give Once](#)[Give Monthly](#)

Monthly gifts help us plan specialist care with confidence.

R250

Nourishes a child for a week

R500

A full day of specialist nursing

R1 500

A week of rehabilitation

R5 500

Full transition home support

R

Enter a custom amount and press Enter

NPO 002/908 | Section 18A Tax Certificates | PBO 130000399

Secure Payment

To learn more about our work, or to explore other ways to help or volunteer, please visit <https://stjosephs.org.za/>.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS
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Waves of Change programme participants at the close of their Life Skills course at the Salesian Institute in Green Point



Most of the staff of the Salesian Institute Youth Projects on their annual spanbou day



Confirmation candidates on retreat at the Salesian Institute in Green Point



Joan Armstrong, Fr Shaun Addinal, Evona Rebelo and Br Terry Dowling celebrate Edmund Rice Day. Edmund Rice is the founder of the Christian Brothers. The photo in the background is of Gary Jonsson who as Principal, opened the Christian Brothers College in Parklands. He died a few weeks ago.

The Father’s only Son

A story by Fr Ralph de Hahn



Sergeant Dickson stood motionless for at least a minute before a strong, heavy teak door. He knocked gently. The door opened quietly, and before the young soldier stood a towering figure of a true gentleman, immaculately clothed in a rich velvet gown. The young sergeant came to attention and saluted. “Sergeant Dickson, sir... I have an appointment with General Richard Dallas.”

“Thank you for coming, sergeant. I was expecting some officer from my son’s regiment... please step inside.” The two men shook hands very firmly.

“General I have come on behalf of the 23rd regiment to sympathize with...”

“I know, and I understand... and I thank you for coming. You and my son, Neil, were close buddies I hear; he spoke about you. Is it Sgt Dickson?”

“Yes sir, Sgt Timothy Dickson... I loved your boy. I believe he is your only son, and I truly am sorry for your loss, sir... deeply sorry.”

“Thank you for coming, Tim... truly appreciated. Yes, my only son – and he had to die away from home in a cruel useless war.”

“But sir, that’s not the whole story that you received from the War office; oh no. I was witness to his death. General, your son Neil died a hero; he died saving my life; he died in my arms.” Richard Dallas showed a radiant countenance, his eyes widened

“Come Tim, tell me all about it... why a hero?”

Sgt Tim Dickson then related the entire episode. While the battle was raging, Tim was wounded in both his legs; he was unable to retreat with his platoon. Corporal Neil Dallas came back to drag Tim to safety, and it was then that Neil was shot through the head by the enemy. Two hours later the wounded Tim and the body of his friend Neil were dragged to safety. Tears accompanied Tim’s story.

“Were there any... last words, maybe? asked the dad.

“Yes sir, he whispered something like ‘forgive them Father, for they know not...’ then he died. Silence.

Tim then exposed a package from his sack and handed it gently to Neil’s dad. “Please sir, accept this gift in remembrance of your hero son, my buddy Neil.” Surprise and delight lit up the general’s face as he opened the package and held in his hands a rough portrait – a painting of the smiling face of his only son, Neil.

“This is a beautiful and very meaningful gift, Tim. Thank you... my only son, a hero. Are you the artist of this painting?” Sgt Tim humbly replied that he was and added that it was a great pleasure.

“Well done, young man, well... it’s a very wonderful likeness. Again, thank you. You know of course of the Master Paintings Neil and I have admired over the years?”

“I do, sir, he very often talked about his very special art collection, and I was hoping someday...”

“Of course, Sergeant, you are

most welcome to join me. Come along and view copies of the greatest paintings ever exhibited.” The two men then passed through the lounge, along the wide passage into the gallery of the Masters which harboured those colourful paintings exhibited all around the wall of a well-lit parlour. Sgt Tim stood motionless for a full minute “Breathtaking! Remarkable! Beautiful beyond words! And this is what your son Neil was boasting about, wow!”

“Yes, Tim, he and I spent many a night together in silent admiration and even healthy contemplation. Excuse me asking but do you know some of these artists?” Tim was a little humbled to acknowledge that he knew very few of them.

The proud father pointed out the paintings of the early Masters like Donatello, Sandro Botticelli, Buonarroti, Da Vinci, and El Greco; and then moved to the more recent Masters like Camille Pissarro, Edgar Degas, Paul Cezanne, Oscar Monet, Vincent Van Gogh and Salvador Dali. All this was an awakening, a brilliant revelation for the young soldier. “And I will place my son’s portrait – your gift to us – right here among the Masters.” And that is exactly what the elderly general did, and proudly so!

Time passed on, and the estate was visited by many merchants and interested artists from a variety of countries. On the death of General Richard Dallas there was to be an art auction at the estate, and naturally, hungry investors and artists gathered to make their bidding. Astonishingly, the very first item up for bid was the portrait of the son, Neil Dallas. There was no bid. The auctioneer came down from \$300 to \$200 to \$100.

The crowds were annoyed – they cried out for the Masters. After an angry silence a voice was heard. “I will take it for \$10, it is all I have!” It was the gardener, Matty, who had served the estate for 23 years and just loved the son.

“Give it to him... let’s get on with the REAL art.” So came the clamouring of the art lovers.

The hammer came down! “Sold for \$10 to that gentleman in the rear.” The crowd applauded and laughed aloud.” Now let’s get on with it” they cried.

But the auctioneer put down his gavel and said. “Sorry, the auction is over. According to the will of General Dallas, whoever bought this painting of his son would inherit the estate, including the full art collection... and that is final!”

When the disappointed angry crowd dispersed, the auctioneer handed Matty, the gardener, a letter from the Father. He tearfully opened it and read “he who now possesses the Son, will also possess the treasures of the Kingdom.”

ADCT SECOND COLLECTIONS

PARISH	HOLY CHILDHOOD		LENTEN APPEAL		GOOD FRIDAY		PRIESTS MEDICAL		ECCLES EDUCATION	
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026
Athlone	1 170.00	1 919.00	18 064.00	18 891.00	4 389.00	4 588.00	3 680.00	3 760.00	2 140.00	1 390.00
Atlantis	938.00	472.00	9 902.00	12 619.00	2 220.00	3 000.00	1 560.00	2 121.00	593.00	2 455.00
Belgravia	1 987.00	760.00	13 571.00	14 672.00	2 060.00	2 619.00	3 266.00	2 068.00	1 491.00	788.00
Belhar	940.00	1 555.00	10 041.00	11 583.00	1 536.00	2 280.00	1 134.00	1 918.00	984.00	1 570.00
Bellville	3 485.00	3 517.00	31 125.00	29 783.00	4 702.00	6 376.00	3 697.00	4 743.00	2 674.00	3 797.00
Bonteheuwel	292.00	370.00	3 103.50	3 976.00	1 159.50	1 390.00	301.00	345.00	343.00	310.00
Bothasig	5 318.50	8 193.00	49 527.40	44 736.60	8 527.70	11 378.80	5 853.00	5 766.70	5 305.30	6 731.50
Brackenfell	2 630.00	1 940.00	18 770.00	20 240.00	3 400.00	4 480.00	1 760.00	2 630.00	1 400.00	2 440.00
Bridgetown	337.00	342.00	7 571.00	8 178.00	949.00	1 601.00	531.00	657.00	508.50	217.00
Camps Bay	3 180.00	2 680.00	14 470.00	17 090.00	3 700.00	1 580.00	1 780.00	3 880.00	2 090.00	2 000.00
Cathedral	2 223.00	4 135.00	43 990.00	45 955.00	10 116.00	7 808.00	4 262.00	6 662.00	5 748.00	5 131.00
Claremont	0.00	1 947.50	11 640.40	8 020.90	1 634.90	2 238.20	2 145.20	1 351.50	724.00	665.70
Constantia	7 105.10	14 806.90	59 827.80	88 460.90	7 041.00	10 772.00	17 370.00	17 420.00	12 713.00	19 910.00
Delft	1 220.00	1 220.00	8 070.00	9 460.00	1 480.00	1 860.00	1 200.00	1 300.00	1 100.00	1 360.00
District Six	0.00	307.60	9 182.30	7 708.60	980.20	824.00	517.00	1 592.00	555.00	782.20
Durbanville	11 272.00	16 695.94	145 100.71	147 450.90	13 196.00	20 853.00	23 355.27	26 214.64	13 397.52	17 897.24
Elsie's River	1 200.00	930.00	9 210.00	7 740.00	3 530.00	3 300.00	1 110.00	820.00	1 430.00	960.00
Factreton	721.20	927.50	11 052.90	14 565.30	1 865.80	2 840.20	918.20	1 378.10	0.00	1 740.40
Fish Hoek	3 604.40	4 800.00	25 571.00	33 125.00	3 353.00	5 050.00	5 430.00	6 000.00	4 037.00	4 010.00
Goodwood	2 700.00	3 450.00	34 890.00	30 200.00	5 570.00	6 830.00	3 680.00	3 800.00	2 940.00	3 130.00
Grassy Park	1 860.00	1 385.00	21 606.00	17 812.50	3 714.50	5 000.00	3 050.00	2 980.00	2 771.00	1 610.00
Green Point	1 630.00	1 410.00	9 720.00	8 130.00	2 530.00	1 120.00	1 850.00	1 290.00	1 690.00	890.00
Gugulethu	1 045.00	740.00	4 644.00	6 190.00	2 390.00	1 700.00	900.00	1 000.00	150.00	810.00
Hanover Park	4 614.00	1 053.00	13 768.00	14 054.00	3 157.00	2 290.00	2 008.00	1 119.00	3 104.00	1 500.00
Heathfield	5 614.14	7 256.94	97 940.09	110 158.44	21 816.50	24 094.55	8 539.00	7 976.00	7 525.00	6 569.00
Hermanus	1 678.90	3 390.50	22 021.10	18 969.10	3 802.00	80.00	150.00	5 100.00	2 542.50	2 294.00
Hout Bay	2 040.00	2 400.00	14 340.00	17 960.00	1 880.00	2 410.00	3 000.00	2 400.00	2 840.00	1 840.00
Khayelitsha QoA	0.00	130.00	860.00	1 860.00	270.00	500.00	110.00	150.00	120.00	150.00
Khayelitsha StR	0.00	210.00	4 820.00	3 760.00	340.00	1 300.00	500.00	600.00	440.00	370.00
Kleinvei	2 173.30	1 258.40	19 092.77	16 624.40	1 387.20	2 972.10	2 190.80	1 521.60	1 090.00	1 181.20
Koelenhof	250.00	300.00	2 540.00	3 520.00	1 140.00	1 220.00	260.00	300.00	260.00	270.00
Kommetjie	1 704.00	1 655.00	17 822.10	16 078.00	3 173.90	3 976.00	1 722.00	1 623.00	1 532.60	1 304.10
Kraaifontein	1 310.00	680.00	16 410.00	19 836.00	1 430.00	1 961.00	2 400.00	2 110.00	970.00	880.00
Kuils River	5 828.00	7 910.00	44 010.00	44 620.00	8 920.20	8 900.00	6 560.00	5 750.00	5 330.00	4 030.00
Lambert's Bay	689.00	1 063.00	8 669.00	7 267.50	749.50	2 097.60	417.20	367.00	512.50	404.00
Langa	300.00	180.00	10 470.00	8 290.00	1 190.00	1 590.00	670.00	220.00	380.00	520.00
Lansdowne	3 800.00	3 890.00	41 170.00	38 390.00	10 840.00	11 660.00	5 250.00	6 100.00	4 700.00	8 140.00
Lavistown	1 560.00	1 490.40	15 675.90	14 452.50	1 025.00	1 369.00	1 323.50	780.00	1 168.00	757.00
Lentegour	3 947.20	1 058.70	31 284.00	31 950.10	4 274.40	3 121.70	3 935.40	3 645.60	2 695.80	2 096.30
Maitland	1 620.00	1 048.55	17 640.00	17 490.00	2 590.00	3 010.00	1 710.00	3 460.00	2 410.00	2 290.00
Malmesbury	208.60	271.50	4 664.10	5 062.60	0.00	0.00	389.70	480.00	195.30	0.00
Manenberg	0.00	1 271.00	7 953.20	11 306.70	0.00	1 592.10	1 084.00	703.00	1 935.10	1 317.40
Matroosfontein	3 020.00	1 440.00	14 137.90	14 007.00	4 947.10	5 000.00	3 410.00	3 530.00	2 840.00	2 990.00
Milnerton	6 080.00	4 120.00	34 980.00	37 102.00	8 160.00	9 000.00	6 250.00	11 530.00	5 780.00	6 090.00
Mowbray	3 780.00	3 630.00	32 625.15	25 420.00	3 570.00	3 860.00	6 254.54	6 510.00	3 200.00	4 800.00
Newlands	0.00	3 667.40	16 101.20	11 440.30	1 926.00	3 080.00	1 770.00	1 935.50	2 650.00	1 636.50
Nyanga	0.00	600.00	1 310.00	3 480.00	910.00	0.00	0.00	290.00	0.00	500.00
Observatory	0.00	0.00	9 682.00	0.00	2 482.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paarl	3 455.00	3 083.00	31 466.00	34 313.00	4 000.00	3 210.00	2 308.00	5 496.00	2 880.00	3 444.00
Parow	3 000.00	6 534.80	68 011.70	64 756.40	10 295.00	10 120.00	13 400.00	13 785.00	3 000.00	7 834.00
Parow Valley	1 220.00	540.00	11 310.00	12 330.00	2 240.00	2 160.00	1 180.00	1 000.00	1 190.00	1 270.00
Pinelands	5 062.50	2 608.00	24 588.50	26 398.90	3 896.00	5 705.00	2 745.50	7 582.00	3 102.00	3 059.40
Plumstead	7 284.50	6 410.00	54 380.00	46 936.90	5 825.10	6 672.30	7 080.00	6 716.00	7 120.00	7 351.80
Portuguese	2 940.00	2 500.00	27 230.00	20 526.00	4 720.00	5 000.00	0.00	2 400.00	3 060.00	2 490.00
Retreat	2 184.00	2 470.00	34 550.00	35 581.00	2 696.00	4 519.00	1 543.00	5 107.00	4 341.00	2 531.00
Rocklands	0.00	0.00	4 665.00	3 500.00	810.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	640.00	0.00
Rondebosch	8 660.00	5 910.00	85 058.10	76 101.45	16 385.20	14 042.00	14 619.70	11 454.00	8 465.60	0.00
Sea Point	4 020.00	4 880.00	28 330.00	35 340.00	7 190.00	7 460.00	3 460.00	8 230.00	3 110.00	4 490.00
Simon's Town	3 055.00	2 812.00	18 594.00	18 248.00	5 200.00	5 090.00	2 550.00	3 285.00	3 980.00	3 200.00
Somerset West	8 344.00	7 570.00	97 317.71	105 210.00	15 470.00	22 100.00	17 130.00	11 340.00	10 170.00	9 190.00
St James	2 082.60	2 799.50	19 319.60	20 825.30	1 473.00	2 320.00	2 734.00	4 787.90	2 777.20	4 866.00
Steenberg	1 281.80	2 871.80	10 715.10	20 319.90	3 834.10	1 418.70	1 473.50	1 656.50	1 557.50	1 034.90
Stellenbosch	0.00	0.00	31 397.60	35 150.30	5 909.20	4 635.00	7 002.90	4 207.40	2 128.90	3 018.00
Strand	2 190.00	2 000.00	12 380.00	12 350.00	1 130.00	1 250.00	2 000.00	2 100.00	1 700.00	1 800.00
Strandfontein	3 430.00	2 730.00	37 550.00	28 380.00	2 870.00	6 890.00	4 570.00	4 070.00	3 440.00	1 150.00
Table View	7 030.00	15 740.00	96 577.00	120 150.00	18 171.00	32 320.00	17 490.00	9 610.00	5 690.00	8 680.00
Tafelsig	800.00	350.00	7 385.90	6 840.30	400.00	1 000.00	210.00	500.00	210.00	600.00
Vredenburg	2 415.00	2 133.00	23 344.20	25 637.70	7 507.40	6 327.30	2 856.00	3 389.00	2 199.00	2 142.00
Welcome Estate	1 082.00	1 708.60	14 423.40	12 310.00	2 343.80	3 752.40	1 381.30	1 400.00	441.80	1 010.00
Westridge	1 500.00	1 160.00	7 440.00	10 420.00	2 000.00	1 810.00	1 930.00	1 240.00	2 440.00	1 270.00
Woodstock	1 050.00	800.00	9 490.00	9 545.60	2 210.00	1 750.00	1 300.00	620.00	810.00	620.00
Wynberg	3 200.00	5 520.00	39 610.00	38 540.00	6 660.00	5 550.00	5 100.00	5 800.00	3 570.00	4 340.00
TOTALS R	180 361.74	207 608.53	1 865 770.33	1 910 348.29	313 261.20	359 673.95	263 400.71	283 673.44	197 028.12	207 915.64

Archbishop visits Emmanuel Daycare Centre in Atlantis

On the 12th June 2026 Archbishop Sithembale Sibuka paid a visit to the Emmanuel Daycare Centre in Atlantis. To the delight of staff and over 70 children, His Grace greeted each and everyone with a hug and was in turn welcomed with songs and shown around the establishment.

The Emmanuel Day Care Centre opened its doors on the 1st November 2000 for special needs children with various disabilities. It was founded by Mary Petersen, a member of the Atlantis Community, a nurse by profession, and is currently managed by her daughter Joyce Anderson. The Centre started with 15 children and four staff members of whom three were parishioners of the local Catholic Church, St John the Baptist.

All of the staff members worked voluntarily, as the Centre could only provide for the food and transport costs with the little money that came in from school fees, and the wonderful blessings of donors who donated in cash and kind.

True to its name, Emmanuel - “God with us”, this was clearly visible and evident in the manner that the Centre has grown over the years.

Our aim was also to empower women, especially single mothers. In spite of many struggles and uphill battles we were blessed over the years to the point where we grew to 86 children and provided to a growth in staff employment of 19 members earning a salary and could provide for their families.

The late Fr Ivanhoe Allies had such a love for the centre that he wanted to work full-time for it once he was retired. Through his instrumentality funds from Germany were obtained and today the centre is also well supported, among other donors, by the Departments of Health, Education and Social Development. When Fr

Ivanhoe passed away suddenly in May 2024 he wanted Joyce, the current Centre Manager, to seek out the Association of the Little Company of Anawim, of which he was chaplain, and subsequently three members of that community came to serve on the Board of Management of Emmanuel Centre. They have been part of this wonderful endeavour ever since, and have seen it grow as a great and necessary service to the local people.

Even the employment of staff provided opportunity for unemployed people. All of the present staff were previously unemployed members of the local community. Emmanuel Centre raises awareness through local newspapers, community radio and by word of mouth. New children are referred to the centre by Red Cross Children’s hospital as well as Westfleur and du Noon hospitals.

For the children, the educational goals are to assist them to advance their skills, stimulate and encourage participation with others and even, for some, to progress to be placed in mainstream or special schools for further development. They thrive in different groups and daily activities, well cared for and fed by dedicated staff. All of the children are transported to the centre and home again each day in the VW bus donated from the Department of Social Development. Orthopaedic Clinics from Conradie Hospital are held in the centre, bringing relief for the children and parents, instead of them having to go to the local hospital and then being referred to hospitals in Cape Town.

It was Father Ivanhoe’s dear wish that Emmanuel Centre retain its Catholic ethos of caring for the marginalized and sometimes forgotten members of society. May this awareness be retained as Fr Ivanhoe’s lasting legacy.



The Tower of Hope – A Legacy in Stone, a Future in Faith

To our brothers and sisters across the Archdiocese of Cape Town

In 1925 the seeds of the Grassy Park Parish were sown not in a grand cathedral but in a small shed on Victoria Road. For decades our ancestors in faith walked through sand and scrub saving their pennies and praying for a spiritual home. We transitioned from monthly Masses in a cottage to the blessing of our own sanctuary Our Lady Queen of Peace in 1962. Today our church stands as a testament to those sixty-plus years of sacrifice. But there is one feature that stands taller than the rest reaching toward the heavens as a landmark of light for our community: Our Tower.

Why We Call it the “Tower of Hope”

For the people of Grassy Park the tower is more than just architecture; it is a signal fire. It represents the resilience of a community that refused to stay in a “shack” and worked tirelessly to build a house worthy of the Lord. However time and the elements have taken their toll. To ensure this beacon continues to shine for the next sixty years and beyond we are embarking on a vital renovation project.

An Invitation to Build With Us

We are reaching out to you our wider family in Christ including those who attended the Parish celebrated Sacraments and special Masses over the years to help us restore this Tower of Hope. Your donation is not just a gift toward brick and mortar; it is:

- A tribute to the Holy Family Sisters and Redemptorist

Fathers who started this mission in a shed.

- A commitment to the youth of Grassy Park showing them that their place of worship is a priority.
- An investment in a landmark that has served as a spiritual compass for thousands since 1961. “Unless the Lord builds the house the builders labour in vain.” (Psalm 127:1)

How You Can Help

The community of Grassy Park have always been a people of “fundraising and faith.” We are doing our part but we invite the warmth and generosity of the Archdiocese to help us reach the finish line. No contribution is too small to help us preserve this sacred history. Let us ensure that when people look toward the Grassy Park skyline they see a tower that stands proud strong and renewed a true Tower of Hope for all!

Please refer to the flyer for parish banking details should you wish to make a donation.

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

With gratitude and prayers

Fr Shiju Poomarathinkal Mathew MSFS
Parish Priest

Fr Pio Mutangili MSFS
Deacons and Parishioners of Grassy Park Parish

Catholic Church, Grassy Park Parish

Our Lady Queen of Peace
Tower Restoration Project



Before



Now

Help us restore our iconic church tower—
let's renew our *beacon of faith and hope!*

Buy a Brick & Build Hope!

Silver
R600

Gold
R2000

Platinum
R5000

Bank: Standard Bank
Account Name: Catholic Church, Grassy Park
Account No: 270 346 368
Branch Code: 026 209
Reference: TWR + Initial & Surname

Every little helps — thank you.



Save our
Landmark

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Proof of Payment & Queries
083 871 4010



A Step in the Right Direction

Amidst the ongoing xenophobic actions, the strengthening of exclusionary and populist narratives, and the heartrending realities of repatriation, a recent judgement of the Constitutional Court¹ provides a step forward in securing a measure of justice around the vexed question of the exclusion of asylum seekers from accessing documentation necessary for them to stay in the country until their application is either denied or approved.

The key principle that the Court upholds is that every application must be decided on its merits and that general non-compliance with procedural aspects is not enough to disqualify a person from the adjudication process. It is well known that non-compliance with procedures, and the obstacle that this constitutes, has also been the cause of increased detentions and deportations.

In this landmark ruling on 7th July, the apex court upheld a 2023 Western Cape High Court ruling that certain procedural provisions of the Refugee Act were unlawful and unconstitutional; they do not, in the words of the judgement, “pass constitutional muster”. The unanimous judgement confirms that asylum seekers cannot be denied refugee status or blocked from the application system on procedural or administrative grounds. In the past, prior to a 2020 amendment to the Refugee Act, an application could be made for such status no matter how long the person had been in the country. After the amendment, delays in making the application beyond the five-day window allowed by the law, or a failure to produce certain documents or present them timeously, were deemed to be an abandonment of the application or a sufficient reason for the dismissal of the application.

With this judgement, the Court has also reaffirmed South Africa’s obligations under international law. In particular, the right on non-return (non-refoulement) has been strengthened in that blanket returns to the country of origin can no longer occur merely on procedural grounds; rather, each application must be judged on its merits. One of

the traditional criteria in any assessment is that there can be no return to the country of origin if it would be dangerous for that person to return. Prior to this ruling, it was entirely possible for someone to be returned on procedural grounds despite facing serious danger. In such cases South Africa fell far short of its international obligations. This ruling ensures that the principle of non-refoulement is tightly safeguarded.

The law as it stands also allows immigration officers, in cases of non-compliance, to exclude applicants “where just cause is shown”. There has been a lack of clarity on what exactly constitutes ‘just cause’, and this has led to vastly different interpretations and inconsistent decision making. The Court acknowledged the “multiple, confusing and inconsistent thresholds and overlapping standards... which provide no meaningful guidance as to their content or application.”

Amongst the key points made in the judgement delivered by Justice Steven Majiedt were the following:

- 1. *Individual Merit Over Procedure*: Asylum seekers can no longer be denied refugee status or blocked from the system based solely on procedural or administrative grounds. Every case must be assessed on its individual merits rather than being dismissed for non-compliance (such as failing to report to a centre within five days or lacking specific documentation).
- 2. *No Penalties for Documentation Gaps*: The state cannot penalize asylum seekers for lacking required documentation or for failing to report to a refugee reception office within the prescribed window.
- 3. *Independent Status for Minors*: Crucially, the court held that the applications of minors are not tied to those of their parents. Their claims must be examined independently, based on their own specific merits. Children will now not face exclusion from refugee protection because of their parents’ non-compliance.
- 4. *Government Accountability*: The Court ordered the Department of Home Affairs to pay legal costs and strongly criticized the government’s legal

team for making unsupported and inflammatory claims regarding human trafficking.

5. *Finality of Claims*: In a related ruling in May, the court clarified that rejected asylum seekers are not permitted to submit repeated applications once their original claim has been finalized.

The outcome of this case, which was brought by the Scalabrini Centre, Cape Town, supported by several other organisations including the Helen Suzman Foundation and Amnesty International, represents a strengthening of the protection of asylum seekers. It marks a certain advancement in human rights and migration practice, ensuring a jurisprudence centred on the dignity and specific circumstances of people on the move. The DHA must now be held strictly accountable for fulfilling its mandate in this regard.

Peter-John Pearson
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BRIEFING PAPERS, RESPONSES AND DIGESTS

Below are links to various Briefing Papers, Responses and Digests published on the CPLO website since the previous edition of the Archdiocesan News. Follow up on what interests you most by clicking on the relevant topic/s below.

Briefing Papers

- 645 Migrants and Refugees in 2026: Prospects and Potholes by Peter-John Pearson
- 646 Reducing the Harm of Uncontrolled Gambling by Kenny Pasensie
- 647 Humane Policies: A Sign of the Times by Peter-John Pearson
- 648 Rural Women and Gender Based Violence by Lois Law
- 649 Zimbabwe Exemption Permits: A Ruse or a Reversal by Peter-John Pearson
- 650 The Shallow State by Mike Pothier
- 651 An Ecological Heritage of Global Significance by Fr Emerick Bisila Mbili CSSp
- 652 Struggling to Take Back the Narrative by Peter-John Pearson
- 653 What Drives Gender Violence: the Case of Lusikisiki by Lois Law
- 654 Youth Day 50 Years On by Lois Law

Responses

- 2nd July 2026: June 30th and Issues of Governance by Mike Pothier
- 9th July 2026: A Step in the Right Direction by Peter-John Pearson

Family Digest

- 72 Sanitary Dignity Programme by Lois Law
- 73 Substance Abuse Among the Youth by Lois Law

Refugee Digests

- 100 Migrants Refugee and Displaced Persons by Peter-John Pearson
- 101 Migrants Refugees and Displaced Persons by Peter-John Pearson

CPLO WEBINAR & INTERVIEW SERIES

Tackling SA’s Online Gambling Problem

10 February 2026. South Africa is facing what many are calling an unfolding gambling crisis. According to the South African Gambling Board, South Africans wagered over R1.5 trillion in a single year, much of it through online and mobile betting platforms that operate 24/7. It has become much more than just a flutter on a weekend match. It is rent money, grocery money, NSFAS money, and even school fees. The National Responsible Gambling Programme reports that calls for help have more than doubled.

Speakers: Mr Makashule Gana, Rise Mzansi and Mr Matthew Parks, COSATU Parliamentary Co-ordinator. Moderated by Kenny Pasensie.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjG9lqypi-U>

Rural Women and Gender Based Violence

11 March 2026. GBV has been declared a State of Disaster with women in the rural areas carrying a disproportionate burden due to entrenched poverty, patriarchal norms, and systemic inequality. However, women are claiming back their agency.

Speakers: Lenishia Frank, Women on Farms Project; Sherriff Ramoabi, Rural Women’s Assembly; Yolanda Tokwe, Rural Women’s Assembly Healing Circle. Moderated by Peter-John Pearson
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aacLk0WEsUE>

What Drives Gender Based Violence?

14 May 2026. Dr Zimbini Ogle discussed her new book ‘Under Siege: Gender, Violence and Betrayal’ based on her research in the Lusikisiki area which analyses the toxic mix of factors driving our sexual violence pandemic. Dr Ogle, a clinical psychologist, serves on the board of trustees of the Trauma Centre for Survivors of Violence and Torture. She earned a Master’s degree as a Mandela Rhodes Scholar and a Doctorate from Stellenbosch University. Moderated by Peter-John Pearson
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAD2qsLy9Pg>

Choosing Our Judges: Is the JSC fit for purpose?

19 May 2026. In the past two years two judges have been impeached, another two have been recommended for impeachment, one has been arrested and charged with accepting a bribe, one has been found guilty of gross misconduct, and one is being investigated for accusations of theft. All this raises the question of whether the judicial selection process – open and transparent as it may be – is rigorous enough to exclude unsuitable candidates. What background checks are done? Is there any psychometric testing? Are references properly checked? And do the political and parliamentary representatives on the Judicial Service Commission have too great an influence – do political considerations matter more than candidates’ legal, ethical and professional standards?

Speakers: Mr John Jeffery, Former Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development; Mr Mbekezeli Benjamin, Research & Advocacy Officer at Judges Matter; Mr Chris Oxtoby, Research Consultant at Freedom Under Law. Moderated by Mike Pothier
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_0twM-0auE&t=165

Rethinking Economic Policy in the Case of Informal Traders

25 June 2026. The informal trading sector provides vital income for marginalised communities and brings essential goods and services closer to where people live. Yet traders remain on the periphery of policy attention. Urban management often treats them as a problem to control rather than as economic actors to engage.

Speaker: Dr David Francis, Senior Researcher at the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies, University of the Witwatersrand. Moderated by Mike Pothier
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4iqM4w3qUV4&t=69s>

¹ Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town and Another v Minister of Home Affairs and Others 126/2025