

Friday 16th July, 2021

Dear St Thomas Family

ST THOMAS NEWS & NOTICES

We are living in challenging times in our beloved country. Firstly we are all having to adjust to the extended Covid Lockdown level 4 restrictions. I am mindful of those who are ill, in isolation/quarantine, and those who have lost loved ones. I attended a 'virtual funeral' in Cape Town of a mother and her 28 year old daughter who died of Covid last week, which brings it all very close to home. In addition we are conscious of those whose income has taken a hard knock as a result of the restrictions – including those in the hospitality industry, and those who have lost their jobs. As vaccinations are rolling out, **I do encourage you to register and get vaccinated**. I look forward to my 2nd vaccine on 2nd August.

Secondly let us continue to pray for one another and our beloved country South Africa which finds itself in turmoil as a result of the unrest and violence caused by our brothers and sisters who seem not to care about the consequences of their actions. It began with political motives, but the criminal element seems to have taken over. Let us pray for peace, for calm and for God's truth, love and justice to prevail. And please pray earnestly for our local leaders and the taxi industry to find a way out of the current transport crisis and for a lasting solution. Thank you to all our faithful pray-ers who join together from our homes at 6pm (or other times) **to soak our country and city in prayer**.

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways – then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sins and heal their land..." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

This past week were some significant milestones in our parish family. **Congratulations** to Elizabeth Fullard on her 80th birthday on 12th, Geoff Burton's 85th on 13th, Geoff and Mary Burton's 60th wedding anniversary on 15th. We also were delighted to welcome baby Swart, daughter to Andre and Jess, who was born 13th. We celebrate the gifts of life and love!

Phase 1 of our organ's major repairs has been completed and paid for. Our grateful thanks to Charles Hart and his team for keeping to schedule. The 2nd phase will continue in early August.

Please do take time to read the latest **Good Hope newsletter** – see page 4! Download the high resolution pdf from our website: www.ctdiocese.org.za, under the Good Hope tab.

Unfortunately we were not able forward you **Archbishop Thabo's** reflection on the current crisis in South Africa earlier in the week but please do read it here:

<https://archbishop.anglicanchurchsa.org/2021/07/reflection-on-south-africas-current.html>

Thank you to all who have joined our livestream services at 9.30am on Sundays. Keep your comments rolling – this way we know that we are not alone in our worship, but are connected to one another! *All being well, we hope to celebrate our Patronal Festival on 1 August in person, with Bishop Joshua and his wife, Joan. We are hopeful that we will be allowed to gather by then – so we are planning to have both 7.45am and 9.30am services on that morning.*

This is the **Facebook** link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/345127422184986/>

Jeremy and his team of leaders will once again produce a video for all our young ones to watch on Sunday morning. It will be on the St Thomas YouTube channel and the resources on the St Thomas website.

The link for the video <https://youtube.com/channel/UCQCNM39rTWoeph2uy5lvMSw>

The link for the resources <https://www.str.org.za/inspire-junior-church.aspx>

Ladles of Love SANDWICHES CONTINUE. Please bring your sandwiches to the parish office on MONDAY before 10 am. (Use brown bread with peanut butter or jam and put uncut sandwiches back into the bread bag – no wrapping required.) **We hear the need is very great so every loaf of bread will be much appreciated.**

During these times, if you would like a pastoral visit, Communion at home, a phonecall please don't hesitate to contact the office so this can be arranged. Let us all be proactive in reaching out to one another and keeping in

contact. If you think of someone – then pick up the phone and give them a call to find out how they are. Let us continue to enfold and support one another in prayer.

We are very grateful for all your monthly tithes and gifts that sustain our ministry and diocesan assessments. If you usually give via the collection in church you may wish to do an EFT while we are worshipping at home - the bank details are below. Please use the reference COLLECTION.

Keep warm, keep safe, and have a blessed weekend.

Claire

Rev Dr Claire Nye Hunter

Rector

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Bank details: STANDARD BANK, Rondebosch, Parish of St Thomas, 071475931