

Friday 5th August, 2022

Dear St Thomas Family

What a wonderful weekend of celebration we shared together over our **Patronal Festival!** Once again a huge **thank you** to all who made it so special. *To God be the glory!*

Going forward, I think all our parish events should include a mixture of “ **F words**”(!) :

Faith, Fun, Food, Fellowship (& Fundraising)!

The month of August is known as “The month of Compassion” and “Women’s Month”, with the first Sunday being set aside for Children’s ministry. At our **7.45am service**, my focus will be on the faith of a ‘pushy foreign woman’ (!), and at the **9.30 am All Age service**, JP will speak about Children being welcomed at the Lord’s table.

This Sunday, we extend a very warm welcome to the **Revd Johan Ferndale** and his wife **Florette**, who will join us for worship ‘in the pews’ at both our morning services. **See if you can spot them!** Next Sunday 14th, Archdeacon Reeva Mulder will license him as a curate in this parish. He is currently a self- supporting Deacon, who will be ordained priest at the end of the year. He is currently completing his degree in Theology at UWC, and will be available to us about 10 hours a week. It will be my privilege to serve as his training Rector for the next two years or so, with you as his training parish. I am confident that, in keeping with our vision statement, you will make them feel at home by demonstrating that we are a “welcoming, inclusive, loving heart of God in Rondebosch.” Amongst other things, I look forward to him taking a significant pastoral role in the life of the parish.

This Saturday morning 6th August, I will be giving a presentation for those in our Diocese who are part of the “**Fellowship of Vocation**” programme – including our own John Paul Roberts (JP)! This is a group of adults who are exploring the possibility of entering the ordained ministry of the church. I must confess at times I miss the teaching/lecturing role that I enjoyed at the College of the Transfiguration over many years (instead I am now one of their external examiners), so I welcome opportunities like this to be involved in Theological Education and engage in discussion with students. Your prayers are always welcome!

Pray for our Youth Alpha starting 5th August! I am thrilled that JP and other young adults in our parish will be facilitating this course for teens and young adults from our parish and beyond. At the time of writing, 25 people have signed up, which is most encouraging! We have been very clear that the intention is not to “sheep steal” people from other churches, but to provide a forum for young people to explore matters of life and faith in a safe and supportive environment, then return to their home churches with renewed zeal and passion for the Lord! I thank God for JP and his ministry with young people, and ask everyone to please pray for those who will be part of it. I will send a 6.30pm weekly Friday reminder on our whatsapp group, to ask you to pause for a minute and pray!

All women in the parish (and friends) are invited to our monthly Women’s Fellowship meeting tomorrow, Saturday 6th August. We begin with refreshments at 11 am and then look forward to hearing from Anne Stevens as our special guest speaker this month. Please do join us!

Attached is the August **PRAYER DIARY** prepared beautifully by one relatively new person and one completely new person to prayer diary writing! They tell me they were a bit nervous at first but thoroughly enjoyed putting it together in the end – thank you so much to them and may that be an encouragement to anyone who is thinking of volunteering to do this special ministry.

We have sadly had **series of break ins** to the area around our parish hall over the last few months so please do pray for God's protection and for us as we attempt to improve the security to that area and for those who enforce the law and work to alleviate the social and economic problems of our times. This brings us to a reminder from Rev Dr Robert Steiner (of the Rondebosch United Church) who wrote to advise us that the monthly prayer meetings at the Rondebosch Police Station are set to resume on Wednesday 17th August at 7.45 am for 8 am and anyone is welcome to join them. rpsteiner@me.com or 082 485 9874 for more info if needed.

Mondays are Sandwich days! Bring your loaves of sandwiches before 10 am to the parish office to be collected and distributed by LADLES FOR LOVE.

FROM THE YOUTH DESK:

INSPIRE Kids

Good afternoon Kids and Parents

I look forward to seeing you all in church tomorrow at 9h30 for our All Age Service and the next teaching on Holy Communion.

INSPIRE Teens

Youth Alpha:

Yes we have our first meeting this evening! Thank you for your support and prayers. I am still looking for a few more people who can commit to pray each week for the hour that we are actually watching the video and discussing the Alpha questions ie 7- 8 pm. Please do give me your name if you are able to do this so I can give you the names of the participants and some guidelines.
youthadmin@str.org.za

The parish office will be closed on Tuesday 9th August.

Yours in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ

Claire (Rector) and JP (Youth Administrator)

RECTOR

Revd Dr C Nye Hunter

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