

Friday 17th June 2022

Dear St Thomas Family,

Since Advent last year, our lectionary readings each Sunday have taken us on a spiritual journey as we recounted the events in the life and ministry of Jesus - from his birth, temptations in the Wilderness, life and ministry, death, resurrection, sending of the Holy Spirit and birth of the early church. Last Sunday, Trinity Sunday, we paused to reflect on the nature of the God who has been revealed to us in the Scriptures. There have been many attempts to explain the Triune God, but I chose to focus on the image given to us by the early church fathers, taken from Greek theatre – “Perichoresis” meaning “circle dance”.

From now on, right through until Advent, the liturgical colour changes to **GREEN** (clergy stole, altar frontal etc) – this being the colour associated with the mission and work of the Church in the world. Green is of course also associated with nature and growth.

We start the “Green Season” with a special focus on Creation. **World Environment Day** was on 5 June (Pentecost Sunday) but we chose to transfer it to 19 June. Here’s a challenge – **let’s see who can arrive wearing something GREEN!** Our **Care for Creation Team** have put a lot of creative thought into our services. At the early service, our co- preachers will be Peter Oscroft and Bob Stewart; and at our 9.30 ALL AGE SERVICE it will be JP Roberts.

Next Sunday 26th June..... **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CREATION CARE OUTING TO NEWLANDS FOREST SUNDAY 26 JUNE**

St Thomas’s Creation Care group have planned a walk and picnic in Newlands Forest on Sunday 26 June, linking to World Environment Day on 5 June.

This will be an opportunity to connect with nature, stretch our legs after the morning service and get to know a little more about this important remnant of indigenous forest, right on our door-step. Mathabatha Majila, North Senior Section Ranger from Table Mountain National Park, will be leading us on the walk, revealing some of Newlands Forest’s hidden jewels and introducing us to some of the critical challenges facing its survival.

Newlands Forest is a conservancy area of Table Mountain National Park on the slopes of Devils Peak, under the authority and management of SA National Parks and has substantial natural and cultural heritage elements to savour.

Bring a back-pack with weather-dependent clothing, water and a picnic lunch. The walk will be light – around 60 to 90 minutes – and accessible to anyone capable of walking once or twice around Rondebosch Common!

Next Sunday come to church in walking clothes with your picnic and be ready to leave St Thomas’s in convoy at 11 am to meet Mathabatha Majila at the following place - <https://goo.gl/maps/CdfsTdmGuFBcJbit9> . We will be joined by Rondebosch United Church’s Creation Care group on the walk.

Any queries to Stephen Granger on 084 331 8638

[Archdeacon Mark Long](#) has been offered a post at a church in the UK, and will be leaving South Africa in mid-July. Many of you will remember him when he was very present during the time you

had no rector. We congratulate him on his appointment. We as a parish will be contributing to an Archdeaconry farewell gift for him.

Resource Centre: Our second beautiful bookshelf has now been installed in the Koinonia Room. There is now plenty of room for you to bring good Christian books that you have enjoyed and are willing to donate. If you want to borrow a book (or DVD), please fill in your details in the book provided. We work on an honesty system!

There will be tea after the 9h30 service this Sunday. From next Sunday we will be taking a short winter break and teas will resume on 17th July. A BIG THANK YOU to all our tea ladies for serving us in this way!

The next edition of FAITH FOR DAILY LIVING is available in the porch or from the parish office.

Calling all artists.....Get your creative juices flowing!

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS EXHIBITION 2022 THEME: CELEBRATING OUR CREATIVITY

We plan to stage an exhibition in the Parish Hall to coincide with the Entrepreneurs' market on Saturday morning, **30th July 2022**, intended as an opportunity for anyone within the parish to exhibit creative work they are involved in making. That includes crafts of all kinds, painting, drawing, sculpture, the culinary arts, flower-arranging, etc., etc. The exhibition is scheduled to open on the Saturday morning, then also to be on display for parishioners to view after the Eucharist service on **Sunday 31st July**, which is our Patronal Festival.

This exhibition is intended as a way of giving visible expression to our identity as Anglicans; as a Eucharistic people, presenting the fruits of our creativity to our community, bringing it before God as an offering for the Creator to bless. The exhibition can be seen as our thanksgiving to God for the gift of creativity. Works will be on sale, with a percentage of the sales to go to a St Thomas project.

I need to know as soon as possible who would like to participate in this event, so please do not delay in responding! Those who are keen to exhibit and/or willing to help with the organisation of the exhibition should contact me at: robertpeteroateshyslop@gmail.com or mobile phone: 064-690-9059 Peter Hyslop.

WRAPPED IN WARMTH MONTH: June is the month we ask you to go through your cupboards and bring any warm jerseys or jackets that you didn't wear last winter and bring them along to this church collection to be distributed to those in need. There will be collection baskets in the porch entrance each Sunday. Blankets are also gladly received.

Mondays are still 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:

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INSPIRE Kids

Good morning Families!

This is Sunday we are having an All-age service!! Thus we will all be worshipping together, so we encourage to bring your young ones with you to enjoy the service with us. We look to make it engaging for them as we cover the theme caring for creation as we celebrate World Environment Day which took place on the 5 June. We will also be processing in with the candles and flags from the entrance of the church, so we require all children to meet at the entrance.

INSPIRE Teen

Good morning Teens!

We are back tonight!!!! We look forward to seeing our teens at Youth tonight. We are on part 3 of our IDENTITY series at Youth. We will be starting a bit earlier from 6:30 and still finishing at 9. This will allow for more time of fellowship. We are so excited for the new members who joined on Friday past and we thank God for making the space for the young people to connect and discuss their faith.

Confirmation – I would like to meet with all the candidates who have signed up to be part of the confirmation class. This would take the form of an introduction meeting and discussing what confirmation is about.

Youth Alpha – We ask the congregation to please keep this ministry in your prayers as preparation for Youth Alpha continues. As we journey in calling for the young people and recruiting facilitators we continually seek for God's hand to guide and lead us through this ministry. I have spoke to the Diocese Youth Administrator Jesse Pastor and he will help promote the Youth Alpha across the diocese. I will shortly notify whether this course will happen online or in-person.

Blessings in Christ our Risen Saviour

Claire (Rector) and JP (Youth Administrator)

RECTOR

Revd Dr C Nye Hunter

rector@str.org.za