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The Franciscan

Anglican Parish of St Francis Parkview

Celebrating St Francis

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RECTORS REFLECTION: FAREWELL

My dear Franciscans

This year’s Noble Prize for Physics went to three scholars who were working to make sense of complex systems in the physical world. Giorgio Parisi, 73, was honoured for his work quantifying randomness and connecting the movement of atoms to the planet as a whole, while Syukuro Manabe, 90, and Klaus Hasselmann, 89, used Parisi’s work to develop models that are used today to make reliable weather forecasts despite the inherent volatility of the planet’s climate system. The crucial COP26 UN Climate Change Conference taking place in Glasgow in next month will base much of its work on the theories and models developed by these three scholars.

Earth’s climate is chaotic. You may know about the ‘Butterfly Effect’ - a popular hypothetical situation that illustrates how small initial differences may lead to large unforeseen consequences over time - if a butterfly flaps its wings in Chicago, it causes a storm in Beijing. All things are connected – from the smallest atoms to the planet as a whole. And we, humans, are linked, intricately and permanently, not only to each other, but to the world in which we live. The ways we live, the ways we behave, affect others and our world in ways we cannot totally fathom. This is both a scientific fact and a theological truth. If one part of the body suffers the whole body suffers.

The Covid pandemic has brought this reality to the forefront of our consciousness. The jump of an invisible pathogen (from a bat?) to a human in Wuhan caused almost instantaneous world-wide suffering, fear, and death. The butterfly flapped its wings ...

And that tiny pathogen will continue to haunt us if we do not all get vaccinated ... we are all linked.

In this context Covid has caused an almost unbearable paradox for me, particularly in the early months of lockdown and then in the months since my

hospitalization with Covid. In the first months of lockdown, I felt the paradox most acutely when I came in to church on Sunday morning for the Church Unusual services. On the one hand I was alone in an empty church talking to my laptop - and I did feel acutely alone. On the other hand, I knew I was intimately connected to you - both through the visuals on your screens and through the bondedness we have shared as a community all these years.

We are members of the same body. And you have told me you felt connected to me, and through the YouTube service to our community. I have been amazed that how watching the these services makes me feel connected to those I seen on the screen. Aloneness and connection - a deep paradox.

That early sense of aloneness waned when first Diana, then Cynthia, then Fabian, and gradually a whole team, came back to run our services. But boy, did it come back in June this year, in ways I would never have imagined? When my Covid illness sent me to Milpark I experienced nine days of aloneness on a level that still takes my breath away, and that is only now beginning to ease. Saying goodbye to my girls that Sunday afternoon of June 6 not knowing whether I would ever see them again was the moment that I felt wrenched

from connection. Those days in high care, caringly attended to by people totally anonymized by full PPE gear, all I could do was suck on oxygen and keep my cellphone charged - the one link to those

I loved. I was so ill I was aware of little else.

But truth of the matter, and the paradox, was that while I was alone in hospital you were linked to me in a more intense way than ever before. The more people I speak to the more I hear about your thoughts and prayers for me, the lighting of candles, the concerned conversations. I was not alone. I was being held by a community of love. When I felt at my most alone I was probably more connected than ever before. We are members of one body. When one part of the body suffers, the whole body suffers. We are connected.

And as I say farewell as your Rector, know that we will always be inextricably linked. Yes, in different ways, unquestionably, as the future unfolds. And know that I am most profoundly privileged to have had the opportunity of being part of St Francis for six



Paul Germond on his ordination with Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

years this very special role. You have welcomed me into your hearts, your homes, your families. Thank you!

Terry Pratchett (one of my favourite authors), in *A Hat Full of Sky*, says

Why do you go away? So that you can come back. So that you can see the place you came from with new eyes and extra colours. And the people there see you differently, too. Coming back to where you started is not the same as never leaving.

Coming back slowly to 'normal' life, we have an opportunity to see with new eyes. May we together see this miracle of connectedness - we are all linked. Linked to each other, linked to our communities, linked to our world, linked to God in whom we live and move and have our being.

With love and peace
Paul

Farewell Paul

TRIBUTES FROM PARISHIONERS



Thank you, dear Paul, for your love, friendship and guidance over the past few years. We shall miss you! Thank you in particular for your care during the time of my mother's death. We have been fortunate to have you as our parish priest. With all good wishes for a retiring but exciting new life!

LOVE JILLIAN AND NIGEL

Paul arrived at St. Francis shortly after we did. Paul has always been so welcoming and has been such a big part of why we came to love being part of the family at St. Francis. Paul started and ran a bible study with the young adults where we were able to learn and question our assumptions and beliefs. On the first night of our bible study we announced to the group that we were expecting our first child, Sofia. And about a year later Paul also welcomed Sofia to the Christian family at her baptism. We feel privileged to have had this time together with Paul. We wish you joy and fulfillment in your path ahead, Paul.

WITH ALL OUR LOVE, MELANIE, VALENTINO, SOFIA AND EMILIA MEIROTTI.



"Ntate Paul, our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your support, care and love to the MU ministry during your tenure at the parish, may the good Lord pour upon you and your family his Holy Spirit and blessings that you may continue to love and serve him wherever you will be. Fare thee well, moruti."

MOTHERS UNION





Dear Paul,

I have appreciated your humanity and for being so real in your service to God and communities. Your messages reflected love, salvation and acceptance and conversation was open and with humor. Thank you for this and the space to explore and learn..
May you be richly blessed in your retirement.

PAULINE JACKSON

Dear Paul

Amongst your many other contributions, we are especially appreciative of the manner in which you stepped in to provide leadership and spiritual guidance during the height of the COVID pandemic. Under severe challenges and uncertainties, you managed to keep our church community intact and were very proactive in launching the virtual services. The very active role you played in conducting the virtual services certainly kept us connected with St. Francis. We wish you well in your retirement.

**IN APPRECIATION.
CHERRY AND JAY OWENS
MORGYN & RYAN HAMMOND AND FAMILY
HAYLEY & LUKE PEARSON AND FAMILY**



We say a big Thank you to Paul for his support!!!

SOCIAL CONCERNS TEAM

Dear Paul,

We will sorely miss your stirring, inspiring, knowledgeable and masterly sermons. Wishing you health and blessing!

THANKS SO MUCH, LOVE, GILLY

One of your ministries which I truly enjoyed was the young adults Bible study group. We learnt so much and each visit was an enjoyable one. You will be missed.

TERRI AND MARLON MILLER

Wishing you a peaceful and happy retirement, Paul and we pray your health issues will be resolved. You will be greatly missed.

LOVE, BARBIE AND JOHN PICKERING



Dear Paul

Although your time at St Francis was short, your contribution to the life of our community and its richness and diversity was profound. Thank you for showing me in many ways both large and small how to 'Live simply so others may simply live.'
Go with grace and God in the next phase of your life.

WITH GRATITUDE, MYMIE & ANDREW VOS

Dear Paul

Our journey began from day one when you joined. Remember meeting you when first introduced to parish council to be accepted as our new rector. I watched the parish warmly embrace you as we had been starved of a rector for so long. Our interactions at council and wardens exec meetings have always been vibrant and challenging to ensure we achieve the best for St Francis. You helped to transform and lead us to the next level and with a more progressive thinking during your tenure, particularly in the last stretch during Covid with your pre-emptive move to online church. More recently you have been part of our families bereavement, and the whole extended family is most grateful to you. We have journeyed the good, happy and tough times. Thank you for all you have done and who you are. You will be missed. Many blessings and a wonderful retirement.

DARRYL, LEE, ROBERT AND ASHLEIGH



Dearest Paul

It has been a pleasure knowing you and experiencing your love for people, a love for God and a love for ministry. Thank you for your love and support. We will miss you dearly and we would like to wish everything of the best during your retirement. Blessing and love always:

**WARREN, MELISSA, SANTINO AND NOAH
MALGAS**

Token of gratitude

We will forever be grateful to Fr Paul for his ministry, leadership, and guidance. For me (Fabian), working with Fr Paul was a complete honour. I have learnt a lot about service, especially to those who are without, planning and collective thinking through his leadership. Serving the people and preaching the Good News are important themes for Fr Paul and this was very evident for me and Lazanne when Fr Paul agreed to be part of officiating our wedding. Even though he was struggling with a sickness that weakened his abilities, he agreed, persevered, and was delighted to celebrate our wedding. For this, and many other special moments, we are deeply grateful.

FABIAN AND LAZANNE OLIVER



Well wishes on your retirement Paul, You will be missed

THE CLERGY AT ST FRANCIS

If we have missed any tributes please send them directly to the parish office and they will be shared with Paul directly, we apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

I have such warm memories of Paul. I started attending St. Francis in 2017 - gently persuaded by Motshegwa. Immediately, I was made to feel welcome by all the clergy and congregants; as I still do. But my most treasured memories of that time are the once-a-week Advent meetings I attended at the end of that year. Paul facilitated these meetings. He made the Advent season leading up to our important celebration of Christ's birth so relevant to our African context.

My faith was deepened as each of the parishioners were invited to bear witness and share our thoughts in these Advent meetings. Those Advent meetings made me think of my Christian faith in a new, creative and relevant way - thank you, Paul. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Paul all the best in the future. And to let him know that I have treasured memories of my first Advent season at St. Francis.

ANNETTE MEKLIS (STRACHAN)



Dear Paul,

Thank you very much for all you have done for St Francis while you were with us. I admired your intellectual approach and willingness to tackle difficult subjects, but always tempered by love and concern for others. I hope that you will have as pleasant and productive a retirement as I have had.

Tsamaya hantle!

JAMES RIDLEY

My experience of Paul is of a warm, compassionate, generous hearted man. Whenever I experienced crisis or disaster, Paul was there, caring in loving and helpful ways. He has assisted me with meaningful work and action when I felt lost, he has shared burdens and grief in practical and empathetic ways. Paul is a man of heart, soul, care, and compassion as well as having words and learning. My life is richer for knowing Paul.

CALLY TUCKEY



Paul's ministry was sadly too short. Whenever he conducted the Wednesday morning service, which I attended, he had a special way of greeting the congregation, and made everyone feel at home. This warmth was so evident when officers and personnel from the Parkview Police Station joined the worship and were encouraged to share their fears and challenges. It was quite sobering to learn what committed police men and women have to face. Paul has the 'gift of tongues' and could speak to them in an African language which must have been a real boost to their morale.

We really pray that Paul's health stabilises, and that God will bless him with a happy and fulfilling retirement.

**KINDEST REGARDS
SALLY ANDERSON**

Moruti,
Thank God for crossing our paths. Thank you for your ministry. Thank you for guiding my discipleship. Thank you for being there for my family during the most challenging times of our lives. Wishing you inner peace and happiness as you embark on your new adventure. May God continue to stay with you, and you with God.

THE MGEYANE FAMILY

ST FRANCIS PATRONAL FESTIVAL 2021

At our yearly Patronal Festival, our tradition has been to take a photograph of all the members of St Francis. Due to Covid-19 a group photo was not possible. The photographs that follow were taken at the Patronal Festival and others were submitted by parishioners afterwards. Thank you everyone.





“FOLLOW ME”: FOLLOWING JESUS, THE FRANCISCAN WAY.

BY FABIAN OLIVER

Over the past month, I have been thinking a lot about St Francis and his decision to follow Jesus by (re)building the Church of God. It is quite extraordinary that Francis, a nobleman, leaves his established life to follow Jesus, by leaving simply, being one with those on the fringes of society, and being one with all creation (even *Brother Sun and Sister Moon*). Listening to most of the Gospel readings, Jesus says again and again, “Follow me.” What exactly does this mean? Well, I do think part of what this means has to do with how we live out our Christian lives as opposed to just believing in a set of doctrines and teachings about Jesus or the Church.

Following means choosing to love the world and being shaped by this love. It means going where Jesus went, loving who he loved, learning how to love ourselves and ultimately, loving God. Franciscan priest, Richard Rohr says, “He [Jesus] invited people to “follow” him by personally bearing the mystery of human death and resurrection” (Rohr 2016).

The thing about following is we accept that at times we do not know where we are going and this can be quite intimidating. We are followers no matter where we are, at school, university, in the workplace and at home. It may be helpful to reflect on what it means for you to be called to follow Christ. Like St Francis, who in following Jesus left his former life to live in radical community with creation and God, what has your journey of following been like? When did it start? How have you been transformed? How has God been present to you on this journey of following Jesus?

During this Franciscan month, we were fortunate enough to have some of our young people being confirmed in the faith. It is a wonderful decision when young people accept God’s call and further their Christian life. Here are some fragments from the sermon preached to the confirmation group for further reflection:

Being confirmed means that like the rest of the faith community, you accept the call to continue the race and follow Jesus. You are invited to explore the deeper realm of love. Learning that you are loved, you are good, and precious. Then learning to love yourself. Take away the friends, your number of likes on Instagram, your desire for fame, and beauty, can you still love yourself? Lastly, we are called to follow Jesus in loving others. Yours is a race of Loving God and loving others through the joys and pain of life. And this isn’t always easy.

Choosing to love the world and follow Jesus doesn’t mean you are excused from life’s pains. You will be invited to see the many crosses in the world. You can ask the community gathered here today, at certain parts of the race, you will have to follow even through personal (or witness) to sickness, death, violence, hatred, insults and so much more. You will have to follow when all hope is lost. It is a way of giving up the wealth of ‘me myself and I’ and following the way of compassion. Never forget about the “little people” in society. Pain is part of the Christian journey. Again, the words of Richard Rohr are helpful: good religion teaches you what to do with your pain. If you do not transform it, you will transmit it (Rohr 2018).

Choosing to follow Jesus also means you open your life to be amazed by the grace and beauty in

everything. Letting go of the little we have, sometimes opens us up to the endless amount of grace in the world. As you follow, you will see God in the most unexpected places. Perhaps you will see God on the smiling face of a new-born baby, you will hear God in between the tunes of your favourite song, perhaps you may even touch God in the deep connections you make with people and creation. Don't just follow a religion and come to church for the sake of people, be spiritual. Spirituality means waking up. In the streets, we

say, "stay woke." Love is the most powerless thing, and yet, love will overcome the world. Being woke is about living out beauty and love until the whole world catches on.

THEN JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES, "IF ANYONE WOULD COME AFTER ME, LET HIM (SIC) DENY HIMSELF TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW ME (MATTHEW 16:24)

CELEBRATING OUR NEW CONFIRMANDS



Congratulations to our confirmation candidates of 2020 who were confirmed on the 9th of October at St Luke's Orchards Anglican Church. Christina Blumentritt; Siyanda Mbatha, Ramishka Abeyawardena; Devishka Abeyawardena; Beatrix Mills and Nkosinathi Mothudi are pictured to the left with Fabian Oliver our Youth Pastor who took them on this journey, Cynthia Botha and Bishop Steve. You are in our thoughts and prayers on this journey of love and faith.



From left to right: Christina Blumentritt, Nkosinathi Mothudi, Siyanda Mbatha, Beatrix Mills, Fabian Oliver, Devishka and Ramishka Abeyawardena.

FOLLOWING FRANCIS

BY DIANA LAWRENSEN

Being called the Parish of St Francis has shaped this community.

Until I came here four years ago, I wasn't aware quite how much the name of a church could shape its followers. This is a remarkable thing. I know that we are Christ followers called by God to find our way in faith, life and hope and yet the sincerity and determination of St Francis has shaped the way this community does this.

St Francis holds a special place in people's hearts, but I also think the way they give expression to what they do. This is the fruit of faith. If such a person could live and breathe as we do and follow Jesus as Francis did, then so can we keep on trying. This happens not just in caring for each other but in caring for that which surrounds us. God's creation is at the core of Franciscan inspiration.

To follow Francis is to recognise that God's call to service is a way to live, not because we must but because we want to and are purposed to. The legacy of St Francis is not one of word but of a life lived with trust and love so that anything that he did say really matters and means something. It is trustworthy.

The prayer of St Francis is one of the most well-known and loved prayers read at all sorts of occasions from weddings to funerals and services just like ours and others in between. As we come to the end of this month in which we have celebrated St Francis, so I hope you have been able to see and reexperience your faith as lived, shaped and renewed by the extraordinary man from whom we take our name. Contemporary Franciscan, Father Richard Rohr says:

CREATION ITSELF WAS FRANCIS' PRIMARY CATHEDRAL, WHICH THEN DROVE HIM BACK INTO THE NEEDS OF THE CITY, A PATTERN VERY SIMILAR TO JESUS' OWN MOVEMENT BETWEEN DESERT SOLITUDE (CONTEMPLATION) AND SMALL-TOWN HEALING MINISTRY (ACTION).

Since coming here, I have seen and experienced this reality in the expression of this community. May this continue to grow and be so. It is a great blessing.



FUND RAISING AT ST FRANCIS GOES DIGITAL



BY MELISSA MALGAS

Covid has impacted many parts of our daily lives and the entire eco-system of how we thrive and survive. This is particularly the case for our fund-raising committee. It was a fun and fairly normal activity for the Church as a community to come together and raise funds which contributed to the many social concerns activities the Church is involved in. We would come together for events such as the Talent show, ParkViews, the Big Walk at the Zoo and more especially one of our biggest annual fund raisers being our St. Francis Annual Golf day, just to name a few. Sadly, many of these fund-raising initiatives have not been able to be planned and implemented the way we remember them, mostly due to the risk which the social engagement required to have them causes.

It is for this reason that the fund-raising committee has started a new manner of fund raising. They have launched an [Auction page](#) on our Parish website.

This page allows parishioners to donate some of their previously loved items to the church for a

minimum bid, the product will then be posted on the Parish Website and all parishioners and non-parishioners are welcome to part-take in the auction process, by generously purchasing the items on hand. Whilst the minimum bid will go to the person supplying the product, the difference raised will go to the Church.

This online Auction sits on our Parish website, and we would like to encourage all to partake in this digital initiative which will not only allow the Church to continue fundraising for our outreach programs, but it will also allow you to partake in the fun safely, as either a buyer or seller.

The page on our parish website is already up and running with a few products on-line to be auctioned, and we would like to invite those who would like to sell some of their previously loved items to please contact the Parish office for more information.

To find the auction page on our website simply follow the link below or visit our website and click on the Auction tab.

<https://www.myminiauction.com/stfrancisparkview>



Carol Anne Cayton-Boxall

29.06.1940— 12.10.2021

**IN MEMORY OF LONG
STANDING MEMBERS IN
THE PARISH - YOU AND
YOUR FAMILIES ARE IN
OUR THOUGHTS AND
PRAYERS**



Joyce Maud Halse

14.07.1927— 2.10.2021

PET BLESSING SERVICE

On the 10th of October we held an annual pet blessing service in the church garden where parishioners had the opportunity to bring their furry and feathered companions to be blessed.



FEEDING A HUNGRY AND DISPLACED COMMUNITY

BY ESTHER K MALIA AND JAMES MACDONALD

The continued success of St Francis' weekend feeding scheme is largely due to the commitment and support of parishioners and members of the community. Thanks to them, the weekend feeding scheme has become a place for social as well as well spiritual nourishment. Those who are served are always grateful for the food – be it peanut

butter sandwiches, boiled eggs and fruit, or the steaming hot soup we distribute in the winter months. But the need is great, and many come hoping for more – for clothing, shoes, counselling, ID's, money, and other forms of assistance. We are immensely grateful to our donors, who continue to donate food or give cash donations, and to the volunteers who assist with preparation, serving, security/control and cleaning.

Approximately 90-150 people are served on Saturdays and Sundays, thanks to the dedication and care of the St Francis weekend feeding scheme team. This is our way of sharing Christ's love, and also of recognising Christ in those we serve.

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me." Matt 25:55-36

The Social Concerns committee continues to do much work which has been posted in the form of a report on our Parish Website, please access the Webpage directly to read up more on the following exciting initiatives:

- **The weekend feeding initiative** carried out in three remote stations, outside the Church and at Zoo Lake over the past year catering for up to 150 people per weekend.
- The distribution of clothes, blankets and shoes to individuals in need - On 18 August 2021, twenty-three women from Alexander and forty-two men from Zoo Lake and its surrounds were supplied with clothing.
- **2021 St Francis & St Columbus, PRA Blanket Drive** - 1412 Blankets were purchased through the Rotary Club. The blanket drive benefited

twenty-five community-based organizations, shelter houses and our weekend feeding scheme.

- **St Francis & St Columbus, PRA Shoe Drive – 15th to 31 August 2021** - The community ran a shoe drive for men, the shoe drive will benefit the most needy, and the cash donations will be going towards school shoes.
- **Shower Facility** After some delay due to lockdown conditions, the Shower Project officially opened on Wednesday, 25th August 2021. We are thrilled to announce that forty-two people enjoyed use of the shower facility when it opened over two days. It continues to provide a key source of dignity to those who come to use the facility.

These are just a few of the many initiatives undertaken by Social Concerns Committee, led by Esther Malia. A key vote of thanks has been extended to our parishioners and non-parishioners who have played an integral role in the work being done to better the lives of those in need. Please refer to the [Parish website](#) for the full report on the important work being done in the Parish.



Saturday 28 August 2021 Weekend feeding.

SEEN *and* HEARD

BAPTISMS AT ST FRANCIS

On the 12th of September we welcomed Joshua Driol (pictured below left) to the family of God. He was baptised at a service which took place after the usual Sunday service. We pray for his parents Guy and Marco. The following Sunday, the 19th September, Joshua Eli Miller (pictured below right) was baptized. His parents are Terri and Marlon Miller. We welcome both these young souls into the family of God and pray that they will be surrounded by His love, and bring glory to God's name in all that they do.



KNITTING GROUP MEETS IN NEW ASSISI ROOM

The ladies of the knitting group were pleased to meet in the newly renovated Assisi Room after it was damaged when a fire broke out in February this year. We look forward to seeing some of the items that are yet to be produced in this new peaceful sanctuary.

