

Third Edition, 2024 | Vol. II No.40

The Franciscan

Anglican Parish of St Francis Parkview

A SEASON OF St Francis



Rectors Reflection
Pg. 3

Reflection: Yes and
No Pg. 4

Retreat in Golden
Gate Pg. 6

Pictures from our
Patronal Festival Pg. 12

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Welcoming New Leaders: Archdeaconry 7 Robing Ceremony at St. Francis Pg.2
2. Rectors Reflection Pg. 3
3. Reflection: Yes and no Pg.4
4. Retreat In Golden Gate Pg. 5
5. Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation Pg.9
6. Renewing Our Commitment: The Importance of Dedicated Giving Pg.10
7. Celebrating St. Francis: Faith and Community at Our Patronal Festival Pg.12
8. Youth Corner Pg. 14
9. Seen and Heard Pg.16
10. Blessing our Furry friends Pg.16

WELCOMING NEW LEADERS: ARCHDEACONRY 7 ROBINING CEREMONY AT ST. FRANCIS

On October 13th, 2024, St. Francis hosted the Archdeaconry 7 service, which included the robing of two leaders and the induction of new members into the Girls and Boys Friendly Society. It was a meaningful moment for the congregation and a celebration of the next generation of leaders.



Editors: Cynthia
Botha

**Typesetting
layout and
creative:**

Terri Miller

**Editorial and
Photographs:**

The Ven Michelle
Pilet
Diana Lawrenson

Fabian Oliver
James Martin
Catherine Bell
Dale Nolan

Congrats to the Comms
Committee on
publishing their
40th Edition of the
Franciscan

RECTORS REFLECTION

“THE JOY OF THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH” (NEHEMIAH 8:10)

Eliyana, 2 year old daughter of Fabian and Lazanne Oliver (Fabian as you know is our youth pastor), brought such delight to my soul with her conviction that our glorious Patronal Festival festivities were a Birthday party in celebration of her! I just love this. Would that we all could retain this sense of self-worth.

I found myself reflecting on the possibility that this was in a way a spiritual birthday party in celebration of each of us as part of God’s family in this community. This is such a much-needed affirmation and reminder of our innate, incalculable God-worth. Far too soon most children who have a loving, stable home outgrow this secure confidence in their unquestionable preciousness and are overcome by peer group complexities and societal expectations which often seem to relish diminishing or degrading our vulnerable self-esteem. With final matric exams looming, it continues to sadden me to the core of my being that countless matriculants feel loaded down with an indescribably heavy pressures and expectations that their entire worth rests in their academic results. Of course our

academic studies and results have a place within the greater whole as a small part of the way in which our society operates, but to see the entirety of ourselves as completely defined solely by academic achievement is to “insult” the beauty, wonder and glorious fullness-of-being whom God continuously creates us into be-ing.

I suspect that were St Francis of Assisi present in the flesh he would have not only approve of Eliyana’s sentiments but would have exuberantly celebrated with her the specialness of herself and of the day. Francis cultivated habitual joy no matter his circumstances. There’s a story told about some robbers and thieves beating him up and throwing him into a snowy ditch; whereupon Francis jumped out and joyfully sang praises to God. Not exactly the kind of reaction which we would expect. However, it rang true to what was at the core of Francis’ reasons for joy which was to be a follower of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Happiness, when based on societal norms or circumstances, tends to be rather ephemeral and fleeting and may

increasingly need more and more of the same in order to produce the same feeling of “happiness”. However, if we keep our inner eyes and ears focussed on Jesus it’s so much easier to inhabit a healthier worldview (and not take on board the world’s voices) and to keep ourselves in tune with our Godly value which holds immeasurable meaning, purpose and significance based on so much more than just 1 or 2 aspects of earthly life. Then joy, as one of the fruits of the Spirit, will naturally flow without cessation as an extension of God’s heart and can’t be switched off at will, but will inhabit us with a supernatural glow warming so many hearts and into all the world.

**REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS:
AGAIN I WILL SAY,
REJOICE!” (PHILIPPIANS 4:4)**

Love and joy
Michelle



REFLECTION

YES AND NO

BY DIANA LAWRENSON

If Francis was the most Christlike figure of the 13th century, then Mahatma Gandhi probably filled that role for the twentieth century. When Mahatma Gandhi (1869 – 1948) lived in South Africa, in the early 1900's, it was in Orchards not far from where I live. He was great friends with the architect, Hermann Kallenbach, who originally developed much of Linksfield Ridge. Kallenbach designed Gandhi's house for him. Built in 1907 in a simple, farmhouse style, it is a peaceful thatch house where you can imagine these friends sitting on the veranda together speaking their truth. At that time their view would have been of highveld countryside on the outskirts of Johannesburg. Today this house is a museum and retreat centre called Satyagraha House. Satyagraha is Sanskrit for truth- force an idea pivotal to Gandhi's vision for freedom, dignity and equality for all. Gandhi's time in South Africa shaped much of his insight into peace, faith, the expression of non-violence and how he believed faith and belief should shape the truth we live. Even when Gandhi returned to India, the only picture he had in his room was of Jesus. Below the image was written, "He is our Peace." Gandhi was disappointed in Christians not Christ. He believed that if Christians had actually done what Jesus taught and loved their enemies, the world would have been transformed long ago. Christianity was disfigured by the West, he said, because it became the religion of Kings and leaders prone to loving power more than God. Gandhi's challenge was always to turn "our creed back into deed, our belief in Jesus into following the practice of Jesus" (in Newell 2015:80). This seems simple and empowering, but it asks us to really live the faith we profess each and every day



and even at night, trust Jesus to shape our dreams. This is difficult.

The words of Jesus that come to me most at the moment are from John 8:32 when he says, "The truth will set you free." It is a struggle to identify and live truth in a world where much is the subject of opinion and perception and even established patterns and traditions that can be deceptively untruthful.

Gandhi believed that it is "as necessary to reject untruth as it is to accept truth". In this pursuit, he identified two very potent words prevalent in all languages – no and yes.

So, "No!" to systems and policies which do not recognise dignity and respect of all, no to violence that is believed necessary for the achievement of peace, no to deceit and the misappropriation of common resources.... "Yes!" to the heart of every nation (and we have such a great heart in this country) and yes to the sacredness of every human being and the power of God's truth alive and begging for expression in and through us in action, connection, faith and hope.

John Phillip Newell who writes about this in his

book, Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings: The Rebirthing of God reflects on Gandhi's insights like this, "The no we must speak and live in our lives in the face of wrongdoing needs to be based on a deeper yes, a radical affirmation of the sacred core of every human being" (81).

While this is not easy or popular I am comforted that we don't do this alone. We have each other and we have Jesus who said Yes to God above all things and showed us the way. We see Jesus in scripture and we know Jesus through prayer. We have the example of what he said Yes and No to. We show up to the yes of our faith by time spent in God's presence both together and alone. We are also inspired by the lives of people like St Francis and Mahatma Gandhi who encourage us towards a truth- force which Jesus offers when he says, Peace be with You.

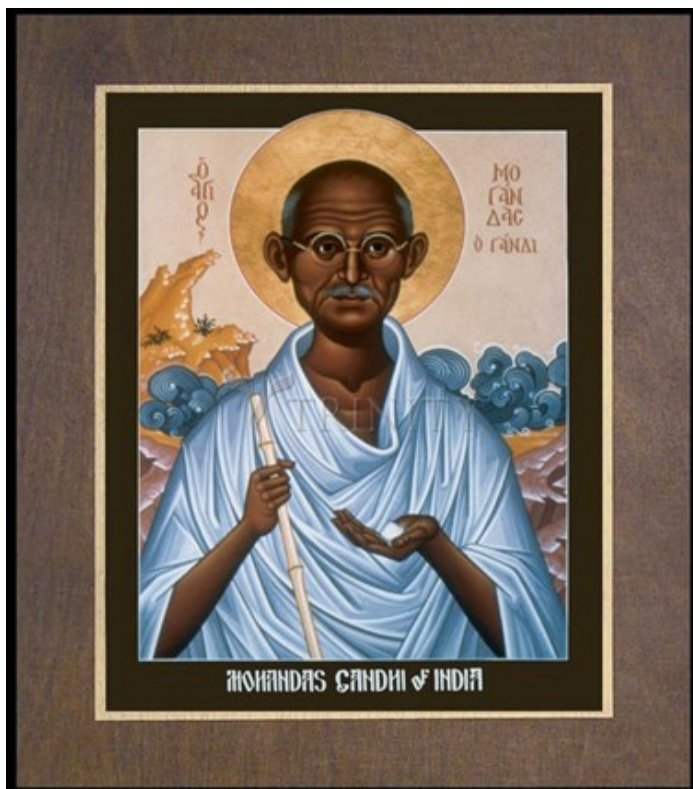
References:

<https://www.satyagrahahouse.com>.

Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings: The Rebirthing of God by John Phillip Newell (available on Kindle and from loot.co.za)

<https://www.monasteryicons.com>

Icons by Br Robert Lenz, OFM



CONSECRATING OF THE PORTABLE ALTAR

During the Patronal Service on October 6th, Father Tim Gray shared the inspiring story of how he crafted a portable altar from an unused church pew. To bless the altar, the Clergy led the congregation in a special prayer:

Jesus, you turned the table of the upper room into a new type of altar, one on which a holy meal was served. "This is my body, this is my blood, do this in remembrance of me" you said. With joyful and grateful hearts we behold this portable altar. Human creativity is a facet of your divine creativity and we thank you that you gift us with revelations of this through love. This altar takes its place standing beside all the other altars throughout history so that this holy supper may continue to be served.

Amen



RETREAT IN GOLDEN GATE

BY JAMES MARTIN

On Friday afternoon, we all arrived at the Wilgehof Education Centre within the Golden Gate Mountain National Park. Amidst the beautiful mountains; there had been fires in places, and those areas were now sprouting fresh new green growth. Rev. Alice Mugglestone began with The Call of Creation looking at a wonderful array of God's creatures and asking us which beautiful animal we were each drawn to.

"EVERY SINGLE CREATURE IS FULL OF GOD AND IS A BOOK ABOUT GOD. EVERY CREATURE IS A WORD OF GOD." MEISTER ECKHART

It was wonderful that the group clearly gelled, and the discussions during the evening were robust and challenging.

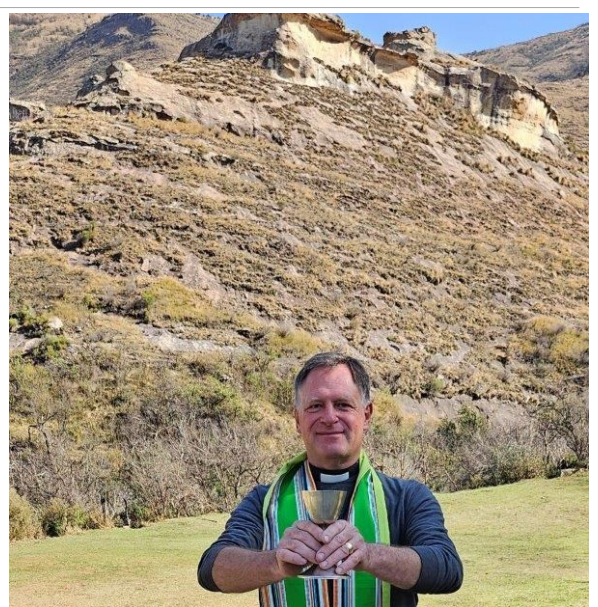
Saturday began with the traditional Eucharist in the open field at the retreat with the Maluti Mountains as a backdrop. Revd. Alice continued with "You Are Made of Star Dust" adapted from a book Roots and Wings by Margaret Silf, for your life is rooted in cosmic events that happened billions of years ago. You are made of the elements that were present in the supernova death of a star. Through you flows the stream of creative, restless energy that pulses through

space and time.

We then embarked on a highlight walk to the Holkrans Cavern beginning at the Golden Gate Hotel and Chalets. This was a Prayer Walk - a simple yet powerful way to connect with God, yourself, the community and the environment, walking and praying at the same time. It is a prayer that invites you to use all your God-given senses to notice God, and the awareness of Christ's abiding presence.

Unfortunately one of our





party slipped and fell during the walk, but thankfully all good, some minor abrasions for which we administered first aid. Three of our party with walking sticks made a valiant effort on the contour path before returning to the comfort of the Hotel.

The remainder continued to the magnificent Holkrans Cavern, hollowed out by nature, where we faced the four quadrants of the Medicine Wheel. Some returned the route we came, whilst others took the intrepid staircase up the escarpment walking the upper contour and visiting caves.

In the afternoon we visited the pretty town of Clarens where we found some delightful shops amongst the commercial vendors. We ended the day with individual Examen and then continued our discussions in the Boma around a roaring fire bathed in moonlight.

Rev. Alice led early Sunday morning with Six Gestures of the Morning Praise. And we were

visited by a herd of local horses, with a foal, which felt like a gift from God.

EACH MORNING WHEN I ARISE I BEGIN THE DAY WITH THESE SIX GESTURES. I JOIN SPIRIT AND BODY IN PRAISING THE HOLY ONE AND OFFERING MY THANKS FOR LIFE. AS I DO THE GESTURES I SAY A ONE LINE PRAYER AND THEN REMAIN IN THAT POSTURE FOR A BRIEF TIME.

JOYCE RUPP (OUT OF THE ORDINARY)

Unfortunately we could not visit Cathedral Cave for Eucharist and meditation as the Bald Ibis were breeding and

SANParks had closed off access – rather late in the season, this a consequence of global warming.

So Kevin Moore led us to the Experience Centre looking at the geology and palaeontology of the region, and where a Dinosaur Centre will be opened, then lead a convoy through the Golden Gate park to see, off the main track, the beautiful and dramatic scenery and wildlife.

Sunday Eucharist of Creation (from Ven. Michelle Pilet, adapted from the writings of Revd. DJM Coleman, Eco Chaplain) was celebrated under an expansive Oak tree with a



view of the mountains. Part of the blessing was to celebrate the holy meal with bread baked that very morning by our caterer and to use the gorgeous wooden chalice and ciborium given to the St Francis clergy by Rev. Tim Gray - fashioned, as the portable altar we consecrated at the Patronal Festival, from a St Francis pew.

We shared lunch and returned to Johannesburg. The trusty Pajero threw a hissy fit, well a fan belt with commensurate billowing steam, so I spent Sunday evening in Clarens with my mother, and were all fixed, thank you to the gracious folk of Clarens) and back home on Monday. Thank you to all who squeezed in the stranded passengers and luggage for the other three travellers.

Thank you to Kevin for hosting the group, and Revd. Alice for her spiritual leadership.



SOME FEEDBACK FROM THE ATTENDEES

EVENING BELOVED OF GOD, WE ARE HOME. THANK YOU FOR AN AWESOME WEEKEND. HOW BLESSED WE HAVE BEEN TO SHARE THIS TIME WITH YOU IN THE STILLNESS OF CREATION.

THANK YOU ALICE FOR THE AMAZING TEACHING AND YR LEADERSHIP

GREETINGS EVERY ONE , HOME SAFE AND SOUND. A REAL GROUP EFFORT. VERY GRATEFUL FOR A UNIQUE CONNECTION WITH NATURE, MY HEAVENLY FATHER, OUR TWO LEADERS AND ALL ON THE GROUP. LOVE AND BLESSINGS .

THANK YOU ALL FOR AN AWESOME WEEKEND, LOTS OF LEARNING AND EXPERIENCES TOGETHER



DESMOND AND LEAH TUTU LEGACY FOUNDATION

BY JAMES MARTIN

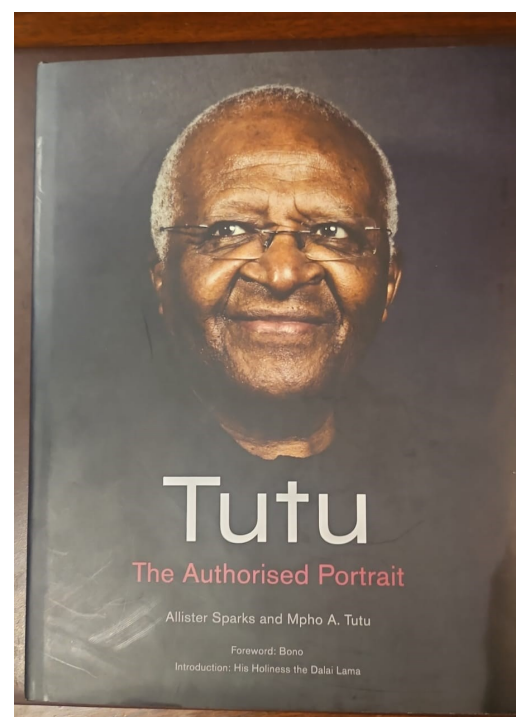
I recently visited Stellenbosch and Cape Town to see our boys at Stellies, and to accompany my wife to a health conference.

In Stellenbosch, on the Sunday, I attended the Anglican Church of St Mary, an old building from the establishment of the town. The service was led by the Archdeacon Dean with the Rector Desmond; this archdeaconry within the Diocese of False Bay extends from Belhar in the Cape flats to the Drakenstein mountains!

On Tuesday, the Heritage Day public holiday, I went walkabout through Cape Town (around 15 000 steps, 13.5 km) beginning at the Cathedral, which was unfortunately closed, then to the Company Gardens, to Parliament, to the Central Methodist Church and thence to the Castle. En route I unexpectedly saw Arch. Desmond on a balcony, well a statue anyway (pictured below) -

and this was the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation which also houses a museum celebrating and recording the Arch's life and influence in the struggle for right representation and equality in our land, and subsequently, globally. Amongst the celebration of his life and works was a perspective of apartheid (to me only deserving of lowercase) - and the most distressing was a wall recording the names of those who were known to have died, well actually murdered!

The picture aside, I have never met the Arch., yet as an Anglican Priest chatting with a Curator, I was given Tutu: The Authorised Portrait written by Allister Sparks and the Arch.'s daughter Mpho (as pictured below). As an aside - when I lent the book to my mother, she recalled socialising with Allister Sparks at the Press Club in Mbabane, then Swaziland, in the Sixties.



RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT: THE IMPORTANCE OF DEDICATED GIVING

BY CATHERINE BELL

The Gospel Reading from Sunday 20 October ended with the words: *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served; he came to serve and to give his life to redeem many people."* Dedicated Giving is service to the Lord, and we thank you all, the people of St Francis, Parkview, for your generosity and commitment.

St Francis said: *"For it is in giving that we receive"*. October, the month for celebrating our patron saint, is also the month for Dedicated Giving and asking you all to renew your commitment to St Francis and to the Lord, through making a pledge to give regularly and generously to the church. Why, do we ask people to pledge and commit to giving an amount every month, and why now in October, when it is almost the end of the year?

There are two key reasons: firstly, Dedicated Giving is the backbone of our finances and is used to keep the church operating by paying for rates, maintenance and salaries etc. – everything that keeps our church running and in good order. Without it the parish would cease to exist. St Francis parishioners are generous and

give of their time, money and talents freely.

Secondly, your pledge to a monthly amount assists us in budgeting and planning for next year. Similarly, Diocesan budgets are due in early December and your pledge assists us in drawing up the budget and committing to our Diocesan giving for next year.

It would be unfair to discuss DG without briefly discussing our financial position. Although the parish is in a healthy position, Dedicated giving is down from the budgeted amount, while general giving is up, thanks to a very generous donation towards social concerns. I would also like to give a brief update on what's happening with the Diocesan budget: In October, Diocese wardens and treasurers met to review financial improvements since last year's Synod. Key issues with SARS and TERS have been resolved, and the 2023 accounts are complete. While the sale of properties like Bishop Bavin School will help cover debts, financial challenges remain. To break even next year, a 20% increase in parish contributions is needed, though this may be difficult to achieve.

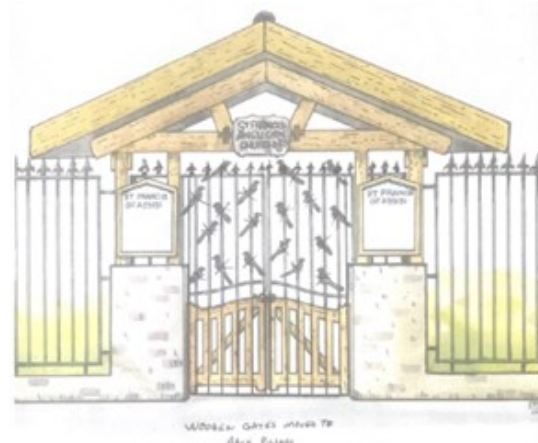
We agreed at Vestry earlier

this year to budget for some necessary large projects for the year.

As you may already know, the church has been facing some security challenges. Designs for the new perimeter security have been circulated and are available for viewing at the back of the church. Thank you to Alistair Findlay for the beautiful drawings. The design has been approved by Parkview Joint Planning Committee and quotes have been obtained.

We budgeted for three large projects this year: a water tank, hall security and a perimeter fence. In addition, funding had already been offered for an upgraded solar system. A water tank has been installed as has the fully donated solar system. Thank you to the extremely generous donors for the new solar system.

The next big items, or projects, are the hall alarm system and the

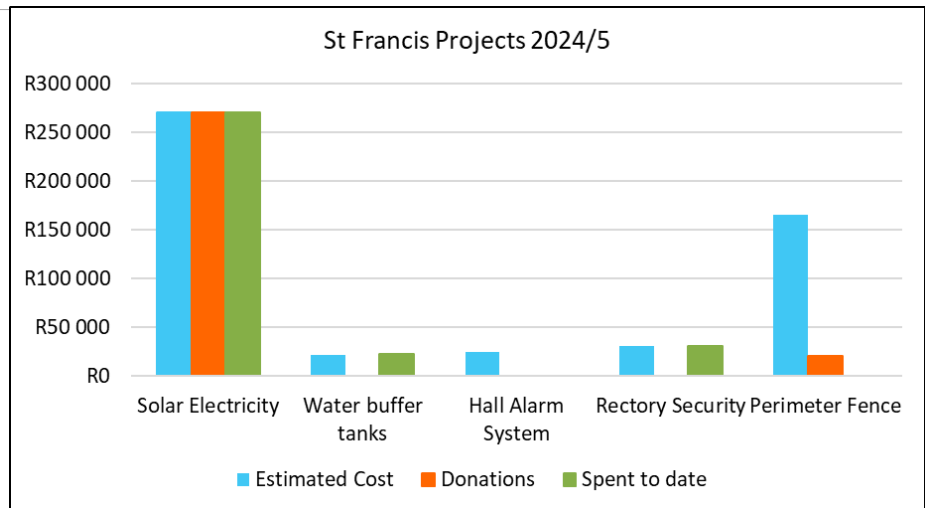


perimeter fence. The hall alarm system has been delayed as a result of the quoted costs, which we believe are more expensive than necessary. The requirement, however, is very necessary.

The cost of the perimeter security fence is around R165'000, which is R50k more than budgeted. Now that we are ready to install the fence we need to raise the funds needed, to which end Wendy Price has been running a raffle, thank you Wendy! We also thank the first major donor for funds towards the fence. If you can see your way clear to supporting the installation of the perimeter fence, please would you earmark such donations specifically for that project.

As a church, St Francis relies on donations to function and to carry out work in the community to feed the poor and provide showers for the homeless, to minister to those in our parish and beyond who need our help, including the sick, the anxious and suffering, the poor and needy and the bereaved. We also rely on donations to maintain the beautiful church and grounds in which we all have the privilege to worship.

I ask and urge you all to reconsider your dedicated giving, and to increase it. Even R100 a month more by each family would make a significant difference to our ability to minister to you and those



St Francis Projects' costs, donations to achieve the project and spend to date

beyond our parish.

Some of you may prefer to donate to specific projects, of which the security fence and the hall alarm system are the most pressing.

The more we all give, through dedicated giving, general giving and project giving, the more we can do to enact the gospel through service to ourselves and the community.

There is a QR code in the pew leaflet and to the right. Please use it to access the Dedicated Giving pledge form and to complete your pledges, whether for regular DG, specific projects or general donations. If you don't know how to use QR codes, please ask someone to assist you.

In this month of our patronal festival, when we remember St Francis and what he did for others, we need to rededicate ourselves to the work of the church and our community, and that means reviewing and renewing our dedicated giving

and seeing how we can increase our dedication and our giving.

St Francis said *“Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received--only what you have given.”*

As in previous years, we ask you to consider your monthly giving to the parish prayerfully, and to consider an increase so that we may continue to serve you and the wider community to the glory of God.

Thank you!



Scan this QR code to visit the DG page on our website to pledge monthly, towards a special project or of your time and talents.

CELEBRATING ST. FRANCIS: FAITH AND COMMUNITY AT OUR PATRONAL FESTIVAL



On October 6th, we gathered to celebrate our Patronal Festival. The day began with a special service, followed by a joyful group photo of all the congregants taken by Dale Nolan (pictured on the left). To add to the fun, we hired a jumping castle for the kids to enjoy.

After the service, everyone enjoyed a "bring and share" breakfast (pictured below), topped off with a beautiful St. Francis cake. The weather was perfect, allowing us to sit outside and savor the delicious food while spending time together in fellowship. It was a wonderful day of celebration and community! Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this day so special .



ST FRANCIS WORD SEARCH



Can you find these words:

ANIMALS	GOLD
BEG	HORSE
BELL	HYMNS
BIRDS	KNIGHT
CAVE	LOVE
CHAPEL	PARTIES
CHURCHES	PEACEFUL
CLOTHES	PLEASURE
DEACON	POOR
DREAM	PREACH
FATHER	REBUILT
FOOD	SERVICE
FRANCIS	WEALTHY
FRENCH	WOLF
GOD	

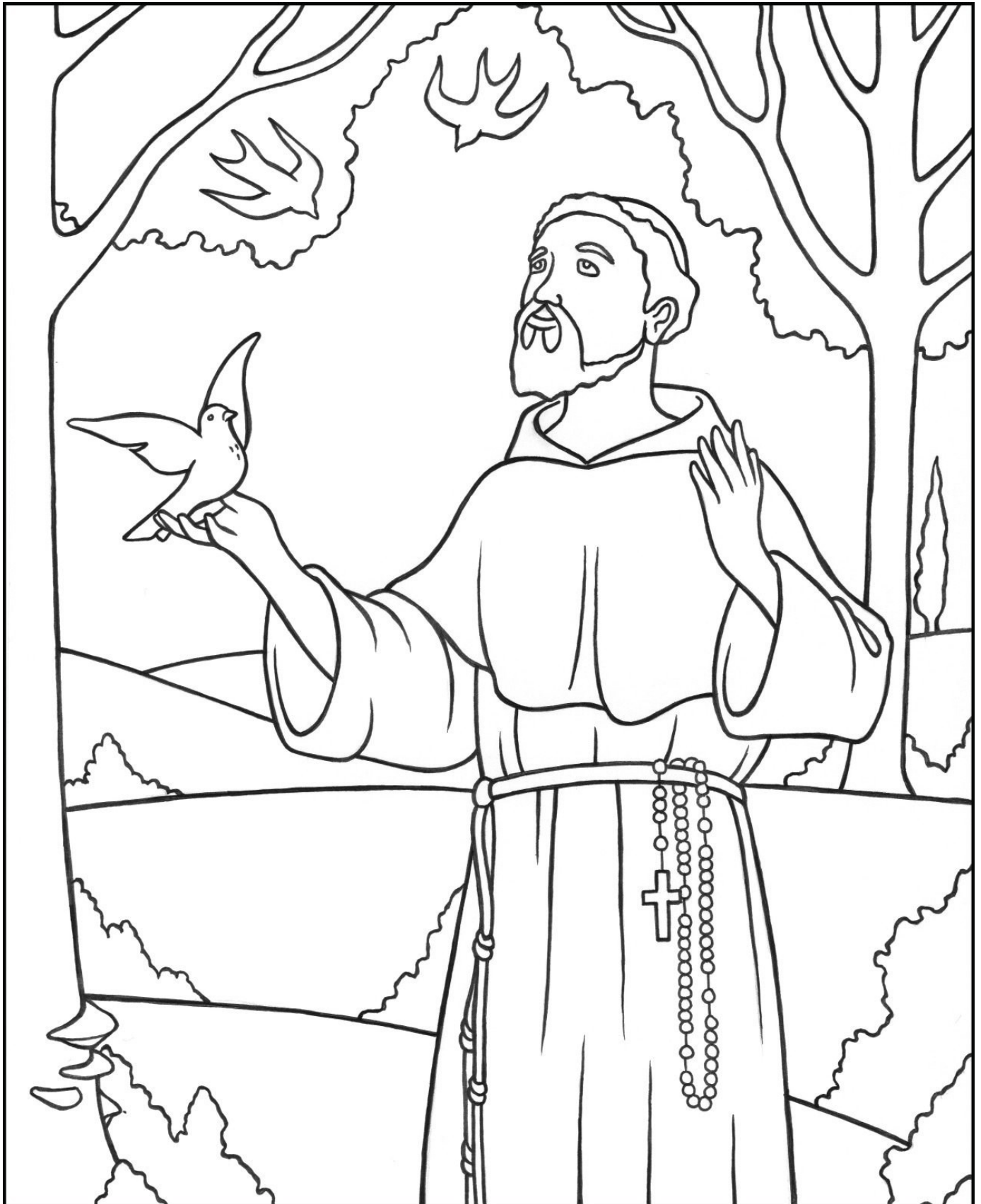
WHO WAS ST FRANCIS?

St Francis was born in Italy, in a place called Assisi. His family were very wealthy and St Francis spent his money on expensive clothes and food. One day whilst out riding on his horse, St Francis came across a poor and sick man. Usually he would have turned away, but this time St Francis got off his horse, gave the man his cloak and kissed him.

St Francis started going to church every day. As he prayed in a chapel, he heard a voice say “ St Francis, Repair my church.” Thinking that God was telling him to repair the chapel, St Francis used his father’s money and goods to rebuild it. His father was very angry and had his son arrested for stealing. St Francis returned all of the money and goods. He even stripped off all of the clothes he was wearing and gave them back to his father! From then on St Francis lived in poverty. He realised that when God asked him to “repair my church” he meant the church around the world. Listening to God, St Francis worked to make the church better by speaking up for the poor and looking after them.



COLOURING PAGE

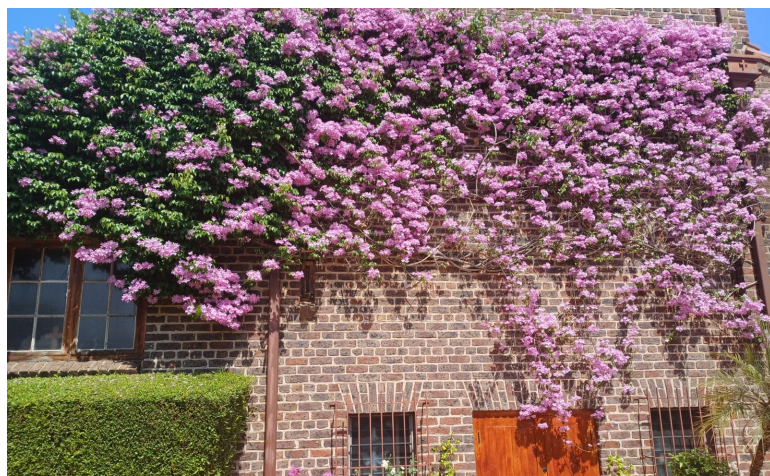


St. Francis of Assisi - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com All rights reserved.

SEEN *and* HEARD

FLOWERS FROM AROUND THE CHURCH

The vibrant flowers blooming around the church have added a beautiful touch to our services. Each arrangement, pictured below, comes from different celebrations, reflecting the joy and colour of our gatherings. The fresh blooms have truly enhanced the atmosphere, symbolizing growth and renewal within our community.



BLESSING OF OUR FURRY FRIENDS

On October 13th, we held a special Pet Service for all those who wanted their beloved animals to receive a blessing. Each pet received a certificate (pictured to the right) as a keepsake to remember this special occasion. If you didn't manage to attend, you may like to pray this prayer with your pet.

Blessing of a Pet

Watch Over and Protect



.....
Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land. You inspired St Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet By the power of your love enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord God, and all your creatures!
Amen