

First Edition, 2025 | Vol. II No.41

# The Franciscan

Anglican Parish of St Francis Parkview

## A SEASON OF *Easter*



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## RECTORS REFLECTIONS

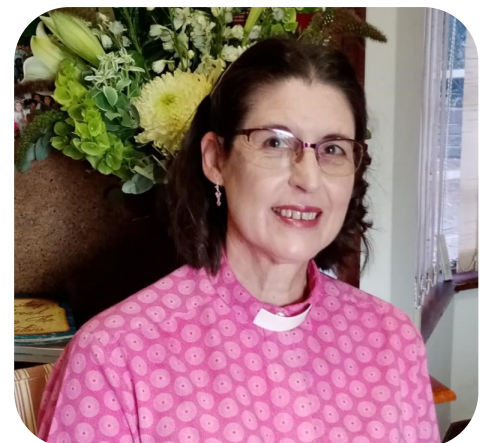
# EASTER

## 2025

**ALLELUIA!** This is a word which feels synonymous with Easter. It is a word which has its antecedents in both ancient Hebrew and ancient Greek and basically means “Praise the Lord”! This word can also be spelt “Hallelujah” and carries the same meaning.

Proclaiming either versions of this word seems to raise our spirits and invite us into joy. It’s so refreshing to experience a joy free from accumulation, competition or achievement. The freedom of praising the Lord for no other reason or expectation than because the Lord God is God and praiseworthy, is such a gift. I yearn for us to find ourselves drawn into an Easter-Alleluia-attitude.

When “Praise the Lord” becomes the spirit permeating and guiding our day, then our focus will automatically expand beyond possible temptation towards a general stream of self-involvement. When we live with “Alleluia” as our lens on life we’ll be amazed at how significantly our viewpoint and vista on life will be enhanced and expanded. George Frederick Handel certainly had a sense of the magnificence and numinous power of “Hallelujah”, and we feel this too when we wallow in the transcendent gloriousness of his “Hallelujah Chorus”.



**ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN.  
HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!**

# MOMENTS OF FAITH: A JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

## SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday, held on the 4th of March at St Francis was a warm and joyful evening, possibly, made even more special by an unexpected power outage. With no lights, the event took place by candlelight, creating a cosy, welcoming atmosphere filled with laughter and cheer. The Parish came together to flip pancakes, share stories, and embrace the spirit of the season—ready to take on Lent with full hearts and smiling faces.



## PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

On 13 April, the St Francis community gathered for a meaningful Palm Sunday procession from the Church up to the Parkview Police Station and back. With palm branches in hand and hearts full of reflection, we walked together in remembrance of Jesus' journey into Jerusalem. It was a beautiful morning of prayer, song, and shared faith—marking the beginning of Holy Week in a spirit of unity and reverence.



## REFLECTION

# GOD'S ANSWER

BY DIANA LAWRENSON

Crucifixion and Resurrection are three days apart. Grave sorrow and astounding joy live close together. I am sure we have all had the experience of something painful and difficult resolving suddenly and bringing with it joy so great we think we won't ever be unhappy again. This is rarely, if ever, the case but a pattern that we experience in our lives several times. These experiences, if we let them, carry gifts of holy wisdom and insight which shape our priorities. The Resurrection tells us that the worst that can happen can give way to the best, that death is not the end, that a broken body is not a broken spirit, that God is present in every aspect of life and, if we listen, says our name just beyond the tomb of despair affirming the truth of eternity.

One of my favourite poems, that I return to again and again, is called God's Answer. It is attributed to a Confederate soldier written during the American Civil War (1861-1865). It tells of God at work in our lives in ways that extend far beyond what we ask for. The poem confronts us with paradoxes and calls us from the tomb of broken expectations to the truth of God's blessing in the least anticipated places.



*I asked for strength that I might achieve;  
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to  
obey.*

*I asked for health that I might do greater things;  
I was given infirmity that I might do better  
things.*

*I asked for riches that I might be happy;  
I was given poverty that I might be wise.*

*I asked for power that I might have the praise of  
men [people].*

*I was given weakness that I might feel the need of  
God.*

*I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;  
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.*

*I got nothing that I had asked for,  
but everything that I had hoped for.*

*Almost despite myself my unspoken prayers were  
answered,*

*I am, among all men [people], most richly blessed.*

May the joy of Resurrection of this Easter season be present as a cornerstone of how we see and who we are. Diana

Art: *Resurrection Morning* by Emilie Lewis

# PARISH MEMBER CONTRIBUTES TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE GALAXY

## BY ROD CHARLTON

A team of international scientists using South Africa's MeerKAT telescope has uncovered an extraordinary new giant radio galaxy nicknamed Inkathazo, meaning 'trouble' in the African Xhosa and Zulu languages.

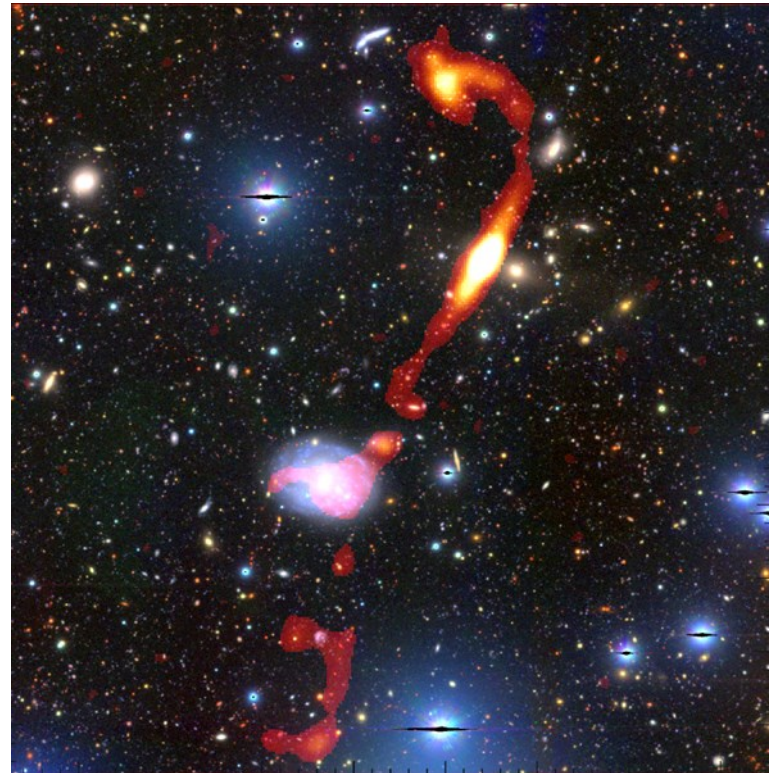
The lead author Kathleen Charlton is the daughter of Rod and Jenny Charlton and sister to Angus who are members of St Francis.

This discovery sheds light on the evolution of the largest structures in the Universe and offers new, yet confusing, insights into their mysterious origins. Inkathazo has captivated Astronomers with its immense scale and unusual characteristics.

The work was published in January in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.

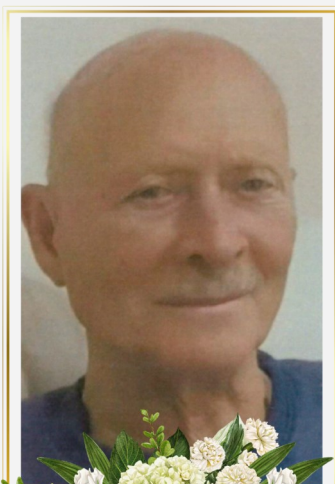
"The number of GRG (Giant Radio Galaxy) discoveries has absolutely exploded in the past five years thanks to powerful new telescopes like MeerKAT," said Kathleen Charlton, a Master's student at the University of Cape Town and the first author of the study.

"Research into GRGs is developing so rapidly that it's becoming hard to keep up. It's incredibly exciting!"



## A HIDDEN GIANT REVEALED

Stunning MeerKAT images of 'Inkathazo,' the latest GRG to be discovered, were revealed today in a study published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society by Charlton and other members of the international 'MIGHTEE' team of astronomers. The plasma jets of this cosmic giant span 3.3 million light-years from end-to-end, which is over 32 times the size of the Milky Way.



## IN LOVING MEMORY:

### ED NEWTON

12.02.36–22.02.25

Ed was a pillar of our community and will be deeply missed. We give thanks for his faithful and dedicated ministry amongst us. He was always willing to assist with various tasks around the parish. Assisted with the counting of Sunday collection and transporting of palm branches!! May his soul rest in peace and rise in glory. We continue to hold Allison and his family in our prayers.

# EASTER BIBLE WHO WAS IT?



Who was it? Match the description with the correct person

I was the Roman Governor who sentenced Jesus to be crucified

Peter

I betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver

Mary  
Magdalene

I denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed

The Repentant  
Thief

I was forced to carry Jesus' cross on the way to Golgotha

The Centurion

I was the High Priest who led the plot to kill Jesus

Pontius Pilate

I was the first person to see Jesus after he rose from the dead

Caiaphas

I was a crucified next to Jesus and asked him to remember me in his Kingdom

Simon of  
Cyrene.

I was the Roman Soldier who proclaimed "Surely this man was the son of God"

Judas Iscariot

# EASTER FUN



I F Q N R T B N Q U W T G A Z  
 V W M J E Q H L H Y A O V N A  
 D I R U G S Z O P V L F U G F  
 C T A C J X I H R G B O J E Y  
 S A V I O U R R O N S R I L F  
 L R E N L C X T O U S S C M A  
 L H K R V B H C S Y R A M Z X  
 B C S U P A T E F C H K J L D  
 P E T E R G J O C T P E H V R  
 Q O B O F I I F M R J N O U J  
 W N Y V K E M E R B H U S G U  
 V G O F C R Z I A J X S H R M  
 I Y W E U O O Q W B O K R G G  
 V R R O P T E D L R R D T Y Z  
 C I S V Z M D Y C Y D J M P I

## WORD SEARCH

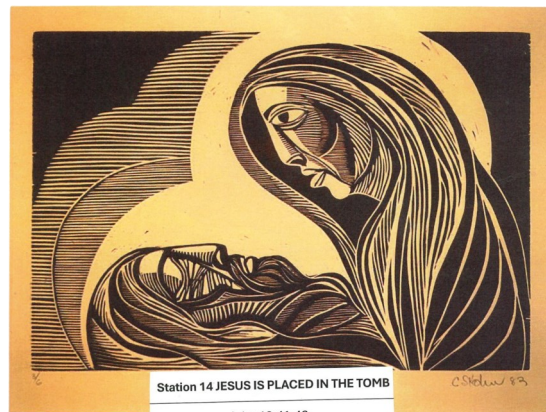
- |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>CROSS</b>    | <b>RISEN</b> |
| <b>SAVIOUR</b>  | <b>TORE</b>  |
| <b>THORNS</b>   | <b>JESUS</b> |
| <b>FORSAKEN</b> | <b>PETER</b> |
| <b>GOLGOTHA</b> | <b>TOMB</b>  |
| <b>MARY</b>     | <b>ANGEL</b> |

# THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING HOLY WEEK

BY CYNTHIA BOTHA

We are all familiar with the Cecil Skotness prints of the Stations of the Cross which are on the walls of St Francis Church. Perhaps we take them for granted? For the first three nights of Holy Week we had short reflections on the Stations of the Cross lead by Rod Charlton, Gill Sheridan and John Ridler. Their reflections encouraged us to look a little

images of neglected South African histories. He was commissioned to produce and created the Stations of the Cross in 1983 for St Mary's Cathedral in Johannesburg where they hang on the walls of the nave of the cathedral. St Francis Church acquired limited edition prints of the original woodcuts in the early 2000s.



Station 14 JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB  
John 19:41-42

and invited us to look more closely at the way the wood was carved – the lines across the print, the darkness of the beams of the cross and the halo around Jesus head. The last Station, number 14 speaks of Jesus placed in the tomb and shows Mary, his mother gazing at her son. Can you see what happens to their halos now and how they have joined together to form a heart?



Station 5 SIMON HELPS CARRY THE CROSS  
Mark 15:21

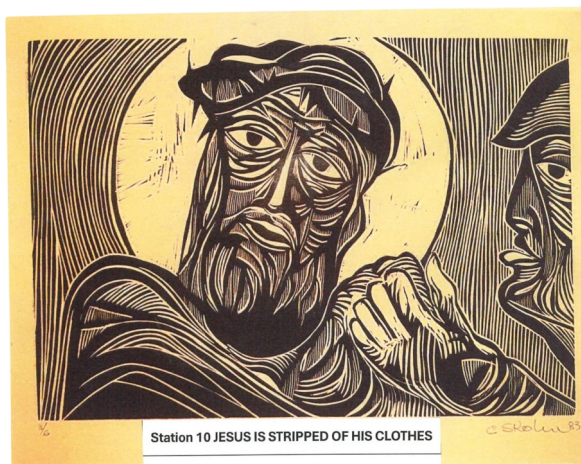
We started on the Monday night by following the first 5 Stations and Rod invited us to think about suffering and how do we meet Jesus in his suffering? Station 5 speaks of Simon helping Jesus to carry his cross.

closer at the prints. We all experienced new insights and a deeper appreciation for the prints and what they reveal of Jesus journey to the Cross.

Cecil Skotnes (1 June 1926 - April 2009) was born in East London, the son of Norwegian missionaries. He studied Fine Arts at Wits university after World War II. Encouraged by friend and mentor Egon Guenther, Skotnes turned his hand to woodcarving and produced many ground-breaking coloured carved panels and woodcut prints, often with

We were challenged to think of how we help others carry their burdens. Gill reflected on the next five and looking at Station 10, Jesus is Stripped of his garments – asked us to think about who we are? At our core, when all is stripped away? As you gaze into Christ's gaze – the only image with Christ looking directly at you, what invitation do you hear? John looked at the last four Stations

A huge thank you to Rod, Gill and John for their reflections. And to Dale Nolan who took the photographs of the prints. Their input allowed us to have a very meaningful start to Holy Week.



Station 10 JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS CLOTHES  
John 19:23-24



In this edition of getting to know, we speak to **Nontoko Lynn Moyo**, our new parish secretary.

### HOW DID YOU COME TO BE A PART OF ST FRANCIS?

After years of working in the corporate world and in the education sector I felt I needed a well-deserved break and as I am an active member of St Thomas Anglican Church, having held roles as a Warden and Mothers Union Secretary, I felt called to expand my service to the broader church community. On hearing that St Francis was looking for an administrator I felt that this was a perfect opportunity for fostering faith and community and applied for the position.

### HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN TWO SENTENCES?

I am a dedicated individual committed to empowering others through education, faith, and compassionate service. A lifelong learner and proud mother, I strive to balance my love for family with

## GETTING TO KNOW: NONTOKOZO LYNN MOYO

uplifting communities both inside and outside the church.

### WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES OR INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF CHURCH?

I cherish family road trips and exploring new places with my husband and daughters, who share my love for travel. I also enjoy reading and volunteering with initiatives that support vulnerable children, drawing on my background in education and community outreach.

### WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

My faith, coupled with a deep desire to create opportunities for growth in others, drives me—whether through education, church service, or advocating for marginalised youth.

### PLEASE COULD YOU SHARE WITH US SOME INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR FAMILY AND WHERE YOU ARE FROM

We are based in the West Rand, rooted in a family that values faith and education. My husband, Vusi is a life-long learner and is pursuing his PhD, while our two daughters, Unathi (Grade 11) and Mbali (Grade 4), keep us joyful with their curiosity and love for adventure. I am currently enrolled for a Masters degree in Educational Leadership and Management and am busy with my research.

### IF YOU COULD HAVE DINNER WITH ANY BIBLICAL FIGURE, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

I'd choose **Mary, the mother of Jesus**, to learn from her unwavering faith and strength in moments of both joy and profound challenge. Her trust in God's plan inspires my own journey of balancing service, family, and faith.

### PLEASE SHARE A FUN FACT ABOUT YOURSELF

I once organised a "**Christmas in October**" event (at Monash South Africa, am a former lecturer ) for hundreds of vulnerable children, combining my love for festive joy and community care—complete with donated gifts, games, and a lot of laughter!

# SEEN *and* HEARD



## CONGRATS TO ADAM AND NICOLE

Congratulations to **Nicole and Adam Henderson**, cherished members of the St Francis community, who got married on the 8th of March. Adding a special touch, Adam's twin brother **Marc** travelled all the way from **Australia** to stand beside him as one of the best men. We wish the happy couple every blessing as they begin this new chapter together.



## LICENSING OF PARISH LAY MINISTERS

The licensing of our parish lay ministers took place on the 9th of March during the 8:30 service.

## WELCOMING ELEZAH INTO THE FAMILY OF FAITH

On 23 February, we joyfully celebrated the baptism of Elezah Oliver at St Francis. Surrounded by family, friends, and the wider church community, Elezah was welcomed into the body of Christ with love and blessing. It was a beautiful and heartfelt occasion, marking the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith.

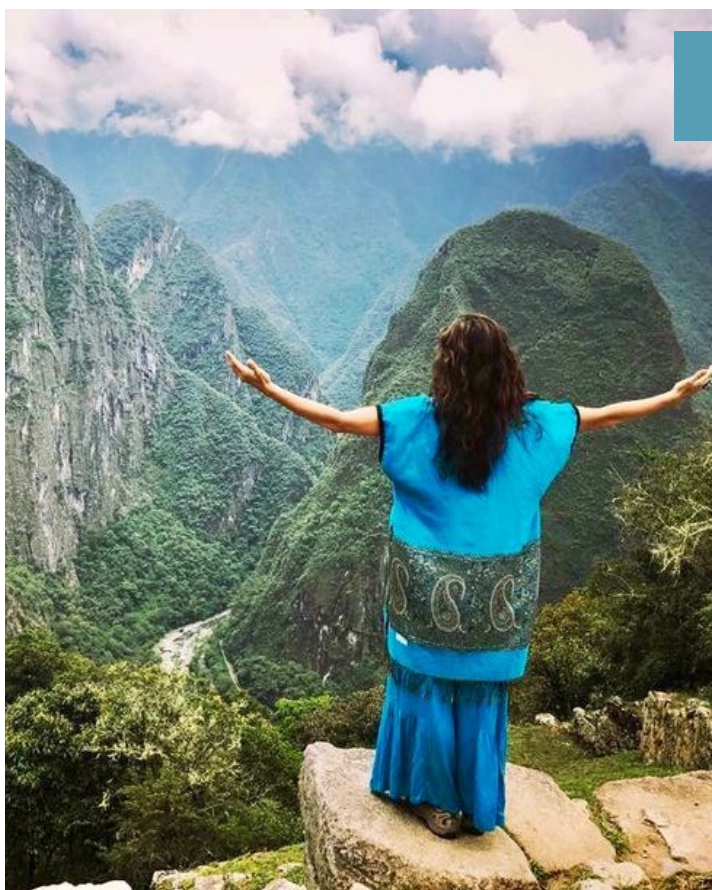


## RETREAT 2025 -SAVE THE DATE

We are delighted to share that **Diana Lawrenson** and **Pam Paton Mills** will be leading a special retreat titled *“Exploring God’s Treasure Within Me”* at the beautiful **St Lucia Retreat Centre** from **15 to 20 May**.

This retreat offers a precious opportunity to pause, reflect, and reconnect with the divine presence within each of us—surrounded by the natural beauty and stillness of St Lucia. Diana and Pam bring gentle wisdom and spiritual depth, creating a safe space for personal discovery and renewal.

Details about **cost and travel arrangements** will be shared soon. In the meantime, we invite you to explore the retreat centre’s website to get a glimpse of its serene setting: [stluciaretreat.org](http://stluciaretreat.org).



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL

At our recent Vestry meeting, we elected a new Parish Council to support and guide the life of St Francis Church. We warmly welcome **Mymie Vos** and **Catherine Bell** as Churchwardens, with **James Ridley** as Alternate Warden. Council members include **Dale Nolan**, **Ethan September**, **Euan Stein**, **Gayle Langley**, **Janette Webster**, **John Ridler**, and **Sue Armstrong**. We’re also grateful to **Darry McMullen**, who has agreed to serve as Treasurer. Please keep the new council in your prayers as they begin this important work.



Sunday 4 May @ 8.30am

**Johannesburg Bach Choir:  
Sung Eucharist**

Sunday 4 May @ 3.00pm

Owen Franklin, Festival Singers:  
Choral Anthems

Tuesday 6 May @ 7.00pm

**Chanticleer Singers:  
Spirit of Romanticism**

Wednesday 7 May @ 7.00pm

African Renaissance Ensemble:  
Birth of the Baroque

Thursday 8 May @ 7.00pm

**Apple Green Orchestra:  
Connections in Music**

Friday 9 May @ 7.00pm

Gauteng Guitar Quartet:  
A walk in the rain

Saturday 10 May @ 11.00am

**Ilze van Staden, Apple Green  
Ensemble: Coffee Concert**

Saturday 10 May @ 3.00pm

Michael Watt:  
Mise-en-scène piano recital

**4-10 May 2025**

**St Francis Anglican Church, 46 Tyrone Ave, Parkview, Jhb**

**Tickets from <https://bit.ly/stfrancismusic>**