

Third Edition, 2025 | Vol. II No.43

# The Franciscan

Anglican Parish of St Francis Parkview



Rectors Reflection Pg. 2

10 Things St Francis of Assisi  
has taught me Pg 4

ParkViews

Pg.7

# RECTORS REFLECTIONS WHEN CREATION CALLS US TO PRAISE

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Rectors Reflections	Pg.1
2.	10 Things St Francis of Assisi has taught me	Pg 4
3.	Financial report from Council	Pg.6
4.	ParkViews: Bobby Godsell on South Africa's National Dialogue	Pg.7
5.	Youth	Pg.8
6.	The Order of St John	Pg.10
7.	A Family Legacy at St Francis	Pg.12
8.	Seen and Heard	Pg.14

**Editors:**  
Cynthia Botha  
**Typesetting  
layout and  
creative:**  
Terri Miller

**Editorial and  
Photographs**  
The Ven Michelle Pilet  
Revd. Diana Lawrenson  
Parish Council  
John Ridler  
Cynthia Botha

In the context of the great Feast Day of Palm Sunday, when the followers of Jesus loudly and joyfully proclaimed the praises of God and the Pharisees in the crowd instructed Jesus to tell his followers to “shut up!” Jesus’ response was to speak authoritatively: “I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.” It would seem that the natural world is not dependent on us, humans, to make her aware of God’s existence and the inextricable interrelatedness with all of God’s created world and beings.

The Psalmist also acknowledges that nature is deeply responsive to the presence of the Divine. In Psalm 114:4, “The mountains skipped like rams, the little hills like lambs” are images of the natural world reacting with awe and praise to God’s miraculous power which parted the Red Sea and enabled the Hebrew slaves to escape their Egyptian oppressors.

St Francis of Assisi discovered the truth of the above assertions in so many ways, including through birds, sheep, a wolf, flowers, twigs etc. There’s the lovely story about St Francis, and his companions in Christ, walking through the Spoleto Valley, close to the town of Bevagna, when Francis’ attention was drawn to a host of birds made up of many varieties, including crows and doves. Completely swept up in the moment, he joyously ran up to them before realizing that his ebullience and speedy movements would probably scare them away. Imagine his surprise when the birds stayed where they were to receive Francis’ greetings.



Sincerely touched and awed, Francis asked the birds if they would stay and listen to the Word of God. They stayed and listened intently....what an example to us. Francis said, "My brother and sister birds, you should praise your Creator and always love him. He gave you feathers for clothes, wings to fly and all other things that you need.

It is God who made you noble among all creatures, making your home in thin, pure air. Without sowing or reaping you receive, God's guidance and protection." (John Feister, ST FRANCIS AND THE ANIMALS).The birds responded according to their nature by spreading their wings, stretching their necks and praising God according to their ways.

From then on, whenever St Francis came across birds, creatures, fish... St Francis didn't hesitate to call them to rejoice with him by praising God, and invariably they did. I wonder if today instead of a human of faith, or a number of humans of faith, are calling creatures to praise and honour God; is it possible that the roles have been reversed and that they are now calling us, humans, to praise and glorify God?

It would seem that the deeper we immerse ourselves into God the more likely it will be that the natural world will be attracted to us because the natural world recognizes, resonates with and is attracted to the "substance" of Jesus everywhere, including in faith-filled humans. This trust-bond feels sacred and is a form of "sacramental communion".

"UNTIL ONE HAS LOVED AN ANIMAL A PART OF ONE'S SOUL REMAINS UNAWAKENED."  
(ANATOLE FRANCE).

"THOSE WHO TEACH US THE MOST ABOUT HUMANITY AREN'T ALWAYS HUMANS."  
(UNKNOWN)



# 10 THINGS ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI HAS TAUGHT ME

BY DIANA LAWRENSON

St Francis, as we know, is one of the most loved and universally known saints. It is for good reason. As we enter this patronal month, I thought about his life again. His life was already far shorter than mine — he was only 44 when he died — yet I realise how much he has influenced us as a community and how much he has taught, and continues to teach, me. These are 10 things that come to mind. Perhaps you would like to add to them, or make your own list we could share?

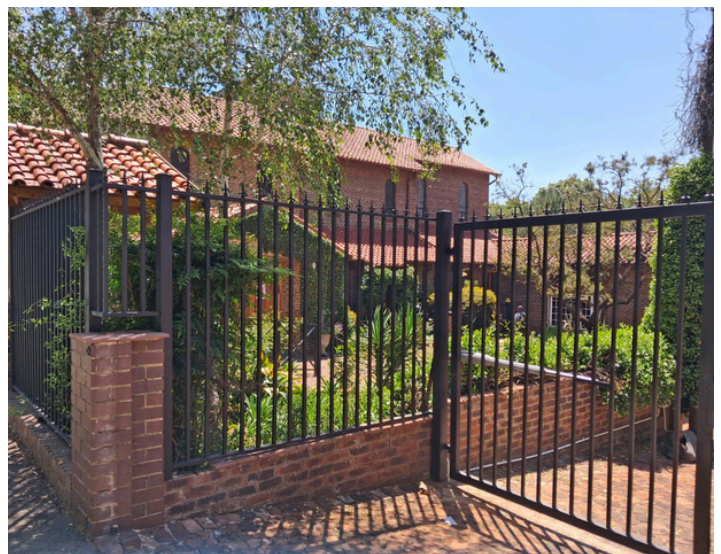
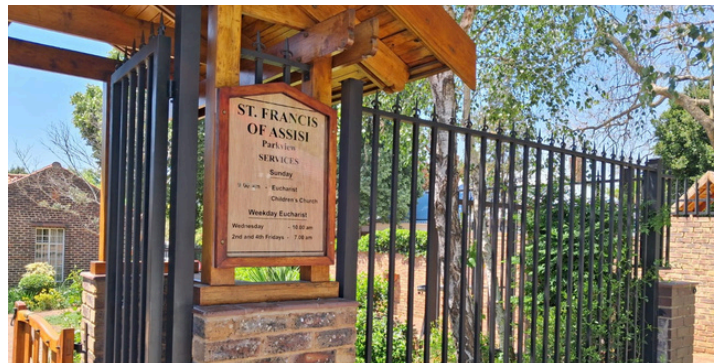


- 1** Being rich, popular, and handsome doesn't define the course of your life. The way you deal with hardship when it happens is far more likely to shape you, especially when you let God into this place.
- 2** Our lives, when they belong to God, may not always please our nearest and dearest. The bigger picture, however, may have a profound impact beyond its time — into a future so hungry for God's love and joy to be evident — that we cannot but be grateful St Francis displeased his parents.
- 3** How we are every day has a God-determined shape. Our faith is one to be lived openly and evidently, without too many words. Actions and the fruit of faith matter, and they tell more.
- 4** During the Season of Creation, we used a quote from Dante which says, "Nature is the art of God." St Francis was a major proponent of this. He saw us as being intertwined with God's natural world in an ever-emerging story of light and shade, joy and sorrow, big and small, invitation and daring — a story we should look at, see, notice, and celebrate.
- 5** Crossing the divide between different faiths and warring parties takes courage, a long journey, and sometimes being mocked for idealism. But its impetus matters and captures what faith motivates and calls us to be: peacemakers in the midst of divisive crusades that, in most people's hearts, long for an ending.
- 6** We don't need lots of clothes and stuff. Often the insistence of need is actually want — and that won't bring us more happiness, status, or popularity.
- 7** Sometimes God's instructions need to begin practically before we recognise their bigger story. When St Francis heard God say, "Rebuild my church," he started rebuilding St Damiano stone by stone — not realising that with the help of his faithful followers, and of St Clare and hers, they would actually rebuild the integrity and impetus of the institution of the Church to God's glory.
- 8** Poetry, song, and symbol matter. By creating the first Nativity Scene, St Francis reminded us that incarnation occurred before crucifixion, and holy birth gives us roots from which to grow, endure, and know God with us.
- 9** Prayers don't need to have lots of big words to carry meaning. What is important is their sincerity and their longing for more hope, faith, love, and peace.
- 10** Ministry that started in a small church on a hill — a long way from most things — in the hands of a fervent follower of the Gospel, a Christ-lover, and a people-and-animal-lover, had and has the capacity to stay in people's hearts and minds for hundreds of years and remind them that with God all things are possible.

# NEW SECURITY FENCE COMPLETED AT ST FRANCIS

A huge thank you to all who contributed to the erection of the new security fence at St Francis.

The installation is now completed. Alistar Findley indicated that the design needed to satisfy the security requirements whilst honouring the integrity and aesthetics of the existing architecture and it has done this very well.



# SUNDAY PEANUT BUTTER MINISTRY



After each Sunday service, members of our congregation gather to make peanut butter sandwiches for the homeless in our area. The ministry also provides the peanut butter itself, ensuring that each week this simple act of service reaches those in need. A heartfelt thank you to all who continue to serve in this ministry and make a difference in our community.

# FINANCIAL REPORT JANUARY TO END AUGUST, 2025 (IN ROUNDED AMOUNTS)

BY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish as a whole is thanked for its continued support of the work of St Francis. Thanks also goes to those who manage our finances so carefully. As you will see from the figures below, we have managed to stay above budget although in deficit. Judicial management of finances and heavy reliance on income from parishioners continues in the second half of our financial year.

## INCOME

Income was R1 957 000 which was R104 100 above budget. Of this, Dedicated Giving was R23 500 above budget but collections at church services were R5800 below.

Total donations amounted to R251 200 compared with a budgeted estimate of R164 000, with R243 000 being donations for specific purposes, e.g. the perimeter fencing project, social concerns, etc.

Payment for use of the Ellis Herbert Hall and other spaces is R8330 below budget and fund raising R11 900 above.

## EXPENDITURE

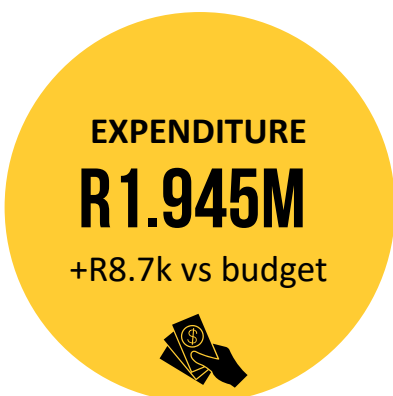
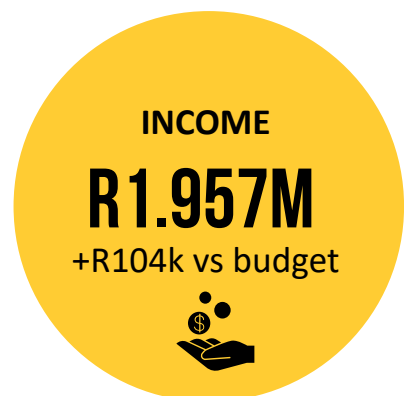
Expenditure totaled R1 944 600, which was R8670 above budget. The largest over-expenditure was R27 800 on utilities.

## RESULTS

Overall this resulted in a surplus of R12 3000 before tax, compared with a budgeted deficit of R83 200.

After tax, this became an actual deficit of R30 000, compared with a budgeted deficit of R138 600.

## 2025 BUDGET VS ACTUALS – AT A GLANCE



# PARKVIEWS: BOBBY GODSELL ON SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL DIALOGUE

BY JOHN RIDLER

ParkViews in September was addressed by Bobby Godsell, a respected businessman and public speaker, on the subject of the government's National Dialogue, which is currently underway.

The National Dialogue is a South African government-backed, citizen-led initiative launched by President Cyril Ramaphosa in 2025 to bring together all sectors of society to address national challenges such as poverty, crime, and inequality. The process began with a National Convention in August 2025 and will continue with community-level conversations, culminating in a second National Convention. The aim is to establish a new social compact: a shared vision for the nation and an actionable roadmap for South Africa's future.



Bobby Godsell is a member of the 32-person Eminent Persons Group tasked with safeguarding the integrity of the National Social Dialogue. This group also includes retired judge Edwin Cameron, Roelf Meyer, Dr. Imtiaz Sooliman, Dr. Brigalia Bam, several bishops, and Dr. Gloria Serobe, among others. Since July, the group has convened no fewer than 19 times.

Bobby assured us that meaningful change is already taking place in our beloved country and that this good news will be shared with communities, national organisations, and faith groups. We look forward to hearing more positive developments in the new year.

## CARING FOR THE GARDENS

Alice Newton and a small team are carefully tending to the gardens at St Francis. A special thank you to all who contributed bags of compost for this project. Some of the flowers have beautifully decorated the church during the Month of Creation.



# ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI WORD SEARCH

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



Find all ten words in the puzzle above. These words are related to St Francis of Assisi

Francis	Franciscans	Animals
Assisi	October	Simplicity
Beggar	Wealthy	
Italy	Poverty	

# YOUTH CORNER

## PEACE PRAYER OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Lord, make me an instrument of  
your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow  
love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are

pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born

to eternal life

Amen

# CRACK THE CODE

Crack the code using the letter/number key below. The Code will reveal a quote from St. Francis. What did St Francis mean by this statement? Can you give an example of when you found this to be true?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
12	5	15	21	6	16	13	7	19	1	22	8	14	17	2	24	9	25	10	3	26	11	4	18	23	20

19	3

19	10

19	17

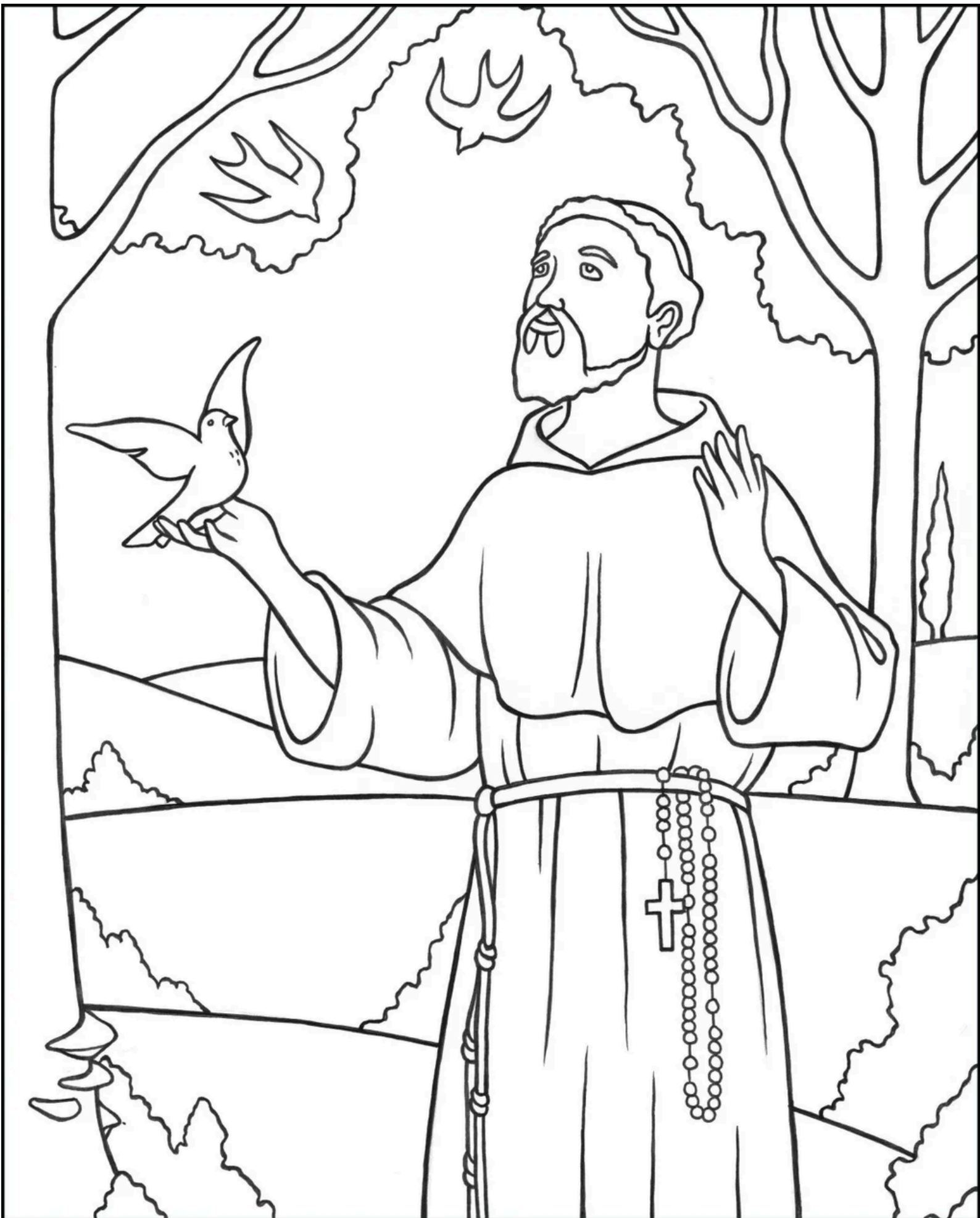
13	19	11	19	17	13

3	7	12	3

4	6

25	6	15	6	19	6







BY MICHELLE PILET

On Saturday, 16 August 2025, for the second year running, we had the privilege of hosting the investiture service of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John. This Order has a long and inspirational history:

“THE ORDER OF ST JOHN FIRST CAME INTO BEING IN ABOUT 1080, WHEN BENEDICTINE MONKS ESTABLISHED A PLACE OF CARE FOR PILGRIMS TO THE HOLY LAND, BE THEY CHRISTIAN, MUSLIM, OR JEW. THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WORKED IN THE HOSPITAL WERE LAY PERSONS, NOT PRIESTS. THEY WERE MEMBERS OF A NEW RELIGIOUS ORDER KNOWN AS THE HOSPITALLERS...

In South Africa, our work began in Makhanda (Grahamstown) in 1883.

Under the Lord Prior, the Order is developing a global strategy to ensure consistency and high standards in health care around the world. We promote physical, mental, and spiritual health and well-being. Our values embody the Christian principles of our founders:

*Respect · Unselfishness · Excellence · Openness and Transparency · Devotion · Togetherness · Diversity and Inclusiveness · Faithfulness.*

[Extract from the Introduction to the Service]





infused the singing with a richness and a gloriousness that was profoundly uplifting. Two other wonderful features of this Service were that Archbishop Thabo Makgoba was in attendance as the Prior of the Order, and that Mr Stuart Waetzel was received as a Bailiff Grand Cross.

Mr Waetzel was presented with a unique banner, created especially for him, to represent this great honour bestowed upon him by King Charles of the United Kingdom, who is the Sovereign Head of the Order and as such admits members and conducts promotions. During his lifetime, Mr Waetzel's special banner will be displayed in the Priory Church of St John the Baptist, Clerkenwell, London, U.K.



The Service imprinted upon me once again a reassuring sense that there is still great goodness, selflessness, integrity, and hope in the world — and that God continues to work healing of many forms through people, for people.



# A FAMILY LEGACY AT ST FRANCIS

BY DIANA LAWRENSEN

Geena and Jean-André Geldenhuys were married at St Francis on 19 September 2025. Geena is the granddaughter of Joan Stuart, who some will remember as an active member of our community.

We wish them every joy as they move to Cork, Ireland, where Geena has taken up a post as a doctor in Emergency Medicine.

When I asked Geena's aunt, Cathie, about the family's connection to St Francis, this is what she shared:

Both of Geena's grandparents' families lived in the suburbs around St Francis when they were growing up in the 1930s and 40s. Her grandfather's (Kelsey's) family lived down the road in Tyrone Avenue, and her grandmother's (Joan—always called 'Joanie' by her grandchildren) in Parktown North.

Her grandparents were confirmed at St Francis. Family lore tells of Kelsey walking Joanie home after a confirmation class when Joanie's bicycle had a puncture—but at that stage, they were more acquaintances than friends, and the families were not particularly close.



What is certain is that Geena's grandparents were later married at St Francis. Geena's mother, Diane, and both her aunts, Sheila and Cathie, were baptised and confirmed at St Francis.

Geena's aunts—Sheila with her late husband, Alan Thompson, and Cathie with her husband, Austin—were also married at St Francis.

The stained-glass window above the entrance to the church was installed in memory of Geena's paternal great-grandfather, Walter Stuart, who died in his 50s before his grandchildren were born.

Another stained-glass window was installed shortly after the death of Geena's grandfather, Kelsey. Like his father, he too died at an early age, before his grandchildren were born. This initiative was led by his brother, Bob Stuart, in conjunction with Geena's grandmother, Joanie.

Funeral services for each of Geena's four great-grandparents (Walter and Olive Stuart—paternal; Harold and Doris Goodson—maternal), as well as her grandfather Kelsey, were all held at St Francis. The ashes of all five of them, together with those of her grandmother, Joanie, are now interred in the crypt.



## A GIFT OF GRATITUDE



A surprise gift was received by Refilwe (our Social Worker), from one of the beneficiaries we have been assisting, as a token of gratitude for the support and belief shown in him. Through counselling, help in finding work, reuniting with his family, and restoring his dignity, he has found a new path. He shared his thanks to Pastor Fabian for his constant support, and to Reverend James for the work boots that helped him take the next step. He added, "I could not have done this without all of you in the Church."

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## AT ST FRANCIS

**11 OCTOBER**



**Walk in the Wilds**

9:00 - 11:00

The Wilds

**12 OCTOBER**



**Pet Blessing**

Call anytime between 11:00 and 12:00

St Francis Parkview

**26 OCTOBER**



**Baptisms**

08:30 service

St Francis Parkview

**2 NOVEMBER**



**All Saints and All Souls service**

08:30 service

St Francis Parkview

**9 NOVEMBER**



**Advent Mini market**

After the 08:30 Service

St Francis Parkview

**29 NOVEMBER**



**Advent Quiet Morning**

08:30 - 11:30

St Francis Parkview

# SEEN *and* HEARD

## CELEBRATING GENERATIONS



As our church family continues to grow, we are delighted to welcome three new little ones into our midst: **Olivia McCallum** (above) **Faye Kennedy** (below left) and **Leticia Nkunika** (below right), Each of these precious babies is a gift and a reminder of the joy and promise that new life brings to our community.

Faye Kennedy (pictured below left with Grandad Charles) is the daughter of Megan and Nick Kennedy and the granddaughter of Charles and Carole Ranger. Leticia Nkunika (pictured below right) is the daughter of our parish verger Isaac Nkunika and his wife Moless. Olivia McCallum is the daughter of Jess and Mike McCallum. She is the great-granddaughter of Amanda Van Ryneveld and the grandchild of Debbie and Jim Gaynor. The family was blessed with a special ceremony for her safe arrival just the day before (pictured above left: Diana, Debbie, and Jess).

We celebrate the arrival of these little ones with their families and look forward to watching them grow in faith, love, and friendship within our parish. May they be surrounded by the care, guidance, and blessings of our church community as they begin their journey in faith.





## CONFIRMED IN FAITH

On Saturday, 27 September, at St Thomas, four of our young parishioners were confirmed in their faith. We congratulate Thandolwethu Mbatha, Zinhle Dube, Cathryn Whittaker, and Kwezi Nhlapo as they take this important step in their spiritual journey. May their faith continue to grow and inspire others in our community.



## BLESSING OF THE NEW VOTIVE STAND

The new votive stand has been placed in loving memory of Grant Bain – beloved son of Gwen Beck, brother of Jason, and father of Ethan. The stand was blessed by Michelle on Sunday 29 September during the service accompanied by the family who gifted it to St Francis.



# St. Francis of Assisi Annual



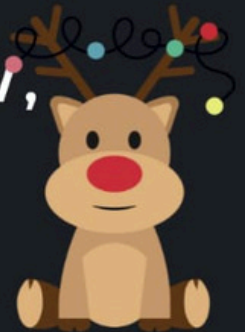
# ADVENT MINI MARKET

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF THE SEASON WITH AN AMAZING VARIETY OF STALLS SHOWCASING CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS, CUSTOMIZED EMBROIDERY AND APPLIQUED ITEMS FROM APRONS TO TOWELS, UNIQUE SHWESHWE ITEMS, PRE-LOVED BOOKS, PRESERVES, HONEY, CRYSTAL HEALING JEWELLERY AND STAINLESS STEEL ACCESSORIES, EVEN DELIGHTFUL TREASURES FOR YOUR PRECIOUS PETS!



**46 TYRONE AVE, PARKVIEW,  
RANDBURG, 2193**

**9 November 2025 10 am to 1pm**



ENTRANCE FREE

COFFEE / TEA AND CAKE WILL BE SERVED FOR A DONATION

