



**Easter Sunday
Procession at the end of 7:30 Mass**



The Franciscan

EASTER 2014
St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter

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Foreword

This Easter edition is rather thin; articles were slow to arrive because it was not certain in what format the newsletter would appear. At present the website remains unchanged, so the electronic version appears as usual in pdf format as an attachment. Only 40 copies are to be printed for those who do not have access to a computer and the pictures will not be in colour.

By the time the next edition (Trinity) is due towards the end of July, we hope to have the new website up and running. So do get writing and submit your articles any time in July so that we can have a bumper edition.

Jill Daugherty

From the Rector's Desk

My dear Parishioners,



Meister Eckhart says, "Now, some people despise the little things of life. It is their mistake for they thus prevent themselves from getting God's greatness out of these little things."

I wonder if these words do not wonderfully encapsulate our Easter journey. Way back in early March, we began with Shrove Tuesday and the immensely moving Ash Wednesday service of Penitence. Then followed the Forty Days, during which we entered our own desert of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving, as we symbolically associated with Jesus' own Lent. The Lent Course led into the drama of Holy Week, culminating in the profound pathos of Good Friday. The beautiful Service of Light on Holy Saturday night, when the Easter Candle was lit and we rejoiced with the Cosmos in the glory of this Holy Night.

On Easter morning we arrived to see a Church (bereft of flowers for six weeks) splendidly adorned and the Easter Candle flickering in all its majesty. The hymns pealed out the wonderful news of Christ Risen.

True, none of the above was 'earth shattering' in itself. Not all held equal significance for those who experienced them. Not all these events were attended by everyone. Yet each, in its own 'little way', opened us up to that greatness of God's glory – revealed in the Triumphant Easter story.

Think too of the Canon of the Mass. The Priest, bent over the altar, holding up the Host, speaks slowly but so clearly. He says: "This is my Body which will be given for you." Then he raises the Host above his head for all to see, goes down on one knee to venerate what, with those words, has been transformed. And so with the chalice filled with wine...."this is my Blood, the new and everlasting covenant....."

We see only these 'little' actions. We see only 'little' things – bread and wine. We see only a 'little' Priest (human and flawed like us). Our senses can take us no further. Another gift, like a sixth sense, comes to our rescue – FAITH. The result is the Greatness of God, revealed in Bread and Wine. So often, in Christianity, it is out of the 'littleness' of earthly actions, attitudes, human frailty and common elements – bread, wine, oil – that the DOXA (Glory) of God is manifested.

On Easter morning, it all spectacularly unfolds. God shows, once and for all, that EVERYTHING is different. The secular has become SACRED. The mundane has become magnificent. All human 'littleness' explodes into Cosmic Vastness. In the Risen Christ, death and living have lost their stranglehold over humanity. Our living and our dying have become the gateway to Heaven's Glory.

Through the Resurrection, this Risen Christ (now beyond time and space) gives back to us the now 'sanctified' art of living. And in doing so, our 'little' human living and acting become the means of Glory. God shows, through the Resurrection, that Easter is not only concerned with life after death. It also has much to say about life here on earth. Our 'little' deeds matter. Human life is both of the body and the spirit; in our present state each depends on the other. Life depends on love. Life gives love its real meaning and its purpose. After all, it is the only existence we know. In the here and now, we enter the Kingdom of God.

Easter does not take suffering away from us, nor does it save us from physical death. But both are now different, because Christ suffered and died. So on this Easter morning, as we rejoice in the unfathomable Greatness of Christ's Resurrection, let us continue to run with perseverance the race set before us, continuing to serve Him in Spirit and Him in others, through our now glorified 'littleness'.

We will be astonished at what Resurrection Glory will be revealed.

Voistinu voskrese (*He is Risen Indeed*) – Russian Orthodox Easter Hymn

Blessed, sanctified Easter living,

Father Timothy

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

Date of Baptism	Child	Birth date	Parents
8 December	Isabelle Brits	2 Sep 2013	Bradley & Terryn Brits
9 February	Kyran Symons	26 April 2013	Devon & Sherri Symons
23 March	Skye Rodger	20 Nov 2012	Christopher & Angela Rodger
27 April 2014	Hannah Shelley	16 Aug 2013	Nevin & Catherine Shelley
27 April 2014	Liam Shelley	16 Aug 2013	Nevin & Catherine Shelley
27 April 2014	Thato Mouers	12 April 2013	Masheane & Jennifer

Marriages

Date of Marriage	Husband	Wife
21 March 2014	Stuart Henderson	Diane Swanton

Faithful departed

Date of Death	Name
20 November 2013	Anke Dietzen
6 December 2013	Wally Lumley
4 January 2014	David George
February	Euphonia Mothibe

These Three Remain.....

I

Faith is a verb that
happens,
that breaks the bounds
of two dimensionality.

It springs from a page
and embraces me,
takes me by the hand.

Some think faith
is a naming work, a label,
flat and pasted on.

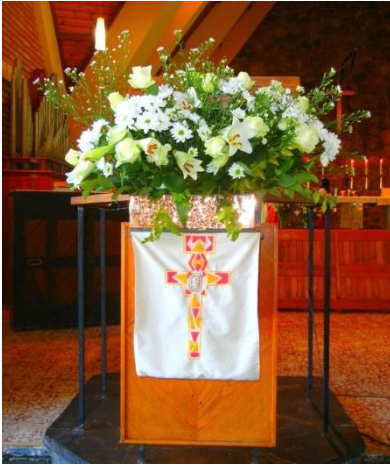
Some think it's a feeling
something to defend,
to set over against.

Some think it's an idea
to nest in the mind
and breed there.

No, faith is robust, flexing
quads and glutes and hams
ready for the road.

Faith moves out and on
not knowing the way,
but loving it.





II

Hope is a conjunction,
a joining word, that like elastic
stretches, no matter how wide
the gap of credibility.
It holds hands
with faith and love,
holds hard and
never lets go.

'till out of nothing,
something, better than
mind can conceive,
more than heart can know.

III

And Love, an artless word
beyond any defining or confining
to naming, doing or describing,
can, as it were, take
any place on the field
and play its heart out.

This love has a sturdy,
face-to-face quality, knowing
and being known
in an infinity of patience that dares
play hide-and-seek
in a limitless vault of stars.



**Poem by Evelyn Cresswell
Submitted by Martzi Eidelberg**

**Photos by Christine Lawrie
Easter Sunday at St Francis**

SEMANA SANTA DE MÁLAGA (HOLY WEEK IN MÁLAGA)

John and I were privileged to be in Andalucía for three weeks in April. On Palm Sunday, our first experience of the amazing Semana Santa religious celebrations of the Spanish people was in the small village of Cuevas de San Marcos, high up in the hilly area between Málaga and Córdoba. After unpacking, we had walked down to the square, wondering why the streets were closed to traffic. In front of the church was a crowd and, to my amazement, there appeared a large ornate float on which was a life-sized Christ figure, swaying to the slow footsteps of the invisible carriers.



A brass band with steady drum beat gave the moment a sombre tone, but in contrast the crowd clapped and called out excitedly. When this float stopped in front of us, I was surprised to see 24 young women coming out from the curtain which had hidden them. This was soon followed by a float carrying a figure of the Virgin, ornately dressed and crowned, under a swaying canopy, surrounded by numerous tall candles and vases of white roses. The band which led this procession had a much brighter sound, with clarinets and flutes. But it was men who had carried this float.

Maundy Thursday we were in the city of Málaga. The celebrations there are on a much larger scale. Balconies along the streets where the processions pass have red banners hanging from them; there are rows of

chairs on the pavements of the main route which have to be booked in advance; families with their own chairs line the narrow streets; the crowds are mind-blowing, the whole city centre is closed down and a holiday atmosphere prevails.

We had been advised to get to a set of steps by 4pm for a procession scheduled to start at 6pm, and we reached that point some time after! There was a festive air, the crowds noisy, kids playing on tin drums, the pavements packed and everyone remarkably patient. Our second wait was later, at 9pm, watching the procession from street level until after midnight.

The procession marking Christ's final days is headed by hundreds of penitents dressed in white, red, black or blue robes and tall pointy hats (*capirotes*) so they can repent anonymously, from tinies of not more than 4 years to grey heads, but the bulk are obviously young adults. There are also many female participants wearing splendid combs and mantillas, as well as clerics (but not many, which rather surprised me). There are also bands, soldiers marching, some singing lustily as they march chins-up, and crowds of ordinary people following in the gaps between sections of the procession, each representing a different brotherhood.



The floats, or *tronos* are huge, from 3000 to 5000 kilos and they are carried on the shoulders of more than a hundred robed men in 8 rows, pressed tightly together and all seemingly the same height. Some floats carry more than life-sized scenes such as the Last Supper, or Calvary, or the Scourging of Christ. The Virgin is alone, sometimes weeping, crowned and splendidly robed, with a cloak which reaches to the back of the float, surrounded by dozens of metre-long candles and hundreds of white roses. The route of the procession is nearly 5 km, so the stamina of the religious brotherhoods who inch along for hours under that weight is amazing.



What struck me was the splendid combination of the secular and religious. I know that in other cities, like Seville, the processions are silent and solemn, but we experienced an exuberance combined with reverence which seems to me beautiful. The floats are greeted by clapping and cheers, many try to touch the men or the float and children collect candle wax from the penitents. And the dedication of the thousands who participate in the procession, probably every year, is astounding.

This Easter, with its pageantry and haunting tunes, so different from our usual experience in Pretoria, will be one we will certainly remember.

John & Elizabeth Bojé

GOD'S LETTER

***You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts,
known and read by everybody (2 CO 3:2)***

(Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-18)

The central verse of [the above] reading implies that Christ must be recognisable, "readable" and understandable in our lives. When others read the letter of Christ in your life, they should not dwell on **your** qualities. The paper on which your life is written should undoubtedly be of a high quality: notably strong and smooth. But those qualities should only serve to make Christ's words more readily understood.

People are not supposed to be reading you; they should instead be reading Christ in you. Your life must be a letter, not about your own spiritual excellence, but about Christ's perfection. When people read you, they should not comment, "What a Christian!" If people praise you, your life is not really a letter from Christ, but from yourself. No, when others notice your life, they should be able to say, "What a wonderful Christ!"

When Christ uses your life to write a letter to people, they must be able to read it with pleasure. And it should draw them closer to Christ. It does not matter what your status in life is. It all boils down to whether Christ is writing something in and through your life. He can use the most humble life and the most worthless snippet of paper, a scrap that would otherwise be thrown away, for his letter.

Whether it is an ordinary girl servant of Naaman, the mother of a large family, or a wealthy businessman – all are suitable for Christ's letter to the world when he takes their lives into his hands. In Christ every one of us becomes a letter from God.

Prayer: *Make me, almighty Lord, your writing instrument in this world, so that Christ can use me in his service, to the honour of his name.*

If God can work through me, he can work through anybody.

(Francis of Assisi)

From *Closer to Christ* by S. Ozroveh

RECYCLING: Waste Group replaces WastePlan

The Door-to-door Recycling Collection Service, which many members of St Francis who live in the Eastern suburbs have grown accustomed to over the last two years, changed hands in March: **WastePlan** has been replaced by the **Waste Group**.

This initiative had been self-funded by WastePlan, a national waste management and recycling company and, according to Mr Bertie Lourens, MD of WastePlan Holdings, has been making a substantial financial loss from inception in October 2011. WastePlan had been aware of the financial risks of such a project, but had been of the opinion that it could reach a financial break-even point if the participation grew to a certain level.

“Over the last 2 years we have seen the participation levels grow from near 10% to over 60%, with the current total weight of recyclable material recovered every month being over 300 tons. Imagine one normal swimming pool full of recyclable material, and you will stare into more or less 3.5 tons of material. Times that by 100 and that will give you an idea of how much material is currently being collected and diverted away from landfill sites every month through this project.”

Unfortunately, because of the recent increase in fuel, transport and labour costs, combined with the need to replace the entire fleet of vehicles that was used in this project, WastePlan has made a strategic decision not to replace its fleet with larger vehicles and not to continue with this service, but rather to negotiate with another waste management company, with residential recycling as part of its strategic plan, to take over this service.

This is Waste Group – a Pretoria based waste management company with a strong operational footprint in Pretoria, which took over this service from March 2014. Waste Group was started in Pretoria 1986 by Dirk van Niekerk (CEO), who is also the owner of two landfill sites (Bon Accord, north of Pretoria and Mooiplaats, south of Centurion). The company has evolved from a traditional waste management company into recycling,

which is part of the **five R principles (Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Remove)** they ask all their clients to apply continuously.

According to Francois Marais, spokesperson and Recycling Division Manager of Waste Group, they have constructed one of the first mixed waste recycling plants in South Africa at their Bon Accord premises. The challenge was always to enable a mixed collection of recyclables at source to be split into the various categories which this plant is designed for. It enables the Waste Group to focus basically on two streams of collection product, namely wet and dry (recyclables), which make it convenient and very easy for a person to separate at source. While the Municipality is primarily taking care of the wet waste streams, they are supplying this free recycling service to the residents of Tshwane.

“We urge residents to motivate their neighbours and everyone they know to participate in this very important recycling programme. Landfill sites are becoming very scarce, remote and expensive, therefore this plea for participation”.

The routes at this stage stay exactly the same as in the past .They envisage rolling this recycling activity out, through the whole of Tshwane, all of which is not serviced as yet, during the next year, and will communicate with the residents of Tshwane which area will be next. Their call centre will assist with any queries, and will communicate with the residents via their website.

Residents within the collection areas are given plastic bags to gather dry, clean recyclable materials such as paper, bottles, glass, cans and plastics. Each week on the normal recycling collection day, this bag is placed on the curb-side for pick up. The bags are then collected, and the recyclables taken separately to a special facility for sorting and re-processing.

It should be noted, however, that **on public holidays no collection will take place and clients are kindly requested to put out their bags the following week.**

Residents are asked to remove tops, to rinse and flatten plastic containers and cans, and flatten paper and cardboard. Compacting in this way makes for more energy-efficient transportation. Full details of what should and shouldn't be recycled will be provided to residents in the designated areas as part of the ongoing communication by Waste Group.

The project is intended to divert waste away from landfills; it also presents an opportunity to ensure a cleaner and more environmentally conscious culture in Pretoria. For more information, please contact:

Waste Group call centre: 08612 Waste (92783)

Website: www.wastegroup.co.za



Nicky Ferguson of WastePlan Holdings

<http://www.wasteplan.co.za/news/door-door-recycling-collection-service-eastern-suburbs-pretoria-changing-hands-end-february>

If you live in one of the Eastern suburbs serviced by Waste Group, we urge you to make use of them. Phone the call centre to find out if your area is within the pickup zone and, if so, on what day of the week it is serviced. If you live outside the present pickup zone, find out when they intend servicing your area. I know that many of you do use the service – thanks for making the effort and helping to reduce waste in landfills. It also simplifies the recycling task of Waste Group. And finally, I'm sure you are as amazed as I am at how empty your municipal bin is once you empty it of all recyclables!

Don't forget to use the **Mpact Bin outside the Parish Centre for paper** – the church receives R200 every time this is emptied.

Jill Daugherty

Water – we are running out of it!

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, the Spirit of God hovered over the surface of the water. (Gen 1:2)

I will give to the thirsty from the spring of living water as a gift. (Rev 21:6b)

From the beginning of time, water has been in abundance, and has been the essential supporter of life. Along with the rest of the animal kingdom, man was given responsibility to prudently utilize the elements of the earth to support life.

What happened?

As man plundered the foliage, deserts grew, fresh water became scarce. Populations increased and demanded more water. No measure was made of the wastage, and supplies per person have been reduced.

Turning now to our country: our population has grown exponentially, and our usage of water has greatly increased. Sources of water which were pure are now polluted and unhealthy. Much of the population does not have access to piped water and is forced to use these polluted waters. Those who have piped water waste large quantities.

Statistics show that in South Africa, in the cities, water usage is around 240 litres per head per day. In Waterkloof, the average household uses upwards of 245 litres per head per day. The usage in suburbs such as Mamelodi is much less than this.

In Singapore, water usage is currently around 150 litres per head per day, and the nation has taken on the task of reducing this to 120 litres per head per day.

South Africa will be unable to supply its population and industries with water in less than 30 years from now, unless something drastic is done.

How much water do you use in your home per day?

Try to work it out –here are some figures to help you:

A **bath** takes around **80-100 litres** of water. If the water is run to waste till hot water comes, it takes more. How many baths does your household take per month? Divide by 30 and multiply by say 90 =

By Comparison, a **shower** takes around **45 litres**. Do the same sum for showering =

Toilet flushes take **9-12 litres** per flush. Do the sum =

A **washing machine** takes about **50-60 litres** per load. Do the sum =

A **dishwasher** takes approximately **25 litres** per load. Again work it out =

A Garden **hose** discharges about **25 litres** of water per minute. How often do you water your garden and how long does it take you? Work it out =

Also take into account **washing the car, the paving, the patio and topping up the swimming pool**. Work this out =

So, how much water do you use per month in your home? Divide this number by 30 and then by the number of people who live in your home – this is your household's daily water usage per person.

If you are on a municipal supply, and are billed by the municipality, pull out the water bill and read how many Kl (thousands of litres) you used last month. Compare it with your sum above, and decide what your usage is. If the municipal amount is greater, there may be water leaks (dripping taps, leaking toilet cistern valves, leaks underground,) which can explain the difference... or you may not have realized how much water you actually do use.

If you live in a complex, discuss the matter with your complex manager, and try to do the sum for the complex from the water account. Team up with the manager to encourage your fellow owners to do the sums of their own usage, and set themselves targets.

Are you satisfied that you are using the water of life prudently?

Why not set a target to save water? You will save money, and contribute to your country.

It's up to us: we can conserve the resource freely given to us at Creation and benefit ourselves and the country – and our grandchildren.

Hank Doeg

**Report on WELLNESS DAY held at St Francis
Sunday 23 February 2014**

Total number of people seen: 64

Males: 19 Females: 45

Those with BP above 130/90: 9

Those with blood sugar above 5-7mmol: 6

Referrals: 12



The event went very well, there was a good turnout. This indicates that there is a need for this type of service. Our health professionals were exceptionally good. Thanks to the Tumelong/New Start volunteers for assisting us with Voluntary Counselling and testing for HIV. They counselled and tested 23 clients.



A big thank you to Keneilwe Mmusinyane for organising the beauty spa ladies, who were doing pedicures as well as head, neck and shoulder massages. The clients really enjoyed it.



Recommendations:

1. Wellness day to be held quarterly per annum.
2. We need to form a committee, which can meet a month before the event day.
3. A cholesterol machine is needed: I have put in an order, but they are out of stock.

Thank you to parish members who brought eats on that day for our team and clients, may God bless you all.

Dorah Semenya (co-ordinator)

SPRING PLANTING TIME

First, plant four rows of peas:

- Preparedness
- Politeness
- Promptness
- Prayer

Next, plant three rows of squash:

- Squash gossip
- Squash criticism
- Squash indifference

Then, five rows of lettuce:

- Let us be faithful
- Let us be loving
- Let us be loyal
- Let us be unselfish
- Let us be truthful

No garden is complete without turnips:

- Turn up for church
- Turn up with a smile
- Turn up with a friend

Submitted by Fr Timothy

Irene Homes Fête

The Fête this year seemed to have far more people visiting than in the past, and the vibe was joyful and very noisy. On our table was an amazingly bright display of puddings: the first to get finished was a peppermint crisp tart, then a chocolate mousse, then the baked apple pies and malvas. I am always surprised that anyone wants a pudding at 8.30 in the morning, but maybe the break in routine is a good way to start the day!

The caregivers at the Homes are such wonderful people, and it is good to be working alongside them for a day. I am very grateful for the response to an appeal to the congregation for puddings, such as Carl's baked cheesecake, Heatherlynn's apple honey and many others I look forward to seeing every year.

This year we made over R5, 300, even though we are still selling three spoonsful for only R10. That was a lot of dishing out, and I am most thankful for the help of members of my family, as well as Jill, Veronica and Ursula.

Thank you all.

Elizabeth Bojé



International AIDS Candlelight Memorial 18 May 2014

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, coordinated by the Global Network of People living with HIV is one of the world's oldest and largest grassroots mobilization campaigns for HIV awareness in the world. Started in 1983, the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial takes place every third Sunday in May and is led by a coalition of some 1,200 community organizations in 115 countries.

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial is much more than just a memorial. The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial serves as a community mobilization campaign to raise social consciousness about HIV and AIDS. With 33 million people living with HIV today, the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial serves as an important intervention for global solidarity, breaking down barriers of stigma and discrimination, and giving hope to new generations.

For many organizers, community mobilization for the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial begins on World AIDS Day, 1 December, and ends with the international memorial in May. Organizations register online on the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial website to become official "coordinating organizations."

Memorials range from small community vigils to multi-day national commemorations. In addition to remembrance, many coordinating organizations use the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial as an opportunity to promote local HIV services, encourage education and community dialogue, and advocate for the advancement of public policy. Memorials often include lighting of candles, marches, speeches, dramatic performances, spiritual and cultural rituals, and a safe space for interaction and community engagement.

As a global coordinating organization, the Global Network of People living with HIV supports the memorials with a website, press release templates, fact sheets, digital posters, web banners and other promotional materials.

For more information see: www.candlelightmemorial.org/ and www.gnppplus.net/ (Global Network of People living with HIV)