

THE ST DOM CHRONICLE HILLCREST, KZN FEBRUARY 2016



(Established April 1991)

Mission Statement (October 1999) : Christianity through learning, caring and serving.

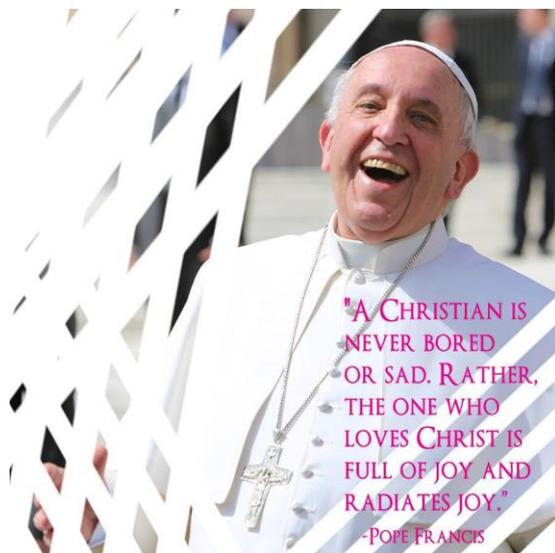
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Please take me home to read – not to be read in church.



INTRODUCING FATHER JOHN DALAIS : We are happy to welcome Father John as our “new” parish priest. Father John was born in Stanger on 24 May 1950, one of nine children. He says that his Mother with whom he had a very close relationship, had a firm control over the Dalais children, ensuring that they were regular Mass-goers. Father John grew up in Stanger, where the parish priest was the Late Father Kinch who many of you will remember as our former parish priest. One of his other connections to St Doms is that he was taught by both Doreen and John Butt at various stages in his school career! Father Brian, who took over from Father Kinch as parish priest at Stanger, had a large influence on Father John. He was a late vocation, entering the seminary at the age of 36. He spent 10 years at Ekukhanyeni, working with the Oakford Dominican sisters – a period which he says was one of the most wonderful stages in his life. He was then sent to Amanzimtoti as Parish Priest, where he has spent the last 13 years. He is totally down to earth – as he says “what you see is what you get”. He loves his animals – he has four dogs – but is very sad at having to leave his rabbits and chickens behind at Amanzimtoti. All his spare time (if a parish priest ever has any) is spent in his garden. He does his own cooking which he thoroughly enjoys. And, additional information, is that his favourite colour is yellow – the colour of sunshine. We hope that he will be happy with us and will enjoy heading up our parish family.



TO: Dennis Anderson, Timothy Anderson, Caterina Antoniotti, Byron Baxendale-Small, Antonio Bertacco, Stuart Braidwood, Justin Brotherhood, Mike Buckle, Adam Cahill, Michael Cameron, Anna Carlier, Rodney Carr, Remigius Chapanduka, Tiago Cipriano, Malcolm Cobbledick, Shaun Coetzee, Riccardo Colarossi, Michelle Collett, Kevin Collett, Kate Collett, Ann Cooke, David Coombe, Sarah Coombe, George de Charmoy, Banzi Dlamini, Josee Doherty-Bigara, Robert Embleton, Diana Funga, Dario-John Gaii-Minietti, Andrew Glenn, Douglas Goldblatt, Rebecca Gormley, Estelle Gregory, Patricia Gregory, Robert Gregson, Lynn Halstead, Jarrod Haynes, Zac Hickman, Mark Howard, Mikaela Howard, Shawn Hughes, Joan Hutchinson, Luke Janus, Bryn Jones, Krystyna Kalinowski, Mizpah Kelly, Antony Kerdachi, Whitney Kilfoil, Jonathan Kilmister, Jeremy Kriek, Anais Lim, Marie-Louise Lombard, Laura Luciani, Mbali Makhaye, Ashley Malcolm-Smith, Jean Matthews, Christopher McCabe, Robert McConnell (the younger), Ursula McDonald, Lynn McKenzie, Pat Meier, Mpilo Mfeka, Brent Minnitt, Wayne Mitchell, Nkanyiso Mkhize, Jessica O'Brien, Jessica O'Flaherty, Harry Ogilby, Maryanne Oliver, Caitlyn Oliver, Deon Olivier, Megan Palmer, Rebecca Peters, Lindy Phyfer, Renee Poole, Chayce Porter, Debbie Rogers, Jessica Rogers, Julie Ronald, Tracey Rooi, Ella Roos, Dieter Schauerte, Bernadette Schauerte, Marcia Schillaci, Troy Schulz, Eileen Sharp, Paul Sims, Greg Smith, Wilfred Sparks, Hayley Stellenberg, Natalie Stellenberg, Samuel Strachan, Chloe Stroh, Aimee Swart, Jamaine Thompson, Dick Thyssen, Cynthia Tigere, Jeremy Townsend, Katherine Trusler, Rob Upton, Michele Uren, Gavin Van Vuuren, Beryl van der Merwe, Gavin van Vuuren, Chantelle Velleman, Valerie Willemse, Mandiza Zama and Brad Zietsman. Our special wishes go to our parishioners who are celebrating milestone birthdays : Hilda Coombe, Stephen Macquet, Ntombifuthi Motha and Bradley Sparks who turn 40, Leanne Hikins and Leon Raymakers on their half-century, Karin Gigante and Terry Leeson who celebrate their 60th, and Anne Brennan and Elaine Cheesman on their 70th.

Congratulations!

- Warren and Daniela Davies (and grandparents, Jan and Krystyna Kalinowski) on the birth and baptism of Gabriela Alicja.
- Ryan and Nicola Mamotte on the baptism of their son, Joshua.
- Moray and John Thwaites on the marriage of their son, Kieron to Amy Paul in Cape Town.
- Pat and Mike Buckle on the marriage of their daughter, Astrid, to "LR" Botha.
- Chantal and Peter Hoar on the birth of Sophia Amy, the younger daughter of Stewart and Kate.
- Our 2015 matriculants, who take with them our very best wishes as they set out on their new career paths.
- Tony and Rose Cooke whose grandson, Michael Cooke, passed his matric with 8 distinctions and was St Henry's top achiever for 2015.
- Wayne Redman who excelled in his assignments last year and now is into the fourth year of his studies for the Diaconate.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY goes to

- Wally and Elaine Lage and family on the death of Wally's Mum, Florinda, who a number of you may remember from the time she was living in Hillcrest before returning to her home in Portugal.
- The family and friends of Coral Cunha who died recently.
- Diane Poppard and family on the death of her husband, Pierre.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS Pamela Bradley, Venessa Omarjee and Grant and Helga Lassak who will, we hope, enjoy being part of our St Doms family.

A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking, because her trust is not on the branch but on its own wings. Always believe in yourself.

OUR BEST WISHES go to

- Doreen Butt and Grattan and Beryl van der Merwe on their move to their respective new homes. Grattan and Beryl advised that, although they are now living in Doone Village, they will remain parishioners of St Doms.
- Frans and Ursula de Segrais, who are relocating to Sunwich Port near Anerley. They have been involved in our parish life until recently as members of the Social Life committee, the folk group and choir and Ursula was a money counter and worked in the repository. They take with them our best wishes for better health and happiness in their new home.

HOPE (From an article by Frances Correia of The Jesuit Institute of South Africa) Wherever we look we see signs of the brokenness of our planet and people – this is a reality. The other reality is that God's love, made manifest in Jesus Christ, is with us. In the midst of the brokenness of our world, in the midst of the suffering, Jesus comes. The reality that looks like foolishness, is that God's love is in the mess of our lives. God's grace is available to us now. How we live is shaped by our ability to be open and to co-operate with God's grace. Do I live in the reality of God's offer of hope? How am I called now in the midst of this broken world to live with hope, to live with generosity? How can I choose to live out the reality that the Glory of the Lord is shining upon me?



- To all the parishioners from Father Brian for your incredible generosity. He was totally overwhelmed by the Christmas and farewell gifts which he received.
- Lynette Kuster for the hard work she put into making up the beautiful scrap-book for Father Brian for his 75th birthday. Lynette says it is a "work-in-progress" so if you would still like to include a photograph and message for Father, please hand it in to Linda in the parish office or give it directly to Lynette.
- The Social Life committee members for organising Father Brian's bring 'n braai birthday bash and to everyone who attended, making this a really special celebration and truly an indication of how much he is loved by St Doms parishioners. It was really special to see "old" friends there for the occasion, amongst whom were Mary-Anne and Art Wanliss and Tony and Sue Grave. Who said the welcome they received really made them feel they had come home.
- Dev Rider for putting together the names of the various saints with prayer intentions, which have been placed in a box at the entrance to the church. If you haven't yet done so, please take a name out of the box to see which saint has chosen to accompany you through the year. Dev asked me to take a name for our parish, and our saint this year is St Brigid of Ireland, whose feast day is 1 February. Having been influenced by the preaching of St Patrick, she devoted herself to feeding and healing the poor and established convents in various places in Ireland. It is interesting that she has "chosen" St Doms in this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy and we are called, through her, to "Pray for those that Jesus is calling to greater generosity in following Him."
- Chris Reabow for taking the initiative in starting St Dom's Supper Club, which usually takes place, on the first Saturday of the month. The February Saturday Supper Club outing will be to Oscars on Saturday **13 February**. The Club has grown during the year as more parishioners have found it a most pleasant outing and a great way to meet other parishioners. Please advise Chris (082 8005650) or Linda in the parish office if you would like to attend.

- Liz Fenner who, until recently, headed the group of parents who teach the "littlies" at Children's Church on Sunday mornings. Our thanks, too, to Janet Turner who has taken over this important role.
- Judy Bruce-Brand who plays the organ at most Saturday evening Masses. If you are able to play the organ/keyboard and would like to offer your services, to give Judy a well-deserved break, please contact Katia on 082 7836396 or Linda in the parish office.
- Zoe Purcell for organising the Mad Hatters' tea party as part of the World Youth Day fundraising activities, those who assisted with catering and especially, to everyone who attended the fun event.
- To the "links" in the prayer chain and all the parishioners, from Frans and Ursula de Segrays, for your prayers, concern and loving support during his illness.

The annual public feed-back meeting of The Denis Hurley Centre will be held on Sunday 7 February at 15h00 at the Centre – all are welcome to attend. Safe parking is available in the Cathedral Car Park.

THE THREE C's (An extract from "Walk Hand in Hand Through the Gospels" by Fr Eddie Hattrick)

Lent is a time when we learn to say "no" to ourselves so we will be able to say "yes" to God and those around us. Lent is made up of three "c's". First, it is a time of choices – are our choices made in light of every word that comes from the mouth of God or have they come from our own desires and decisions? If our relationships towards others are based on respect for them and an honest concern and love for them, then God is in the picture. If not, then we can go to Mass and still be very far from bringing God into our real-life choices. The second "c" is about compromises. We are all inclined to want to stay on the right side of God, while still enjoying all our comforts, following the line of least resistance. The favourite word for compromisers is "tomorrow." Jesus lived in today. If Lent is about correct choices and zero-tolerance towards compromise, the only thing that can bring this about is commitment to Christ personally, a one-on-one relationship. For most of us our weaknesses are stronger than our strengths. The cure for this is to commit our lives entirely to Jesus to rely on His strength to overcome our weakness. Lent teaches us to see Jesus as a friend in our ever-present needs. It really doesn't matter what we may have done in the past. All we have to do is what the prodigal son did : return to our Father. God's greatest suffering is not our sins, but our absence. Once we re-turn to Him in our choices of how our lives should be lived; once we ask in deep trust to avoid compromises and commit ourselves to Him, we are on the right track. Our lives will have been Lent to Christ to be returned to us forever on the day of resurrection. It's all a matter of "C-ing" – choices, compromises and commitment.

LITURGICALLY SPEAKING

- ✠ The intention for the first Saturday Mass and Rosary on 6 February, is to pray for South Africa. Please make a special effort to attend.
- ✠ During the bi-lingual Mass at 08h00 on Sunday 7 February, which will be Father John's first Sunday Mass at St Doms, the First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion candidates and their parents will be presented to the parish. Please pray for them as they prepare for these Sacraments.
- ✠ Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place every Wednesday after Mass at 06h00 until 18h00. If you are able to dedicate a specific time for Adoration each Wednesday, please advise Dev Rider on 031 7652660. If not, please take the opportunity when you can, to spend some time at Adoration – Jesus is waiting for you.
- ✠ Ash Wednesday is on 10 February and for your convenience, Mass will be celebrated at 09h00 and 18h00. Please remember to bring your palms from last year and your Lenten resolutions to burn in the fire to make up the ashes.
- ✠ During Lent we will pray the Rosary.  before the start of each Mass so please remember to you.
- ✠ You are invited to join us at 18h00 each Wednesday during Lent to meditate on the Stations of the Cross. Please make every effort to attend, especially families with children.
- ✠ The Commissioning of the Catechists will take place at the 08h00 Mass on 21 February and the Life-Teen Core Team will be commissioned during the 17h30 Mass.
- ✠ The Assistant Ministers of the Eucharist would appreciate it if parishioners who are not able to come up to receive Communion, would kindly sit in the centre front benches as it makes it easier for them to bring Communion to them.

Please join us for the Parish Lenten retreat, which takes place from 08h30 to 14h30 in the hall on Saturday 6 February. Entitled "Blessed are the Merciful", the retreat will be led by Pauline Rosseau and Mike Hobden and is a wonderful way to start our Lenten journey on the right footing. Pauline and Mike are a formidable team - accomplished retreat-leaders who will certainly give us all much to think about. Those attending are requested to bring your Bible, a notebook or journal and pen and a bring and share lunch. We look forward to seeing you there.

SHROVE TUESDAY : Our traditional Pancake Evening will be on Tuesday 09 February starting at 18h00. Please bring the whole family along to enjoy a variety of delicious savoury and sweet pancakes in congenial company before starting our Lenten fast. If you are able to assist with donations of fillers, such as cooked mince, chicken a-lacking or veggie stew, please contact Colleen Kilfoil (082 5731726) or Zoe Purcell (079 5274708).

ST DOMINIC'S LIBRARY : Many thanks to the people who have donated books to the Library, the shelves of which are now full – so please no more donations of books at the moment! The Library, situated in the Meeting Place, has a wide selection of books by various authors such as Henri Nouwen, Scott Hahn, Joseph Girzone, Francine Rivers, and Charles Swindon. Maureen Emslie, one of the librarians, says that she recently read “The Way is made by Walking” – an inspiring book not only about the Camino, but one’s spiritual growth on any pilgrimage – perhaps a good book to read during Lent. There is no charge for the loan of the books and no fines for late returns – just as long as you record in the register your name, contact details and the title of the book and return it in good order. Please take the opportunity to visit the Library to see for yourself what is available.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS AND VIEWS

- Some exciting news is that the Flower Festival, which was postponed last year, will be held on 8 and 9 April. Entitled “To God Be The Glory”, the Festival is being organized by Helen Bellew and is sure to be the highlight of St Dom’s 2016 calendar. In order to raise funds to offset some of the costs of the Festival, Helen will be holding a cake sale after Mass on **7 February**. Your assistance in supplying cakes for the sale will be greatly appreciated. And, of course, a cake sale can’t be successful without the buyers!

- Unfortunately, due to various circumstances, Julie Boyce, who was instrumental in heading up the Edge team has withdrawn from Edge, but, happily, Chantelle Velleman has stepped into the breach. As Chantelle has been involved as part of the team from the outset, Edge is certainly in good hands.

- Other changes in the Christian Education programme are that Leo and Hilary Davis have retired from teaching the Confirmation class and have joined the LifeTeen Core Team and Stuart and Michelle Braidwood will teach the Confirmation class.

- Our first Breakfast Talk this year will take place on 20 February when our guest speaker will be Raymond Perrier, the director of the Denis Hurley Centre. Raymond is a most interesting and entertaining speaker so please ensure that you book early. Tickets will shortly be on sale at R30 each, which includes a scrumptious breakfast.

- The Society of St Vincent de Paul Central Council has agreed to fund the cost of food to enable the Denis Hurley Centre to feed the homeless on Saturdays, which means that they will enjoy a hot meal six days a week. Central Council has requested the various SSVP conferences, on a roster basis, to arrange for 8 volunteers each Saturday to work in the kitchen and to serve the food. This is not limited to SSVP members only so if you would like to volunteer your services for this very worthy cause, please contact Helen Bellew on 031 7168228.

REVELATION: THE KINGDOM YET TO COME is an intriguing study showing how the kingdom established by Christ in His Church is intimately connected with the kingdom of heaven. You will see how Revelation is more than an apocalyptic vision of the “end times” It is a revelation of God as our Divine Bridegroom and the Church as His spotless bride, forever united in a heavenly, holy, and mystical marriage that we enter into every time we celebrate the Mass. If you’ve always wanted to know what all those mysterious figures and images are about, this Bible study is for you. Starting at 18h30 on Monday 22 February, the Bible Study on the book of Revelation comprises 11 sessions which will take place on the second and fourth Mondays of the month in the Meeting Place. For more information, contact Jan 083 2357766

YOUTH TALK (Chainsaws and Humility) by COURTNEY KIOLBASSA adapted from the Life Teen website :

When I applied to be a Summer Missionary at Covecrest, I didn’t expect to handle a chainsaw. During work week, some of the missionaries created the obstacle course to be used all summer. One day, our group leader asked, “Who hasn’t used a chainsaw before?” Some of us raised our hands, ready to go to a different project. Instead, he said, “All of you, stay here, we’re gonna cut down these trees.” He started briefing us on safety measures and proper technique for using the chainsaw.

When my turn finally came, I’ll admit, I was quite scared, but not for safety reasons. I was prepared for handling it safely, but felt so inadequate when it came to doing the job well. As I approached the tree to cut it down, I tried so hard to remember all the little tips they’d told me. I didn’t want to look like I was incompetent. I wanted to do well on the first try. Unfortunately, I was not a chainsaw master right off the bat. I started to get embarrassed as long seconds passed by with little progress. I became even more aware of the people staring at me. It was then that another leader came up beside me, gave me some pointers, and let me have at it. It wasn’t perfect, but the job got done.

In prayer at the end of the day, I reflected on how I’d been embarrassed at my inability to be flawless on the first try. The Lord gently reminded me about pride: the way my pride causes this unreasonable desire for perfection in every task. I am quick to judge myself based on how well I do something, even something so simple as using a power tool. I remembered St. Paul saying to the Corinthians, “I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me” (2 Corinthians 12:9). Jesus pointed out that it was my weakness that gave someone else the chance to help me.

It is a symptom of my pride to take matters into my own hands. I get embarrassed when I struggle, because I know that I have more weaknesses than I’m willing to admit. St. Paul says he boasts gladly of these weaknesses; they allow Christ to swoop in and do His job! Jesus wants to do that for you and me. He wants to come up beside us when we realize that we aren’t the masters we pretend to be. He’s okay with that! I’m learning to boast gladly, because it is a great joy to have a Savior who knows I’m not perfect. He is perfect, and that is enough.

THE ALPHA MARRIAGE COURSE, which is a practical course for married couples of all ages who want to build a strong, lasting relationship or just to strengthen their relationship, will start on Thursday 18 February 2016. The course takes place over a period of seven weeks and guides couples through topics such as recognizing each others' needs, effective communication, resolving conflict, healing past hurts and other important issues which too often are swept under the carpet in the rush of daily life. The cost is R800 per couple which includes supper and materials. To register or to find out more about the course, please call Pauline Rosseau on 079 8958105.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT In the year 1915, just over 100 years ago, the average life expectancy for men was 47 years. Only 14% of homes had a bathroom and 8% had a telephone. The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph. The average British wage was £15 per year. A competent accountant could expect to earn £800 per year and a dentist £900. 90% of doctors had no university education, but attended so-called medical schools. The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower. Two out of 10 adults couldn't read or write and only 6% of all British pupils went to University. The population of Las Vegas was only 300 and there were about 230 reported murders in the entire USA. Can you imagine what it may be like in another 100 years?

LAST LAUGH : A priest was invited to attend a house party. Naturally, he was correctly dressed and wearing his priest's collar. A little boy kept staring at him the entire evening. Finally, the priest asked the little boy what he was staring at. The little boy pointed to the priest's neck. Realizing what the boy was pointing at, he asked him, "Do you know why I am wearing this?" The boy nodded his head and replied "It kills fleas and ticks for up to three months."

FEBRUARY 2016

	TIME	EVENT
Monday 1st	17h30	SSVP meeting
Tuesday 2nd	15h30	Catechism Tea for Grade 1 and 2 parents
	18h00-19h00	First Holy Communicant Parents' meeting
	19h00	Social Life committee meeting
Wednesday 3rd	06h00	Mass : Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 18h00
	19h00	Ladies Guild Meeting
Thursday 4th	18h00-19h00	First Reconciliation candidates' parents' meeting
Friday 5th		Start of the Retrouvaille weekend
	17h30	Power Hour including Holy Mass and Benediction
	18h30	100 Club Draw / Bring 'n Share Supper
Saturday 6th	08h00	Holy Mass and Rosary – prayers for South Africa
	08h30-14h30	Parish Lenten retreat
Sunday 7th	08h00	Bilingual Mass - Presentation of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion candidates and parents - Tea after Mass hosted by Gaby and Colleen Maitre Cake sale to raise funds for the Flower Festival
	15h00	Annual Public Feed-Back Meeting – The Denis Hurley Centre
	17h30	Dieter Schauerte hosting tea after Mass
Tuesday 9th		Shrove Tuesday
	18h00	Pancake Evening
Wednesday 10th		Ash Wednesday
	09h00	Holy Mass
	18h00	Holy Mass
Friday 12th	17h30	Power Hour – including Holy Mass
Saturday 13th	19h00	St Doms Supper Club - Oscars
Sunday 14th	08h00	Pat and John Daly hosting tea after Mass
	10h15	Hillcrest Hospital chapel service – Finance Committee assisting
	17h30	Tea after Mass hosted by Sue and Shawn Hughes
Monday 15th	17h30	SSVP meeting
Wednesday 17th	06h00	Mass : Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
	18h00	Stations of the Cross
	18h45	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Thursday 18th	18h00	Alpha Marriage Course
Friday 19th		Start of the Engaged Encounter weekend
	17h30	Power Hour including Holy Mass
Saturday 20th	08h00	Breakfast Talk – Raymond Perrier
Sunday 21st - 2nd	08h00	Tea after Mass hosted by Ashley and Sue Cameron
Sunday of Lent	17h30	Debbi Janus and Shannon Oliver serving tea after Mass
Monday 22nd	18h30	Bible Study – Revelation : The Kingdom yet to Come
Wednesday 24th	06h00	Mass : Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 18h00
	18h00	Stations of the Cross
Thursday 25th	18h00	Spiritual Life committee meeting
		Alpha Marriage Course
Friday 26th	17h30	Power Hour including Holy Mass
Saturday 27th	08h00	SSVP Packing food parcels – helpers are needed
	09h00	Community Services Committee meeting
Sunday 28th – 3 rd	08h00	Krystyna Kalinowski and Barbara Roy hosting tea after Mass
Sunday of Lent		World Youth Day fund-raising cake sale
	17h30	Brigitte Richard-Coombes and Wanita Black serving tea after Mass