



## **HOLY CROSS**

*O God, who didst mount thy Holy Cross  
And enlighten the darkness of the world;  
Vouchsafe to enlighten our hearts and bodies,  
Thou Saviour of mankind;  
Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost,  
One God, for ever and ever.  
Amen*



*Rembrandt – The Death of Christ – note the use of light, and how well it ties in to our Collect*

### **Preaching Christ Crucified**

Holy Cross Day reminds us that although we are often able to use the Collects, Epistles and Gospels to comfort and strengthen our people in their walk of faith, our primary message must always be the Cross of Calvary and the selfless sacrifice of Our Lord Jesus Christ for the sins of the whole world, the need for individual repentance, and a personal commitment to Our Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. This has to be our focal point as Priests and as followers of the Christ. Without this controversial and constant proclamation, our churches will become meaningless venues, devoid of the vibrant power of the Holy Ghost. Feed your people 'comfort food' and you will not create the spiritual athletes needed to 'run the race' that is set before them. Stroke them, and they will soon be asleep in the pews!

As we observe the events of the world unfolding, and see floods of mainly Muslim refugees pouring into Europe, I do not believe that the primary message of the church is being adequately proclaimed. All the talk is of humanitarian aid and refugee rights, and it will not be long before those people will have established themselves as a powerful *religious* pressure group in what were formerly strong Christian countries. Where is the voice of the church?

The fact that in Europe, most people no longer attend church is the fault of the church and the church alone. Christ crucified is *the* relevant message for any age, time or situation – for His saving and cleansing Death and Resurrection are the only hope for all of mankind.

As a preacher and minister of the Gospel, one can never be distracted by the pressures of any current situation into forgetting the primacy of the message of the Cross. The Christian who engages in an act of mercy for mercy's sake and does not strongly tie up that act with his or her proclamation of the Holy Cross of Jesus our Saviour as the motivation for their actions, is just another philanthropist at work in the world, and there are quite enough of those.

As a 'Church on the move' we of the Traditional Anglican Communion are steadily growing precisely because the Cross of Christ holds pride of place in our churches *and* in our preaching. The fire of the Gospel is at work amongst our people because we are grateful for His "*full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world....*" as our Prayer of Consecration so beautifully puts it. Lose that focus on the Cross - that deep sense gratitude, and the fire within the church will diminish and die, and we would be in danger of becoming yet another irrelevant Anglican splinter group, clinging to tradition and empty ritual for its meaning.

The Epistle for Holy Cross Day, from I Corinthians 1:18ff, reminds us that:

*"....but we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."*

Be fearless and resolute in preaching the challenging message of the Cross, and your ministry will be a blessing to all who meet you.

### **Some recent Diocesan events and news**

#### **Youth Outreach – St Andrews Mondeor**

The Youth of the Parish of St Andrew, Mondeor, built on the considerable success of their 2014 event and organised a superb Outreach Week during the July School holidays. It attracted hundreds of children and culminated in a service of outreach to the parents of the children at the parish. It was exciting to see young and old members of the parish assisting in registration, feeding and nursing, and as a community it made them stronger and more unified than before. The Youth of St Andrew's are showing true Christian leadership and are to be commended for their efforts.



*Every morning the children gathered for singing and prayers in an amazing hall*



*Learning how to pray – from other young Christians*

This highly organised event is entirely driven by the Youth of the parish, with the full support of the Parish Council. Giving them the freedom and authority to plan and budget an event of this size (and make their mistakes) has meant growth and development in a large number of young people.



*Ad Clerum 6.15*  
*September 2015*

### **St Mary Magdalene – Ga Rankuwa**

The Parish of St Mary Magdalene continues to go from strength to strength, and the Bishop's visit of Confirmation and first Holy Communion was a joyous one. The parish is ably led by **Fr Isaiah Molemi**, a fine and faithful priest, assisted by **Deacon Joshua Bokoba**.



Bishop Michael was joined by some parishioners from St Andrew's, Mondeor for the trip, and Fr Stewart Peart, Fr Dan Molwantwa and Fr Michael Phillips were also part of the celebration. All left the service with the sense that they had met brothers and sisters in the faith with whom they had shared a wonderful day of worship.

Fr Isaiah Molemi has built up a vibrant and committed community, together with Deacon Joshua Bokoba and his very efficient team of servers and Lay Ministers. The parish has promised that when the Bishop next visits, it will not be in their school venue, but rather in a place of their own. Every blessing to the community in this project, and may our Lord bless all their efforts in their service to the people of Ga Rankuwa



*The orderly and organised Parish of St Mary Magdalene*



*Confirmation*



*Proud family members look on*



*Deacon Bokaba, +Michael, Fr Molwantwa and Fr Phillips*



*Blessing the children*



*Children of the parish*



*A proud Molemi family on the Confirmation of Letlhogonolo*



*Confirmation at St Mary Magdalene, 2015*



*Ad Clerum 6.15*  
*September 2015*

### **St James Botshabelo, with St Luke and Holy Cross, and St Phillip, Bloemfontein**

These parishes continue to offer a strong Christian witness to the people of the Free State Province. Canon Jacob Masakala leads a good team of clergy, and he is ably assisted by Fr Barnad Lesenyeho and Deacon Phillip Semenyane.

This service was a meeting of the whole region, as Fr Isaac Moshoadiba came across from Qwa Qwa with **Fr Pule Daniel Ralejoana** who was Licenced on that Sunday. Fr Dan Molwantwa travelled with the Bishop, and found, to his delight, that he and Canon Jacob Masakala had studied together at Seminary many years ago, and had ministered in neighbouring parishes in the past. Their reunion was delightful to behold.



*The Altar Party ready for the Procession*

The service itself was lovely, with a beautiful Sotho Mass setting sung for the Liturgy. Canon Jacob Masakala is a fine musician and his choice of music always enhances the worship at St James, Botshabelo. There was a good group prepared for Confirmation by Mr Senatla, and many proud parents came forward to stand as witnesses to their children's Confirmation.



*The church was full on a chilly winter's morning*



*Fr Isaac Moshoadiba prepares the Altar    The Concelebration with the clergy of the region*



*Sotho blankets are sensible in the clear but biting cold days – The Mothers Union gather before the service.*



*Confirmation at St James, Botshabelo, 2015*



*Ad Clerum 6.15*  
*September 2015*

On the way back from Botshabelo, Fr Dan and the Bishop stopped in to see the new chapel built by Fr George Dimpane. This replaces his former chapel and can seat more people. Fr George Dimpane needs your prayers for his health, but his passion for the Gospel remains as fervent as ever.



*Fr George Dimpane - a faithful and dedicated servant of Christ*



### **Eastern Cape Region**

In Ad Clerum 5.15 we saw the growth and development of the Traditional Anglican Communion in the Eastern Cape region of Southern Africa under the leadership of **Fr Augustine Koliti**, their Regional Dean. We also saw the three new church structures. This visit was specifically for a fundraiser at St Monica's, Butterworth.

On the Saturday evening, Bishop Michael and Dalene visited the **Parish of St Francis of Assisi, East London** for sung Evensong and a social gathering. This parish is part of the growing TAC presence in the area. Most of the clergy of the region were present for the Evensong service.



Once again, we travelled to the **Parish of St Monica, Butterworth**, this time for the fundraising event and a visit by the Bishop and Dalene. The people were thrilled to meet Dalene, who handed over a beautiful set of Altar Frontals for the Parish of St Monica, made in her workshop, with the fabric funded by the Parish of St Andrew's, Mondeor in Johannesburg. The frontals were highly appreciated by the Butterworth community and the white set (Frontal, veil and burse) was used on the Sunday at the High Mass. **Fr Jongikhaya Gwayi** leads this fine parish together with a committed group of lay people.

The fundraiser was a high-profile event, with many visitors from all over Southern Africa, and the people of Butterworth had pulled out all the stops to make it a success. We were escorted to the church by traffic police with lights flashing, and they in turn handed us over to men on horseback and a brass band who took the entourage of vehicles right to the church!



*The greeting party of Traffic Police, Servers, the Brass Band and the Horsemen in the background*



The Mass itself was glorious, with wonderful singing in Xhosa. The church was packed to capacity and it was a truly joyous festival of praise and worship.



*The newly dressed Altar*



*The Concelebration at St Monica's*



*Part of the large congregation at St Monica's, Butterworth.*





*People coming forward during the fundraising programme*

After the service, there was a fundraising programme arranged, led by Fr Gwayi, and the people of the Eastern Cape Region raised a staggering R98,000 for the parish on the day! What a wonderful effort by the people of the region working together for the glory of God.

I do hope that you have enjoyed this *Ad Clerum*. It shows a dynamic and outward-looking church, boldly carrying the Gospel in all the areas where our people are to be found. The energy is tangible, and the passion of the people is infectious! It is a wonderful privilege to belong to a family of God made up of such committed members. Young and old are fully involved and engaged in the work of the church throughout Southern Africa, and we are moving steadily forward...growing from strength to strength by God's Grace.

May Our Lord Jesus Christ bless, preserve and keep you.

In Christ

*+ Michael Gill*

Bishop Michael Gill  
Southern Africa