

THE **G**ood Hope

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN • ANGLICAN CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



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Photographer: Malcolm Overmeyer

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Archbishop's Education Endowment Fund for Theological Education

Please support the Archbishop's Education Fund so that we can continue to train priests for the future of our church. Thank you for all donations received. If you would like to contribute please consider a donation.

A sum of  
R1 483 201.67  
has been raised thus far.

Bank: Standard Bank  
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## EDITORIAL

I've learnt this year, that change can be good. My family and I have had a few adjustments, the biggest being that my daughter moved to Stellenbosch to attend university. It was challenging for me especially as she only came home during the semester and study breaks. We wanted her to have the freedom to navigate herself without our interference knowing that she was fully equipped to make the right decisions. We learned to do things differently and stay connected. It's been a positive year of growth, newness and success.

Christmas is only a few days away and my family and I have opted for simplicity in our celebration, being mindful that many live in a different reality. So no rush or frantic shopping for us but to value our time together.

I hope that wherever you find yourselves on Christmas Day, that you are surrounded by love, joy and peace.

**Love and Light, Rebecca**

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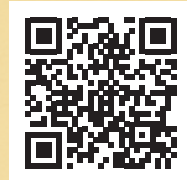
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## Events and Notices

### WESTERN CAPE SPIRITUAL DIRECTION TRAINING COURSE

The Western Cape Spiritual Direction Training (WCSDT) course is a two-year spiritual direction training program, starting in March 2024.

**Course Content:** The content and quality of the course follows international Spiritual Direction training standards but contains material specific for our South African context. The central focus of spiritual discernment is supported by input on various themes associated with good spiritual direction and practice based on elements of faith and theology. The course is intentionally designed to be applicable across all Christian traditions.

**Modules:** The course comprises eight 4-day modules (Wednesday-Saturday) to be held at Anathoth retreat farm, off the Bottelary Road (between Stellenbosch and Kuils River). Reading and tasks will be assigned in between modules.

**2024 Dates:** March 13 -16; June 5 - 8; August 21 - 24; November 13 - 16

**Cost:** R10 000 per year for 2 years (which includes a 4 day residential retreat in Module 7). Partial bursaries may be applied for.

**Faculty:** The faculty of the programme are all experienced spiritual directors. Expert subject presenters will also contribute.

**Applications:** Applicants will be expected to fill out an application form giving the names of two references who may be contacted, followed by an in-person interview. Applicants should currently be in a process of spiritual direction. **Applications close 15 December 2023.** For an application form or more information contact Bridget Leibbrandt at [Comunitas, Stellenbosch@sun.ac.za](mailto:Comunitas, Stellenbosch@sun.ac.za), or Judy Evingham [judyeveringham28@gmail.com](mailto:judyeveringham28@gmail.com)



## Bishop Joshua's annual Christmas Party



Bishop Joshua and Joan hosted their annual Christmas party at their residence on 18th November 2023.

**Photographer: James Jacobs**



Dear friends,

Advent greetings to you as we look with expectancy to Jesus' second coming.

As we journey towards the birth of Jesus, the Saviour of the world, we cannot take our eyes away from the suffering of so many people in the world. There are currently 40 countries are at war or in conflict around the world at the moment. Let us hold them in our prayers and especially the people of Sudan, the DRC, Ukraine, Israel and Palestine. How tragic it is that there will be no Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem, Palestine, the birthplace of Jesus Christ. It is predicted that more than 30 000 Palestinians, mainly women and children, might have lost their lives by Christmas. How very, very sad.

Yet, in the midst of this, Christ continues to be our hope and fortress as we pray for a better tomorrow for all God's people.

***For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)***

Our expectancy for Christ's second coming pushes us to be involved in proclaiming Him to the world by living in hope, working for peace in the world, being faithful, encouraging others to be faithful and spreading his love to all in the world.

We give thanks to God for ongoing growth in our diocese, that people still hear his voice and respond to it, especially to the ordained ministry. We are grateful for the lives of **Zukile Dondolo** and **Jeremy Smith** who were ordained to the priesthood on Sunday, 3rd December, at the St George's, Cathedral. We pray God's blessing on their lives and the lives of their family. We welcome home **Keegan Davids** and **Avron Flowers**, who spent

## From the Bishop's Desk



this year at the College of the Transfiguration in Makhanda. They were both licenced as parish workers in their respective parishes and we hope to make them deacons after Easter. Keegan is serving his placement in the parish of St Saviours, Claremont and Avron in the parish of St Cyprian's, Retreat. Please keep them in your prayers.

We are grateful that we can continue to send people to COTT and for 2024 we will enrol four students.

**Sithembiso Buqa** will be finishing his final year.

**Greg Amos'** status has been changed from non-stipendiary to stipendiary ministry, so he will spend next year at COTT.

**Ryan Baatjies** will be accompanied by his wife Nadine and daughter, Mia. They will be going for a year.

**Jesse Pastor** will be going for 3 years. So, the position of the YPM Co-ordinator becomes vacant and we hope to advertise early in the new year, so watch this space.

Please keep them in prayer as they allow their time at COTT to be a time of formation for the ordained

ministry. Pray also for the ordinands in our local programme and for Reverend Grant Damoes as he journeys with them.

St Luke's, Salt River, celebrated their 140th anniversary and one of the highlights was the admission of eight female servers on Pentecost Sunday. I also licensed their first female layminister on Advent Sunday. Both events are historical in the life of this parish, and we give thanks to God for Reverend Clifford Jones and others who made this possible.

As we are journeying through the 16 days against Gender Based Violence, we pray that we will reach a time when we do not have to highlight a specific time to make people aware of this scourge, but that we will respect each other's humanity and treat the next person with dignity and respect, irrespective of their gender but instead, allow the 'Jesus in me to meet the Jesus in you'.

We, as the Anglican Communion, continue to focus on the Lambeth Calls and the next one is 'Our Anglican Identity'. I would like to encourage each parish and individual to join the conversation by going to the Lambeth Conference Phase 3 website and join the webinar sessions which will be in February 2024.

I pray that you are having a spirit-filled Advent journey, which will allow us to have a blessed Christmas. Amidst our busyness, let us use the last few days to focus on the importance of celebrating Christmas and prepare ourselves for his second coming establishing his kingdom of love, peace, justice and fellowship here on earth. Emmanuel! God with us!

I will be on leave from 27th December 2023 and return to the office the beginning of February 2024.

Joan and I wish you and your family a blessed and joyous Christmas season. **+Joshua Table Bay**



The Institution Service of the **Revd Miseka Mapukata** as rector of the Parish of St Peter's, Hout Bay took place on Sunday 26 November 2023.

In celebration of Revd Miseka's licensing, a tree was planted.

## New Diocese of Cape Town website



Our updated and improved website went live in November 2023. It's POPIA compliant and a great source of information. It's still a work in progress with minor details we are attending to. There are still outstanding church building photographs. Numerous requests were made for a photograph to be taken and emailed to [malambor@ctdiocese.org.za](mailto:malambor@ctdiocese.org.za)

Please visit our website: [www.ctdiocese.org.za](http://www.ctdiocese.org.za) - **Rebecca Malambo**

## Diocesan and Order of Simon of Cyrene Awards



**Mr Claude Baron's** dedication to God has allowed him to serve the church and his community. He received the Diocesan Award at the Service of Ordination. For the past 54 years, Mr Baron has served as the organist in residence at All Saints Church Lansdowne. He seldom ever missed a Eucharist, Morning Prayer, marriage or funeral, or any other kind of collective worship throughout this time. His extraordinary musical ability has helped the neighbourhood church and other ministry organisations. Many of the people he taught went on to participate in choirs and music organisations. His adaptability made it possible for generations to connect through both traditional and modern music and his extraordinary talent greatly helped the younger generation. The folks he mentored benefited greatly. Among his accomplishments are two musical renditions of the Holy Eucharist and a modern rendition of The Prayer of Africa. He also received the Licentiate in Music degree from Trinity College in London. - **Fazlin van Dayar**



**Mrs Lucille Henniker** has been a member of the Anglican Women's Fellowship (AWF) for a number of years and also served as its Provincial President. She is a member of All Saints Plumstead. Lucille received the Order of Simon of Cyrene, the highest award given by the Anglican Church of Southern Africa to laity for distinguished service. It was established in 1960, during the tenure of Archbishop Joost de Blank, following a proposal by Bishop Robert Selby Taylor.

**Photographer: Malcolm Overmeyer**

## New Minister General for the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis

The Revd Fr Prof Michael Twum-Darko, the former Minister Provincial – Africa Province, was elected as the new Minister General (MG) of the Worldwide Third Order of the Society of St Francis in the Anglican Communion. Michael becomes the first black African to ascend to this position since the establishment of the Third Order over 800 years ago. The Third Order seeks to follow the teachings and example of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, emphasising simplicity, poverty, humility and service to others.



Michael, who assumes the "functional head" and "servant" of the worldwide Anglican Franciscan movement which brings together "men and women, clergy or lay, called to a lifelong discipline and vow," succeeds the Revd Canon John Heberton, the vicar of Gate Pa, Tauranga, in New Zealand's North Island's Bay of Plenty.

Michael was elected at the recent Inter-Provincial Third Order Chapter (IPTOC), which was held at the High Leigh Conference Centre in South-East England. IPTOC is a gathering held every 6 years of ministers provincial and representatives of the order's five provinces: the Pacific (Aotearoa-New Zealand and Polynesia with Melanesia), Americas, Europe, Africa, and the Asia Pacific (Australia, Papua New Guinea and East Asia).

The new MG is responsible for co-ordinating the interprovincial life of the Third Order, convening its meetings of ministers and calling the next IPTOC meeting in 2029. The MG will also be responsible for implementing the decisions taken at the recent IPTOC meeting.

In his response to his election, Michael said, "I am humbled by your decision to allow me to be your Minister General and I am honoured by the opportunity to work with you across the five provinces. Pray with me always that I will be a listener to you and the Holy Spirit to be able to do my part." Addressing the IPTOC delegates at his first meeting as MG, Michael said, "The time has come for Franciscans in their different calling to facilitate programmes that will reinvent or re-imagine the Anglican church by making Franciscan spirituality an integral part of Anglican Spirituality to revive and drive St Francis and St Clare agenda of living the Gospel and living it simply."

Michael became a member of the Third Order, Society of St Francis in 2006, was professed as a tertiary in 2008, was the local Cape Town Group chaplain from 2004 to 2015 and the Minister Provincial – African Province from 2015 to 2022.

Today, there are over a half-million Franciscans worldwide in the Christian communities, including First Order brothers and sisters who live a celibate life in their respective communities. •

# Reflections from Revds Jeremy and Zukile during their first year of Curacy



**Revd Jeremy Smith:** The 1st of December marks one year of my curacy at Christ Church Constantia. As I reflect on the last 12 months I am thankful for the opportunities I was afforded in my placement parish. The liturgical calendar combined with the Anglican Prayer Book serves as fantastic means of immersing oneself into the rhythms of the church and a pace for ministry. These two agencies have allowed me to regulate and process the space I find myself in as a newly ordained person. My first 2 months were during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany and these seasons exposed me to the latitude of Christ Church Constantia. I had one instruction, "get to know people, be present and listen to people". I was a bit annoyed at the sedate pace at first but it was very beneficial as I look in hindsight. I could so easily have put the cart before the horse and so got off to a disastrous start.

The liturgical calendar which we are accustomed to and journey through annually frames my reflection. I started in Advent 2022 and the year has come full circle as we enter the Advent again. Upon my arrival at Christ Church I observed and enjoyed the variety, diversity, the attention to detail, attention to people and relationships. Arriving in December and January can be very disorientating for a newcomer, you don't understand processes, the anecdotes or references of the people and it's a bit confusing at first. The role as curate naturally lends itself to certain expectations and responsibilities and I found myself a bit out of my comfort zone as I needed to become familiar with the unfamiliar. I needed to build trust and, 'there is no better time than the present', so I threw myself in and immersed myself into my placement. My very first official duty one or two days into December was to co-lead evening prayer with the Rector as the Archbishop of Cape Town and Archbishop of Canterbury arrived for Evening Prayer during a visit and Christ Church Constantia was the stop before they continued their journey. I hold this as my first Christ Church Constantia memory and one I will forever cherish.

The trajectory of ministry continued and soon I was given opportunities to read lessons, do the synaxis, preach and perform other lay minister duties before my ordination. I was ordained as a deacon on the 12th February at St. Mary Magdalene in Gugulethu. This initial ordination was affirming and deeply significant for me as it gave me a sense of focus for this new way of life. I vividly remember the ceremony. I remember being surrounded by loved ones, family, friends and a community of faithful witnesses who came to see me take my oath. I see God's grace, within my call and the opportunities to share in God's love with the community I am with and others I will be part of. I look forward to this journey with curiosity and a sense of humility. I am amazed at how quickly the time has gone. My time at Christ Church Constantia has been filled with much learning and exposure to a way of life with people and parish. There has been opportunities to participate in baptism services, training candidates for confirmation, a confirmation service, funeral/memorial services, visiting and praying with the sick,

hospital visitations, retirement home Eucharist services, celebrating the Major Feast days of the Church, daily offices, meeting clergy and other ministries, developing my leadership and administrative skills, understanding church process and procedures, personal reading and reflection. These have been moments of great discovery and at times challenging as I assimilate and re-imagine ministry and ministry practices for myself.

In closing, I am hopeful and grateful for family, friends and for spaces of learning - communities, churches, parishes, organizations, strangers and fellow pilgrims who have shaped my identity, personality, spirituality, leadership and humanity this year. It's with mixed feelings that I look forward toward my ordination on the 3rd December. I wish to acknowledge my late parents, late mentor and pastor friend, current mentors and those who walk beside me. Finally, to my wife and daughter, thank you for your love and genuine support and doing this with me. Your love and support have been a constancy during this year.



**Revd Zukile Dondolo:** In contrast to 2022, where I spent the year at the tranquil campus of College of Transfiguration in Makhandha/Grahamstown, in an environment which is ever inviting for meditation and prayer. This past year has been a very eventful one for me and my family. Last year in November 2022, I came back to the sad news of my younger brother passing on.

As of 1st December 2022 we joined St Marks District Six, Cape Town, where I served as a Lay worker until I was ordained deacon in February 2023. Our first service was on Advent Sunday. From day one we really felt welcomed not only did we receive a welcome gift and flowers we were also asked to join the Advent Breakfast fundraiser; our tickets were sponsored by the rector. We really enjoyed the Advent and Christmas services. Adjusting to a new routine at home was a bit of struggle.

Since my ordination as deacon, I had to quickly adapt to my new role as an ordained person. I now had to accept and acknowledge that when people are saying Reverend/mfundisi, they are referring to me. I must admit I am still getting used to it, although at times I am quick to put a disclaimer that I am and still Reverend Mr. until I've earned myself a title of Dr. This has presented as a challenge for those people who have known me from the Anglican Youth Fellowship days as they were used in calling me Mr. D!

I've learnt a lot from my training rector, the Revd Grant Walters, whose responsibilities, at short notice, had to extend to that of being Acting Provincial Executive Officer (PEO). Over above being rector of the 2 churches of St. Marks D6 and St Bartholomew, Walmer Estate, held in plurality. With all these odds added together this has presented me, as curate, with a unique learning experience. **continues on page 7**



We celebrate the Advent of the Prince of Peace this year in violent and distressing conditions – war in the Holy Land, Sudan and Ukraine, to name but a few, and tough economic times at home.

The siege of Gaza has led many to call for a “Black Christmas” in Bethlehem, where Jesus was born and which, being on the West Bank of the Jordan River, has in recent weeks experienced an upsurge of conflict and killings associated with the fighting in Gaza.

During our own struggle against oppression, when people were being killed in many of our townships in the 1980s, we also discussed observing a Black Christmas, curtailing our celebrations out of respect for those who were suffering. At that time, we drew a clear distinction between boycotting the secular, profit-making commercial celebration of the season – which was appropriate to the times – and our celebration in church of the birth of our Saviour and Redeemer – which we continued to insist upon.

## Ad Laos to the people of God



So this Advent season, let us focus our prayers, our giving and our concern on those who suffer, whether it is the poorest of the poor in our own communities and country, or those around the world driven from their homes, displaced from their communities, tending to the wounded and mourning the dead.

Then, in Anglican tradition, let us begin the Season of Christmas when it should begin, on Christmas Day, by joyfully celebrating the birth of him who is the hope of the world, more especially in times of darkness and despair.

A blessed, peaceful and very happy Christmas to each and every one of you!

Nevertheless, the clear distinction we draw as Anglicans between the Season of Advent and the Season of Christmas can help us respond appropriately to the demands of our time. Advent, which we are observing now, is a time of reflection, of contemplation, as we prepare for the coming of our Lord.

**++ Archbishop Thabo Cape Town**

## Archbishop Thabo wins the AACC Human Rights Award



The AACC Ceta human rights award aims at motivating all people to promote human rights by highlighting role models whose work for human rights is worth emulating. *Here is an edited extract from Archbishop Thabo's acceptance speech:*

"To God be the glory! Thank you so much, I am humbled and deeply touched by the affirmation and honour of being the recipient of this prestigious AACC Human Rights Award.

In one of my responses to the interviewers, I said that "At the heart of the church's advocacy of Democracy, Human Rights, Good Governance and the Rule of Law is our care for God's people, for their welfare, their safety and their inclusion in the kind of economic and social development which

will ensure the abundant life which our Saviour promises them." For me, my public ministry over the years has centred on carrying out walks of witness and working within a prophetic theological framework which I call the new struggle.

It is my hope that as recipient of this Award, I will continue to play my part and that the existence of the Award will ensure that we all continue to give a high priority to working to ensure that the God-given rights of all God's children, in Africa and beyond, are respected by governments and other actors in society.

Africa, my home and my future, I thank you."

*To read the full text: [www.anglicanchurchsa.org.za](http://www.anglicanchurchsa.org.za)*

## New Bishop for the Diocese of False Bay

On 24th November 2023, an Elective Assembly of the Diocese of False Bay elected the Revd Canon Stafford Moses as their new Bishop.

Please pray for him, for his wife, Bishop Yvette Moses of the Cape of Good Hope District of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, and their wider families as they prepare for his Consecration and Installation.

- **The Revd Grant Walters** Provincial Executive Officer



**Revd Zukile reflection from page 5:** Up until Easter I was solely based/focused on St Mark's D6, which meant I was able to follow through the Lenten course and Easter programme while getting to know the people of D6. From after Easter, I have been able to lead worship and preach in both parishes.

I have further gained exposure in conducting home and hospital visits, baptism and baptism preparation, wedding preparation and renewal of vows, funerals/cremation and, for the first time, I even conducted one at a crematorium which was something new in my context, as most funerals I have experienced are from the church. I've also seen the value of leading bible studies and conducting meetings.

Although most parishioners live far from the church, the parish remains abuzz with activity. As my current rector moves to the Provincial Office at Bishopscourt as PEO, I am ever grateful to him for all he has taught me and look forward to work with the new rector designate.

## First woman layminister licensed at St Luke's Salt River



The first woman layminister, Sandra Phillips was licensed at St Luke's Salt River by Bishop Joshua Louw on 3rd December 2023, together with Trevor, Denver and Lyle.

## Archbishop Stephen Brislin visits Manenberg



On 30 September the Catholic Archbishop of Cape Town, Stephen Brislin, was amongst twenty one new Cardinals made by Pope Francis.

His Eminence Stephen Brislin is no stranger in Cape Town as he is always seen at the forefront, promoting the importance of strengthening ecumenical bonds amongst churches, as well as other faith-based organizations.

On 19 November the parish of Reconciliation, Manenberg, had the gracious privilege of being visited by Cardinal Stephen Brislin during our morning service.

*continues on page 8*

## Composting 2023 – THE YEAR OF THE TREE

The most important thing about having your own garden, be it a huge garden or a small container garden with two pot plants, is that the soil has to be receptive to the rain or irrigation that it needs.

Loose acidic sandy soils, like the soil found here on the Cape Flats, won't receive God's gift of water any more than an acidic heart will receive God's word.

There's only one thing that will make the soil receptive to growing good grass or flowers or herbs or fruit and vegetables for your family or community to harvest.

You've got to spread compost on the soil.

One of the most common ways to use compost is to add it to the soil. Compost can be mixed into established flower or vegetable gardens in spring or autumn replenish any nutrients that plants used up during the previous season. Alternatively, compost can be added to areas in your garden that are too heavy in clay or sand.

Compost is a mixture of ingredients used as plant fertilizer and to improve soil's physical, chemical and biological properties. It is commonly prepared by decomposing plant and food waste, by recycling organic materials and adding manure.

Compost improves the structure and health of your soil and helps the soil retain moisture and nutrients. It also attracts beneficial organisms to the soil and reduces the need for pesticides and fertilizers.

Recycling food and other organic waste into compost provides a range of environmental benefits, including improving soil health, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, recycling nutrients and mitigating the impact of droughts.

Compost starts off as waste, as garbage or as refuse. But when added to the soil it will produce the juiciest, tastiest fruit and vegetables...

Whether you create your own compost heap or bin or whether you have your own worm farm, the analogy with our own human life is exact.

Jesus says, "this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are heavy of hearing and their eyes they have closed, lest they should perceive with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn for me to heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see and your ears, for they hear." That means that those who reject the teaching of Christ cannot receive the grace that he pours on us daily, whether there's blessings in the forecast or not. But those who are open to the teaching of Christ have prepared their souls, much like properly prepared soil, as they too will receive their blessings. - **Jacqueline Zils**

# World Aids Day

## 2023 Theme: 'Let communities lead'

A day like no other! As Fikelela transitions from handing over our prevention work and support group ministries to the Anglican Diocese of Cape Town, our key focus will be the Fikelela Child and Youth Care Centre in Khayelitsha.

The harsh reality of children at our home being infected and affected by HIV & AIDS, abused, neglected, abandoned, vulnerable and at risk, offering us the opportunity to action "let communities lead", made our role much easier this year.

Dressed in different colour t-shirts, with positive messages, our children wore toques with the words of the fruits of the spirits. The older ones wore aprons displaying aids ribbons, volunteers and staff, wearing khangas draped over their heads or tied around the bodies, as a sign of solidarity with those living with HIV & AIDS. We were determined to be a visible presence within our community and in supporting our children.

Our concern was the reaction of the community as we left the gates of Fikelela singing, "We are marching in the light of God", neighbours came out, peeping through their gates or watching from over the wall, as we marched to highlight, as Fikelela, that we are leading our community and celebrating World Aids



Day. We stood on the side-walk for at least 15 minutes displaying our messages of hope while singing alongside our children and being proud of the unity together with our volunteer organisation, African Impact.

As we headed back to our facility we gave thanks to God for that moment of awareness as well as for God's protection. Inside the centre we continued our aim in creating awareness with our children around HIV & AIDS. The children understood, they absorbed the lessons and they participated. Using pictures, the children were made aware of what is good touch and what is bad touch and singing to each other how special they all are.

We then lit our candles which served as signs

of our commitment to be bright beacons of the light of love.

Our first candle was lit to symbolise the shattering of the darkness of the violence that threatens woman and children. The second candle: the piercing of the darkness of living with HIV & AIDS. This was concluded with all responding together: "Shape our words and guide our actions and make us bright lights of your love".

We ended our session with having a toy treasure hunt for the children, rewarding them for their obedience and participation. Seeing the excitement on their faces as they saw these toys scattered all around the property, was priceless!

World Aids Day had a different twist to the celebration but it is equally imperative to ensure that education and awareness around HIV and AIDS continues. A special word of thanks to all of the staff who participated and to African Impact for your ongoing support at Fikelela. Continue to pray for the Centre as we lead communities and continue walking in the light of God.

**- Beverley Hendricks**  
Fikelela Child and Youth Care Centre

### Cardinal Stephen Brislin visits Manenberg from page 7:

Cardinal Stephen, in his short address, recalled the moments when he and Archbishop Thabo visited Manenberg with other religious leaders and civil society to help find a way to see an end to the ongoing gang violence in our area. Cardinal Stephen thanked the parish church of Reconciliation for being the hub where these meetings would mostly happen.

As Cardinal he emphasized that he is not just in this role for Catholics but rather for all people. He describes his life as being about serving and encouraged us too to strive to serve. As a parish, we gifted His Eminence with a gift as he also celebrated forty years of Priestly ministry on 19 November in the Church of God.

### 'Koortjies met Jonathan Rubain'

*I was invited on 12 November 2023, to speak on the churches response to those doing drugs and how we support families of the addict. To feed this habit, grandparents who are often the primary caregivers, bear the brunt and end up abused and robbed often of their measly pension which has to provide for the needs of the family. The abuse runs so deep that many live in fear of the very children they helped nurse since birth. This is the type of chaos many people face where I have been placed to work as parish priest.*

*In all this chaos family members, especially the elderly, yearn for peace. We have observed that many of our elderly parishioners are at church much earlier than other parishioners. One grandmother said she comes to church early because this is the only place where she can sit in peace and quietness. All she wants is peace in her life she says. This hits to the core and as their parish priest, I wonder most evenings what do these mothers do when the doors of churches are closed at night? They often have nowhere to run to but sit in this chaos, full of fear, while hoping that nothing terrible happens to them. As the first two Sundays of Advent reminds us: the Hope which God brings to us as Humankind through Jesus, we will not lose sight of and we will keep on fighting for our young people and be the voice of those who have been tumbled into this chaos. Never stop praying! Keep on hoping and believing in God!*

**- Revd Ronald Muller**

We would love to hear from your parish, send articles and photographs to Rebecca Malambo at [malambor@ctdiocese.org.za](mailto:malambor@ctdiocese.org.za) or call 021 469 3766.

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