

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



The much awaited Parish Anniversary Dance will take place on **29 July 2016 at the Westridge Civic Centre**. There is a demand for tickets at this late stage. If you are in possession of tickets which you will not use, please return them to the office.



PARISH 35TH ANNIVERSARY



GOSPEL AFTERNOON

4 September 2016

Christ the Mediator Church Portland

15h00

R30.00 per person



CHRIST THE MEDIATOR – PORTLAND

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD - EASTRIDGE

July 2016

Well here we are in the middle of winter - experiencing some very cold and wet days. While sometimes we complain about the rain, let us rejoice and thank God for sending us this much needed rain. Let us pray for more rainy days so that the dams that supply us with much needed water, can be filled to capacity.

WINTER SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OUTREACH

While we are on the subject of winter, our Social Responsibility team would like to say a **BIG BIG...THANK YOU....** to all who donated warm clothing for the needy. On Tuesday 05 July a team of volunteers led by Pearl Lodewyk and Fr. Richard first cooked up a storm in the kitchen preparing pots of soup and sandwiches before heading out to Rietvlei Farm in Philippi, to hand out the warm soup, sandwiches and the clothing. This was very well received by the farm workers who live in very simple and poor conditions.

Thank you to all who assisted with the cooking, transport and distribution of the much needed food and clothing! Well Done!



INTERREGNUM

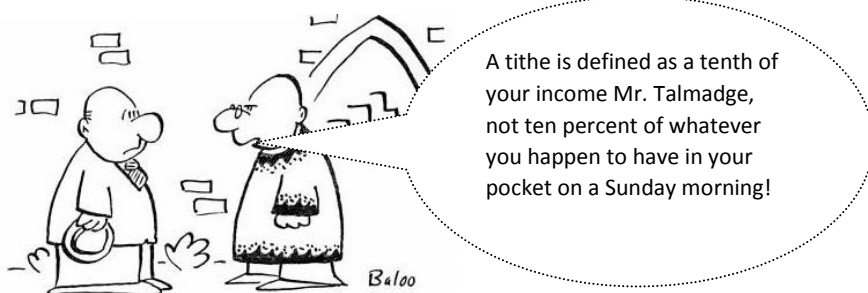
A month has already passed since we said goodbye to our former Rector, Fr. Clarence and if you were at his service of Farewell, you would have heard the Senior Priest Fr. Ron Phillips announce that our Parish is in an interregnum. What is an interregnum? It simply is "an interval between the periods of office of two incumbents in a parish".

So what happens now? Well , during the interregnum, the Archdeacon – Rev. Ruth Swartz acts as Rector with Fr. Richard as the Priest In-Charge, supported by the Wardens and Parish Council. At some stage Bishop Margaret will advise the Wardens that she has a prospective Rector for the Parish. The Wardens and Parish Council will have an opportunity to interview the priest and if they are happy with the person, they will notify the Bishop of their decision. If not, they will have to give reasons why they are not happy with the person. It is a process that will take place. What we as a Parish must do in the interim is to commit this process to God in prayer and believe that God will, in His time send the right person to us. This is also an ideal time for us as a parish to ensure that we get “our house in order” so to speak. The Wardens and Parish Council will use this opportunity of the interregnum to meet with all relevant parties to ensure that we have all our systems in place, before we eventually hand over the Parish to our new Rector.

Praise to you, Lord our God, our eternal shepherd and guide. In your faithfulness, grant to our Parish a shepherd whose watchful care and kindly zeal will continue the good work of his/her predecessors. In Your love for us, give us a shepherd who will lead us in being Christ's heart of mercy, voice of hope, and hands of justice . Help him/her to fill our minds and hearts with the truth of the Gospel, the power of the sacraments, and the desire to build up your holy Church. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

NEW PLEDGE NUMBERS, PLEDGE COMMITMENT, ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

During the next few weeks, your Area Leader or someone from your Area may visit you to hand you your new Pledge number, details of paying your pledge electronically and a Pledge Commitment Form. If you have any questions or if you do not receive a visit from your Area Leadership, please contact one of the Wardens.



SO WHY SHOULD I PLEDGE FINANCIALLY TO THE CHURCH?

Pledging is a central Christian practice.

A pledge is your commitment to make a financial gift that supports the mission of the church. It is a response to God's call and abundance in our own lives: it is a statement of thanksgiving. Christian stewardship is everything we do after we say we believe. This includes what we do with our financial resources. We return to God a portion of what we have received, recognizing that all we are and all we have is a gift from God. The Biblical portion is a tithe (10%) of our income. You can choose whatever percentage makes the most sense for you. However, before making that decision, please pray about it and consider the following:

Our pledge supports everything we experience at our church — worship, pastoral care, education programs, our social-outreach programs, maintenance of our beloved buildings, and more. Furthermore it also pays the clergy for the work they do in the Parish as well as supporting the Diocese.

We are created in the image of God to be co-creators of our community of faith. We each bear a responsibility to ensure that The Parish of Christ the Mediator with Christ the Good Shepherd remain vital and strong. Pledging is the primary way we fund our ministries.

How much should I pledge? Only you know what you can give but we believe strongly that our standard of giving should reflect our standard of living. We ask each parishioner to consider making a pledge that is both responsible and significant based on his or her financial situation. A tithe (10% of your income) has long been held as the standard of Christian giving. For most it is a goal to be reached through incremental increases each year. We are encouraging each parishioner to increase their pledges each year.



"Dear God, Make me a cheerful giver of all my tithes and offerings. I chose to receive all of Your promises and blessings as I am obedient to Your Word. Help me to remember the poor, knowing that I am lending to You and You will repay. Let me give with an attitude of gratitude and worship. I have nothing without You and I will take nothing out with me--only souls. I love to give! Help me to hear the exact amount and to whom to give of my offerings. In Jesus' name. Amen."