



Wellness Day at St Francis of Assisi



# *The Franciscan*

Advent & Christmas 2013  
St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter

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## Foreword

This is the last edition of *The Franciscan* to be printed by Dave Tweedley of Signmart. He is replacing his printers for newsletters with bigger printers for signs and banners. The lack of colour in this edition is already a sign that things have changed – he has stopped ordering coloured inks for this kind of printer, for which there is less and less demand. However, you can see our photos in colour if you visit the St Francis website. The website will also undergo a change next year (see the back page for details).

We thank Dave for his generosity in printing our newsletters free of charge for so many years and wish him well in his new business venture. We will keep you informed about future print versions of the newsletter.

**Jill Daugherty**

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## From the Rector's Desk

My dear Parishioners,



***In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. (Luke 2: 1-2)***

St Luke's account of the Incarnation has a delightful twist to it. "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world". So goes a popular saying – but in the Evangelist's version of the birth of Christ, he has the hand that rules the world rocking the cradle, or at least preparing it. Caesar Augustus, the emperor of all the earth (the fabulous, vast Roman Empire), is reduced to the role of making ready the crib of a poor Palestinian migrant child, the Babe of Bethlehem.

Augustus – his full name was Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus Augustus (beats John Smith by a mile) – is famous for having come to power by defeating his rivals, Brutus and Cassius (42 BC) and Antony and Cleopatra at Actium (31 BC). His legions had secured his authority over the Mediterranean world and large parts of Asia and Africa – what the rather arrogant Greco-Roman perspective called the 'oikoumenê', the entire inhabited and civilized world. In fact, his empire extended from the Rhine and the Danube in the north to the upper reaches of the Nile in the south, from Spain in the west to the Euphrates in the east.

His reign is considered to be the Golden Age of Roman civilization, boasting of such great literary figures as Virgil, Horace, Livy and Ovid. A good many of the prestigious monuments still standing in the heart of Rome date back to the time of Augustus. His representative in the East was Publius Sulpicius Quirinius, another grandee of the Empire, former Consul in Rome, ex General-in-Chief of the Roman armies in the East from 12 to 6 BC, the Imperial Legate – 'Ambassador' (Viceroy) – to Syria and the Asian Provinces in 6 AD. How impressive is all that!!

Now let us move to a much less glorious setting – two obscure Palestinian villages, Nazareth of Galilee and Bethlehem in Judah:

***Joseph [...] went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged. (Luke 2: 4-5)***

Ultimately all the might of Rome is mustered to prepare a cradle for the messianic child. The Roman Emperor in his imperial purple is made into a mere usher of God's designs. All the resources of the gigantic Roman administrative network, all the energy spent and the expenditure incurred to comply with the imperial project, are 'diverted' by a superior power to another end.

Also, bear in mind that Luke's Gospel was written after the persecutions of Nero (64-68 AD). Surely the readers then could not but think of the persecutor – and may well have drawn solace from the power of God, still being present in spite of the brutality of Roman power.

And for us today – what significance does this all bring to bear? By placing the Christmas story in the context of its significance for the world at that time, St Luke gives us a multiple lesson:

- Christ is shown as the true focus of world history. All the powers of the world are enlisted by God to participate in the saving coming of His Son (willingly or unwittingly).
- Thereby Luke invites us afresh to revise our scale of values. It is not what makes the front page of the newspapers that constitutes the true substance of world life in front of God. The trials of the poor and the humble acts of love have greater impact than the agitation of the rich and powerful. This is the Good News, comfort to the lowly, challenge to the lofty – comfort to what is lowly and challenge to what is lofty in each one of us.
- This applies to Church history as well. Thanks be to God, there is more to Church life than papal and episcopal successions, clerical power

struggles, Church politics, etc. The likes of the shepherds continue to be the first to receive the Good News in their hearts. The saving power of the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger continues to be at work in many hidden ways in many a lowly home, in many a humble life.

Merry Christmas!

**Fr Timothy and family**

**Stewardship Prayer of the Archdiocese of Rochester**

My church is composed of people  
like me.

I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship,  
if I invite and bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be.

Amen.

**Submitted by Terry Brauer**

**From the Parish Registers**

**Faithful departed**

<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Name</b>
12 Nov 2013	Winifred Peggy McLaren
14 Nov 2013	Margaret Swemmer
15 Nov 2013	Averil Hearn

## FLOWERS AT ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

At St Francis we are following a centuries-old tradition of using flowers to mark the seasons of the Church's calendar and to add to the glory of the great festivals of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

During Advent and Lent, the Church is bare of flowers as the congregation prepares for, and contemplates, the Birth of Christ and, later, his Resurrection. On other Sundays during the year, the flowers may remind us that, like them, we are all so different, so many shapes, sizes and colours, but are gathered together to form an image of harmony and beauty as we celebrate our faith together.

Sometimes the flowers are donated by a parishioner in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion.

To make sure that these traditions carry on, St Francis has a 'Flower Team', who give their time and talents throughout the year.

**We would like to invite more members of the congregation to join the team.** You would only be asked to do the flowers 3 or 4 times a year. You do not have to be a professional flower arranger or a floral artist in any way – only enjoy putting a few blooms in a vase in your own home, or even admiring an arrangement in the church. The beauty comes from each person having their own unique style. You will be surprised how easy it is and how much satisfaction and peace comes your way as you quietly place the blooms one by one in a vase in the empty space of the church.

Sadly, last month, our dear friend, Averil Hearn, died suddenly. We remember the many beautiful flower arrangements she made and we extend our sincere condolences to her husband and family.

Please contact me if you would like to join the team next year – or if you would like more information or encouragement.

**Jerice Doeg Tel 012 460 6516 (home) or 082 683 5680 (Cell)**

## WELLNESS DAY AT ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

On 29 September, a Wellness Day event was organized by the St Francis Pastoral Care Group to benefit the congregation and our community. It was well advertised beforehand in pew leaflets and, in the week before the event, the Youth put fliers in the post boxes of several streets surrounding the church. The statistics below show the number of people who benefitted from the services offered.

**Total number of people seen: 69**

Males: **37**

Females: **32**

Voluntary HIV Counselling & Testing: **26**

Blood Pressure above 130/90: **11**

Sugar level above 10 mmol: **4**

A few diabetics were diagnosed for the first time.

Total number of referrals: **14**

### Waiting for clients



This was a worthwhile effort to show that the Church cares for and is part of the community – we are not an island. The dedicated work team was comprised of:

- 4 doctors
- 1 nurse
- 1 oral hygienist
- 1 vet
- 1 diabetic activist
- The Tumelong team for the VCT for HIV
- 6 lay helpers

The fellowship was great, the eats provided for the volunteers were tasty and the weather was good. God was with us as usual. With Him we can move mountains.

We hope to repeat this event every few months – the next one will be in February 2014. In future we intend to advertise even earlier and more widely. We also need a cholesterol testing machine, as several people requested this test. Hopefully God will show us other avenues where we can serve Him in our community. We thank Him for all of you who made this day such a success and so much fun.

**Nontle Ndlovu & Dorah Semenya**

### **DIGNITY DREAMS**

Every year the Morning Glories Bible Study Group takes on a community project. Rather than giving each other Christmas gifts at our end-of-year brunch, we decided this year to donate Dignity Dreams reusable sanitary pad packs. Many teenage girls miss several days' schooling every month because they cannot afford sanitary towels.

I was introduced to the idea of reusable packs during Mandela week by Ms Regina Mokgokong, the Executive Director of Tateni. As the idea of reusable pads requires quite a change in mind set, Regina and I decided that we would target the pre-menstrual young ladies at the various Drop-in Centres in Mamelodi, which fall under the Tateni banner. The young ladies are being educated on the value of reusable versus disposable.

The Morning Glories came on board with this idea and together we collected 41 Gold packs. Each lady added something nice to the pack, just to make it a little more special for the girls. I delivered the packs to Regina at Tateni and spoke to the girls about the packs. I pray I got the message across.

We need to pray that God will change the way we think and that slowly this idea of reusable sanitary ware will catch on. In the long run, it will save money, not to mention how we could saving our environment from the burden of sanitary towels (and babies' nappies) that are filling our landfill sites.

If you are interested in reading more about this project, please google [www.dignitydreams.com](http://www.dignitydreams.com). The photo below is of Sannie Mabuse (my housekeeper), assisting me to get the bags ready.

**Diana Higgs**



**Editor's Note:** At a recent meeting of the Friends of Tumelong, some of the Friends described the 'Dignity Packs' that their parishes donate to teenage girls. These packs contain disposable sanitary pads as well as soap, aqueous cream, a toothbrush and toothpaste, etc. When asked why they had not rather opted for reusable sanitary pads, they explained that unless clean water was available the pads could not be hygienically washed, which could create a health hazard. So it depends on where the girls live and what washing facilities they have.

## **Parish Retreat, St Benedict's House, October 2013**

Simplicity and silence – two things I feel are too often forgotten in today's crazy world. In our desire to be constantly connected to the world, we forget about the most important connections: the connection to God and the connection to our inner and spiritual selves. In amongst the thoughts of what has to get done today and what will happen tomorrow, one does not stop to take in the wonders and mysteries of life and God. Through this retreat I learnt to stop and listen, to pray and to see God in different ways through nature, literature and icons.

On arriving at St. Benedict's House in Rosettenville, one immediately senses a feeling of peace and tranquillity, and I am reminded of a Celtic prayer:

***I weave a silence onto my lips,  
I weave a silence into my mind,  
I weave a silence within my heart.***

Our rooms are small and simple, containing a bed, basin, plain mirror, a wooden cross above the bed, a small rack for hanging up clothes and a shelf with a candle and prayer book. Looking through the window, I see the chapel and the beautiful garden. We start the day with morning prayers. It is really refreshing and comforting to start the day with God. Throughout the day, there are prayers, meals, time to ourselves and sessions led by Father Timothy. We eat in silence and, except for prayers and sessions, there is very little talking. To some, this seems like a daunting task, but through this I discovered the beauty of silent fellowship. The quiet was not awkward, but comfortable and peaceful.

Through Father Timothy's teaching I learnt much. Maybe I am bit young to understand everything he was talking about, but I still took in a great deal. We looked at various poems and icons over the three days that we were there. Through examining the symbolism of all these works, it is evident that God is not only present in the Bible, but everywhere. Many of the icons and poems we looked at depicted the mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ.

One of the poems depicted very clearly the ominous and great suffering of the death of Christ, who died so that we may be forgiven and live. One icon shows the well-known image of Christ holding a Bible in his left hand with his right hand stretched out in blessing. However, in this icon, Christ's right hand is not in its usual position of blessing. Christ's eyes do not look into those of the viewer's, but away as if remembering past events. Through his expression, we are able to see a fraction of his suffering.

My favourite painting shows the risen Christ, breaking the bread and the disciples realising that the man at the table with them is Jesus. Through this symbolic painting, we are reminded to look to Christ and not to worldly needs and wants. These are only brief descriptions of a few works we looked at during this time. One can learn many things through other peoples' perceptions of God and Jesus.

Overall, it was a weekend of peace, spirituality, prayer, reflection, learning and fellowship. I want to thank Father Timothy and all who attended the retreat for this experience. I hope that more people will be led to attend the retreat next year, and also find peace and quiet in their lives. In the words of Robert Frost:

***Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,  
I took the one less travelled by,  
And that has made all the difference.***

**Megan Napier**

The article over the page is by Yorke Rodda, who took photos of the Carol Service and the final Men's Breakfast, which you can view on the following website:

<https://plus.google.com/u/1/photos/115363011618735891495/albums/5952526407453046673>

### **Finding Grace...**

I grew up on a farm on the Highveld of South Africa. My father was a kind and generous man. He also was faced with many difficulties. Year after year he would plant crops in faith. His hope for a good crop would grow and he imagined being able to get out of debt. But year after year crops would fail, sheep died and cattle got sick. One year locusts mowed down the maize, hail took its toll a few times, worms another year. But it was mainly drought that would slowly and mercilessly destroy a crop and hope.

My Dad was always in debt and yet my siblings and I went to expensive independent (private) schools. My parents made large sacrifices. I did not take what they sacrificed for granted. I am still grateful. I wanted my life to be worth living. I also did not want to suffer like my Dad. I was not afraid of death, but I was afraid of living a wasted, fruitless life. In addition to this very real fear of failure, I was lonely. Looking back I think the root of this loneliness was because of my pride. I thought I was better than others because of my white skin and good education and because I felt I was more religious than others. I was aware that this was wrong, but it had become so part of me I could not just shake it off.

At the age of 20, I found myself at university (a miracle in itself, as teachers had told my parents "Yorke is not university material"). There was a big emptiness in my life. The Christians on Campus seemed to truly love one another and I looked with longing at their warm friendships. They had something I badly needed. Because I showed an interest in the book *The Way*, a friend, Don Nicel, asked me if I would be interested in doing a Bible study with him. I agreed. We read the words in John 3 about being born again. I thought I knew and understood the Bible, but now 'being born again' seemed like utter nonsense. While Don was trying to explain to me what 'born again' meant, an elderly gentleman, Vic Pearce, knocked on the door of my small university residence room. He took up the challenge of trying to make 'being born again' understandable by telling his story of what had happened when he was 'born again'.

As a young man in his early 20s, Vic was in a boring job, but things totally changed for him and his job became a joy. It changed because 'God was in his life'. As he went on to speak about the various phases of his life that was so full "because God was in his life", I could see clearly that I had a choice. Either I could follow my Dad, be a friendly kind man but a failure, or I could follow the God that had given Vic an amazing life of significance, goodness and fruit. I knelt down in that little room. For the first time in my life I saw I was a sinner and I needed a saviour. I had led my own life possibly with religion but not truly with God. I asked God to come into my life and be my Lord and Saviour. He did!!

That was over 40 years ago. My life is a never ending adventure that started in June 1973. I have no doubt it is a life of significance that I am now living. I have had a career as a teacher, a researcher, a businessman and as a photographer. I have also been unemployed a number of times. Now I am a health educator specialising in Diabetes. Through all the ups and downs of life, the Lord has been faithful. I feel free, know the joy of living, have always had amazing friends and, above all, have confidence that I know God and I belong to him. Because of what God did for me when Christ died to pay for my sins, I have confidence that my life is significant and there is a loving father who leads me and gives me his peace. There is a loving Father at the heart of the universe and that same loving Father lives in my heart.

This grace cannot be earned. It has to be believed and received. I found grace. I deserved judgement and punishment – but found forgiveness and blessing. This is Grace. There are three words that help understand Grace, they are Judgement, Mercy and Grace.

***Judgement is getting what you deserve***

***Mercy is not getting what you deserve***

***Grace is getting the good you did not deserve***

The adventure continues!

**Yorke Rodda [diabetes.h4h@gmail.com](mailto:diabetes.h4h@gmail.com)**

[First part of a talk given at St Francis Church Men's Breakfast on 31 August 2013]

## **Clean-up of Nieuw Muckleneuk Spruit**

On Saturday 16 November, the environmental committee (St Francis Earth Keepers) organised a clean-up of the Nieuw Muckleneuk spruit. The spruit flows down from Waterkloof Ridge. It is channelled underground for most of the way, but exits after passing under Main Street, near the corner of Main and Silver Oak Avenue. For two blocks, before it again goes underground at the Brooklyn Mall, it is an open stream with walkways on either side. The walkways are neat, the grass cut by businesses that abut on them, and litter picked up by the Tshwane Parks Department, but no one takes care of the stream itself and the steep banks that descend to it.

The state of the spruit was drawn to our attention by Sheila Cage, who walks her dogs along it, and this was confirmed by other parishioners who live in the vicinity. Permission to do a parish clean-up was obtained from the Tshwane Parks Department, which supplied us with 49 yellow plastic bags. The event was a great success, thanks mainly to the St Francis Earth Keepers, who supported it well, and to children and their parents from Waterkloof Primary School, whose participation was organised by Earth Keeper Jane Shee, who teaches at the school. The involvement of the wider community in this project is indeed commendable, but it is a pity that so few parishioners were concerned enough to help us. We extend our grateful thanks to those who did participate.

We started the clean-up at 9 o'clock and finished at about 11:45, leaving 47 bags filled with litter at Main Street and Giovanetti Street. These were subsequently removed by Tshwane Waste Management. The spruit was quite full of water because of the rain we had in November. This meant that a lot of rubbish had flowed down from the Ridge. Under the Main Street Bridge, we found not only the usual plastic, styrofoam, glass, metal and paper litter, but also used nappies and medical waste, which was disturbing – who dumps waste like that in an urban waterway?

Because the area cleaned was quite small, it was possible to pick up every bit of litter, leaving the water and banks pristine, which was most satisfactory. This spruit flows into the Austin Robert's Bird Sanctuary and eventually through Magnolia Dell, part of the Apies River system.

**Jill Daugherty**

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On the same day, parishioners were encouraged to take electronic and electrical waste to Arcadia Primary School. This waste was collected by Waste Plan to be recycled or safely disposed of.

## BOKASHI

Food waste in a landfill produces 365 kg per ton of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) equivalent, of which the major portion is methane, which is twenty times more harmful to the atmosphere and environment than carbon dioxide itself. By recycling your food waste, you are reducing your carbon footprint, while at the same time creating a means of enriching your soil with beneficial bacteria and fungi, thus developing a healthy living soil for your flower/vegetable garden.



**EARTH  
KEEPER**

The Bokashi system, which originated in Japan, is a means of reducing kitchen waste while at the same time converting this waste to a by-product which can be used effectively (anywhere) in the garden. The system consists of one or preferably two Bokashi buckets obtainable from Plastic Land, Atterbury Value Mart. These 20 litre plastic buckets are fitted with a draining tap.

Any organic matter – some soft paper and a limited amount of newspaper together with kitchen waste, e.g. vegetable cuttings and peels, left-over cooked food, meat, onions and citrus, etc., is chopped in a blender, or by using a knife/cleaver, into small particles which are then placed in layers of approximately 1 to 2 cms in the bucket and compressed slightly using for example a potato masher. Avoid pips unless these have been finely chopped.

Between each layer of waste, one sprinkles the Bokashi enzyme (also obtainable from Plastic Land or various Spar outlets). This enzyme is mainly wheat bran containing beneficial bacteria and fungi which speeds the fermentation and decomposition process, while at the same time reduces the odour. Seal the lid between applications of waste. Should you choose to skip the chopping process, the waste takes more space in your bucket and will take longer to decompose. From time to time while the bucket is being filled, accumulated fluid is drained off via the tap.

Once the bucket is full, it should ideally be placed in a cool dark area to allow the decomposition to continue. During this time the second bucket is used. For a household of two, it takes us approximately 3 months to fill a bucket. Once the second bucket is filled, the contents of the first bucket are now spread on a compost heap or on your flower beds, vegetable garden, etc.

The tapped off fluid may be collected and can be diluted 50 ml to 5 litres. This can be used to feed and enhance potted flowers, garden beds, vegetable patches or directly as an accelerator onto the compost. A cupful or two in concentrated or diluted form down a drain last thing at night also helps to keep the drains flowing effectively.

This Bokashi system allows the reduction of kitchen waste while at the same time benefitting the environment. For more information, please check the directions on the Bokashi Accelerator packet, the Bokashi bucket. You can also visit: [www.bokashicomposting.com](http://www.bokashicomposting.com).

**Vincent & Pam Taylor**

### **WHPS organise a Fill-a-Bag collection chain**

In response to a call to Waterkloof House Preparatory School by Father Timothy, Chaplain to the school, to assist with the purchasing of milk powder, the most expensive item on the Fill-a-Bag list, Mrs Brigitte Theunissen (Head of Senior Prep at WHPS) mobilised the entire school – parents, staff and boys – to buy, pack and deliver 100 Fill-a-Bags to St Francis for delivery to Tumelong.

Each class was responsible for one of the items on the list, while the school picked up the tab for the milk powder. The collection time was set for 8:30 on Tuesday 27 November 2013. As Father Tim was holding the morning service at St Francis on that day, he asked me to represent him at the school. I gave a short speech on the value of these bags and thanked the Headmaster, Mr Mark Whitelaw, and Mrs Theunissen.

What a wonderful sight to see a bigger boy as team leader take three smaller boys in hand and lead them through the process of filling their bag. At the end of the hour this whole process took, the boys had filled 100 bags and there was a lot of stock left over. Mr Whitelaw explained that the Grade 5 and Grade 7 classes had given a percentage of their Entrepreneurs Day takings to the project. With this money the school had purchased quite a bit more stock.

What a splendid morning it was for everyone concerned. It is my hope to be able to take a group of WHPS boys with me next year when I go and visit some of the families we feed through the Fill-a-Bag project.

**Diana Higgs**



## **St Francis of Assisi Soup Kitchen**

Every Tuesday morning a team of ladies gather in the parish kitchen to make vegetable soup. We also slice loaves of bread and make peanut butter and jam sandwiches. There are several teams, so we are only on duty one or two Tuesdays a month.

We are fortunate to have the generosity of Silvano, at Menlo Park Market Gardens, who gives us two or three boxes of vegetables every Monday. The great thing about this arrangement is that we never know what kind of soup we will be making on Tuesday morning! One time it is very red, with lots of tomato and red onions, or it could be green with spinach giving it colour. Sometimes it is orange, on the days we get bags of carrots, or white when cabbage is the main ingredient. But the most significant thing is the cheerful chatter and laughter, with the thump of chopping and the whirr of the blender as background music. So many volunteers make the task easy, and the main objective is to provide an interesting meal for those who need our offerings and our prayers.

The recipients are the mothers and children of the Potter's House, an institution run by Tshwane Leadership Foundation. It is in Burgers Park Lane in the CBD. The homeless, who are allowed to sleep upstairs in the Burgers Park kiosk, also benefit.

**Elizabeth Bojé**



## **Christmas Party at Ga-Rankuwa**

The parish centre of St Peter's Ga-Rankuwa is used on weekday afternoons as an ECD (Early Childhood Development) and After-school Care Centre. It is a Tumelong project run by Tshego Medupe (see the report on her year as a Trinity Transformational Fellow in the Easter 2013 *Franciscan*), with the help of six young volunteers. St Francis sponsored their Christmas party last year (see the Advent & Christmas 2012 *Franciscan*) and the St Francis Friends of Tumelong decided to do so again this year.

We had a head start this year because of the gifts for children donated by those who had attended the St Francis Christmas in July event. These gifts handed over to Tumelong were set aside for the Ga-Rankuwa party. Thirty additional presents had to be bought and, once again, the St Francis parishioners rose to the challenge – R2100 in cash was collected, while the Del Monté house group (inspired by the Santa Shoebox project) provided 10 presents for specific children, 5 boys and 5 girls.

Last year we had three main sponsors and we appealed to them once more. In appreciation for what Tumelong does and in memory of June van der Merwe, her erstwhile neighbours, Elmarie and Danie Oelofse, again sponsored the goody bags (filled with sweets, Nik Naks, biscuits & fruit juice) that the children took home with them, while Alma Grobler of Woodlands Wimpy provided 150 meals (viennas & chips for the little ones, hamburgers, chips and salad for the older children) and bottles of juice.

Clare Wood, last year's major sponsor, who spent three months working as a volunteer at Tumelong and organised the first Ga-Rankuwa party, sent us £600 sterling, to be shared between St Peter's ECD and Maboloka Haven and to provide presents for the volunteers. Deacon Nontle, who shops at Monument Park Spar, received a R1000 voucher from the manager. So we were able to buy additional food and drinks and hire a jumping castle. With so many generous sponsors, we still have money over, which we intend saving for next year.

After days of preparation, Diana Higgs, Nontle Ndlovu, Elizabeth Bojé and I loaded presents and food into two vehicles on Friday 29 November and

arrived at St Peter's to find everything ready – the marquee up, chairs in rows, stage and hall decorated and excited kids on the jumping castle.



Everything was soon offloaded, gifts placed under the Christmas tree, and the ceremony started with a prayer by 'Mother' Nontle, during which the children folded their arms and closed their eyes.



There were various items on the programme: song and dance, sketches and the Nativity play. Herod wore a crown, but his guards resembled Zulu warriors rather than Roman soldiers. There were four wise men and the gifts they presented to the babe in the manger were borrowed from those placed under the Christmas tree.

At interval, lunch was served in an orderly way, the children being called into the hall in their age groups, starting with the pre-schoolers. The adults (teachers, Tumelong staff, visitors, elderly parishioners) were served last. There was enough food for everyone and some of it (especially the watermelons and iced suckers) was kept for the later.



Then the ceremony continued with thank-you speeches by Tshego and several children who presented cards they had made for teachers at the Centre, Tumelong staff and St Francis guests. There were also cards for Waterkloof and Wimpy. Finally the presents and goody bags were handed out by Father Christmas and good-byes were said. It was a very rewarding experience for those of us who had brought Christmas cheer to the children and received so much more in return – spontaneous welcome and love.

**Jill Daugherty**

St Peter's ECD Ga-Rankuwa has a beautiful new kitchen thanks to the kindness of Gareth and Robyn Evans, who have installed new kitchen units in their home and donated the ones they had removed to Tumelong.



Tshego on stage thanks all who helped make the Christmas party a memorable occasion.



A young spectator gets on stage in the middle of a performance, to the amusement of volunteer Teboga and Nontle in the background

## **St Francis of Assisi Website**

The Parish Council has decided to revise the parish website and is considering making use of the template *Growing the Church* created by Michael Künz, an IT media consultant to the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. This is what he says in his information sheet on Websites:

### The Infrastructure

Growing the Church has its own server, which allows us to host your website and e-mail accounts. [...]

### Our assistance with websites

We handle all the technical stuff in setting up or transferring your website. We utilise a template called "Mojo Portal", a user-friendly system that makes it easy for you to maintain your website. [...]

Once we have set up the website skeleton, we invite you to add the "muscles and skin" – the content and pictures, ensuring that the website has the look and feel you desire. At this time, we train you in how to maintain your website. [...]

**Costs:** We set up your parish website for free, saving you the initial costly outlay. We ask for R250 per month to cover the hosting of your website and the running of our IT/Media Ministry. [...]

Mark Napier set up our present website and has managed it for many years. He would like to revise it, but does not have the necessary time to do so. However, he will maintain the present website until the changeover and does not rule out the possibility of still being involved.

Our parish secretary Shirley is hoping that it will be easier for her, or anyone else who is willing to undergo training, to load information onto the website. At the moment we are dependent on Mark to do this.

Theresa Innes set up and manages our Facebook page. She will no longer be on Council next year, but is willing to continue managing Facebook. Many thanks to Mark and Theresa for their dedication.