



Passover Meal March 2009

The Franciscan

Easter 2009
St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter

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Foreword

This is a bumper Easter edition, stretching to 32 pages; since I became editor the newsletter has been either 24 or 28 pages long. And this edition could have been longer – I had to take out some articles (which will appear in the next number) to make room for more topical articles and photos. Our thanks go to Dave Tweedley who continues to sponsor our printing, not just of *The Franciscan*, but also of the recent Lenten Meditations.

As per usual the first number of the year contains the 'Opportunities to Serve' list. The Rector's letter introduces the theme of Freedom through the Cross and this leads to the theme of Resurrection, which is that of the 'Family Matters' update. The contributions from the Youth and the Parish Photos bear witness to the efforts of all to inject new life into the parish. The funeral of Sarah Breytenbach inspired several people who attended to write about this service, which also fits in well with the Easter theme of Resurrection.

Jill Daugherty, Editor

From the Rector's Desk

My dear Parishioners,



There is much talk in Christianity about FREEDOM.

'The Cross has set us free,' we hear over and over again. And in the Easter pilgrimage we have indeed journeyed with Christ to... and beyond this Cross. But are we free? And what does it mean to be free?

I like this suggestion made by Jean Vanier⁺ that freedom is about BECOMING HUMAN. Freedom, he suggests, is '... about the liberation of the human heart from the tentacles of chaos and loneliness, and from those fears that provoke us to exclude and reject others.' Implicit in this, is the suggestion that freedom leads to the place where we discover our common humanity. And the Cross is pivotal to all this, because the Cross **unites** that which the world divides, **includes** that which the world excludes.

And yet, is it not true of each of us that 'division and exclusivity' are still part of daily living patterns. To put it bluntly, we reject other human beings in all kinds of ways all the time. Collectively, we do it to entire classes and groups (perhaps because they are different or poor or disabled) and personally (individually), we do it through our practice of being attracted to some, while we turn our back on others. And if we are still more truthful, we would have to admit that it is usually those who favour us (in one way or another) whom we favour.

⁺ Founder of L'Arche (The Ark) and Faith and Light Communities, which offer people with mental disabilities and those who share their lives a place where they can grow and belong, and where Father Henry Nouwen lived and worked after a life in the academic world.

At the heart of Jesus' humanity (which led him to the Cross), was a relentless 'breaking down of barriers'. Wherever He went, whatever he taught, whom-so-ever he encountered – always, there was a **reaching** out, inevitably across some barrier or other which divided. He set people 'free' because He truly saw in them, not the things which society saw and labelled them by, but rather that they were made in the image of God.

Quite frankly, He made them feel good about themselves – because God felt good about what He had created. In other words He set them FREE to see that they were **not** 'beyond the pale' and inevitably, their response was to 'leave the past in ashes' and to embrace Him. And God (in the Parable of the Prodigal) is quite unapologetic in His total embrace and unconditional forgiveness and acceptance: 'My son who was lost has been found.'

To be set 'free' by the Cross of Christ then, is to be liberated from ALL that binds up and constricts:

- Our prejudices
- Our excessive self-centredness (at the expense of the common humanity)
- Our fears (the violence which lives with each one of us)
- Our refusal to change ('they' are like that and 'they' will always be like that)

Oh the list is endless and, by the way, it's called SIN. If we have any doubts about any of this, we need only look to the Parables.

So again, I ask the question: What does it mean to be free? I'd like to briefly refer to steps (suggested by Jean Vanier), which lead to our being set FREE, i.e. to become fully human. Inherent in each is the Cross, and all that it can and has taught us this Easter.

- 1) Learn that 'fear' can be a good counsellor. It can turn us around and make us reflect and change course (repent). A positive response to God in Christ, through the Cross, can teach us humility. It helps us ask authentic questions, like: 'Is it possible to work for peace and love?' The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

- 2) We need to become aware of our own limits and blockages. To see and accept the brokenness in our own Spiritual traditions. Do we ever ask ourselves 'Why do I know I'm right?' 'Is it possible that others too can teach me much?' I don't contain all truth in me. Let me be aware of my prejudices, fears, mixed motivations and my weaknesses, that I am moving towards a life governed by truth, service and prayer. The Cross IS truth. Vanier says, 'Many times parents of people with disabilities have told me about the shock they received at the birth of a new child. Then they discovered that their child was leading them from a world of power and corruption into a world of tenderness and compassion.' The message of the cross is that, through this horror, God brought **freedom** and beauty.
- 3) The Cross helps us discover new energies, a new freedom, and a new meaning of life and of the world.
- 4) Vanier suggests that we need someone who accompanies us in our journey to freedom. A friend, an ordained minister or anyone who can help us grow in the ways of God. An 'accompanier' or Spiritual Director or 'Guide' helps us advance to greater freedom by helping us to be reconciled to our past and to accept ourselves as we are. A good 'director' will bring out the best in us. Remember, the word 'accompaniment', like the word 'compassion', comes from the Latin words 'cum pane' which mean 'with bread' – and implies sharing and nourishing each other. God (through the Cross) is our Heavenly Guide, pointing us back to freedom.
- 5) The road to freedom is a struggle. It is hard work to liberate oneself from inner compulsions, to commit oneself to inner growth, truth, justice and the service of others. On the Cross, God in Christ 'struggled' to set us free. He said, 'I will do ALL that it takes to liberate my creation. Nothing, nothing, nothing can and will stop me, even if it costs me my life.'
- 6) The road to freedom is about recognizing that we are only fully liberated when we acknowledge and live in communion with the One who is the source of all life. And when we know we are loved and accepted by the One who 'knew (us) in (our)

mother's womb' we are strengthened to stop all our frenetic strivings to 'be accepted'.

- 7) The Cross has equipped us to begin the path to true Freedom. 'You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free.'

This Easter, may the liberating Cross of Jesus Christ set you free.

Father Timothy

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

Date of Baptism	Child	Birth date	Parents
14 Dec 08	Nkgwete Tlailane	3 Mar 08	Pheko Tlailane & Bongiwe Noala
22 Mar 09	Ogorogile Motshaone	29 Oct 08	Percy & Lebogang Motshoane

Faithful departed

Date of Death	Name
25 Dec 08	George Raft
13 Jan 09	Anton Gouveneur

Family Matters

Our theme has for the past six months been **A journey in Faith From Advent to Easter**. On this journey, we have been followers with Jesus as he taught both his disciples and the people. We have learned. We have observed and have felt the grace from His message entering us.

We are currently in a time in our Church calendar that is the dark time during which He prepares to hand over to those He has brought along. How close is that to the world in which we currently exist? We, today, are in dark times also, both morally and socially. Will we, as did the Disciples, have the strength to adhere to His values?



The candles of Family Life have continued to burn in the Church, signifying a constant focus on our purpose. During this period, our team's efforts have focused on developing sound communication, and creating mutual understanding. One such programme has been emphasising a specific value each month:

- In February we emphasised **Honesty – Integrity**
- in March **Responsibility – being good Role Models**

Both of these values are typical of His example to the Disciples and to us.

Other initiatives of our team are:

- Reinstatement of the wearing of name tags at services to extend friendliness
- The introduction by the Parish Office of SMS communication and frequency of contact
- Broadening understanding through the emphasis on taking Advent candles into the home, through the Children's Church
- The piloting of a Marriage Enrichment course, which relies heavily on honest and open communication
- Enclosures in the Pew Leaflet relating to Family Matters issues
- The piloting of a Men's Breakfast to complement the many meetings available during the day for women

- The development of a range of literature, to be made available in the church, offering information and sources of help

This is some of the work a small group is undertaking to enhance communication within the parish family. It remains for it to lead to improved communication within families who make up the parish. The fruits of this are evident in a revitalised activity and participation in parish activities, both social and worship. There is evidence of more active participation in works of compassion.

We are reminded by John in his Gospel: he records, at the time of the Last Supper, just after Judas had departed Jesus saying:

The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own. The Father who dwells in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves.

Very Truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do. And, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father... You know Him, because he abides in you, and he will be in you. (John 14: 10-12, 17b. Note also James 2: 26 ..faith without works is dead.)

We now plan to look past the Crucifixion to the Resurrection, to post-Easter. **We** will have to continue doing His works. Our theme will be **Family Resurrection**.

In this phase we plan to seek out the current issues and concerns within families, particularly centred around Communication, and Values. In this we need inputs from families and are devising interventions to achieve this.

We will do the work necessary to help families resist the current environment and resurrect the healed family so that in itself it will join in 'doing the works' just as the Apostles did once they had survived the impact of the crucifixion and the subsequent resurrection.

The period will be from the **Resurrection to Advent**, the period during which the Apostles went out and grew the church, and carried on His teaching. We would aim to weave our efforts intimately within the Church calendar.

For example, Pentecost is clearly a time that focuses on effective Communication: "Talking, Listening, Seeing, Understanding, hence Believing." Quoting Isaiah, Paul said (Acts 28: 23-27):

This people's heart has grown callous
Their ears are hard of hearing
And they have shut their eyes; otherwise they might see with their eyes
And hear with their ears
Understand with their heart and be converted

Let us draw the most we can from the Lenten experience and use this as a time for us to strengthen our resolve to help others find ways to help themselves.

Please volunteer to work with us towards a resurrected family in the parish, armed with your skills to support the:

Resurrection of the Family

Hank Doeg
Contact Hank on 082 683 5681

PARISH PHOTOS



Shrove Tuesday : Making pancakes



Shrove Tuesday – the Hat Brigade



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Crib Service December 2008



Crib Service December 2008





The first term has come and gone and the year is advancing at full speed, not halting for a minute. Oasis Youth has already been involved in so much so far.

December Leaders training Camp (Dcamp) was once again a great treat and time to refill. The theme this year was God's Kingdom and how Money, Power and Sex fit into Christ's Kingdom. It was very relevant: looking at how Christ wants us to deal with our daily lives as we live in this world, but in all we do we need to reflect His Light. *Change your life, God's Kingdom is here!* (Matt 4:17). There were fun events, such as the Formal Dinner with the theme 'Masked Ball' on the last night of camp.



Planning for this year's Dcamp has already begun. Our co-ordinator for the last 5 years has changed jobs and is no longer heading up Dcamp and therefore three youth pastors were chosen to co-ordinate the different aspects of Dcamp. I have been appointed to the job of administration, which is no small feat with over 20 churches and 250 young people to coordinate and communicate with.

My year kicked off early with Youth Pastors Training NOW (No Opportunity Wasted) on 6 January which took place at Rocky Valley

in Krugersdorp. Twenty Youth pastors got together for a week of training in: counselling, how to teach, spending time with God and setting goals for the youth. It was a wonderful week to network too!



On 19 February Heather Napier and I joined other youth pastors and ten children to do a First Aid Course focusing particularly on children, so we are now more equipped to look after your young people and children.

Our annual inter-denominational Student Camp occurred on the weekend of 27 February to 1 March at Rocky Valley. The focus of our weekend was Luke 15: 11-32, the Prodigal Son, the theme being Returning to Christ. Although it rained we had a great time of team building, trust and getting to know other young Christians. We had a special treat with Return to Sender leading our worship sessions.

Shrove Tuesday was wonderfully supported. The youth spent a really creative time making posters and serving at different tables which made the serving faster. Thank you to all the youth who helped and especially to those who rushed off to make more batter when we ran out of it as more people kept rolling in. The Passover meal was also a great way for the community of Christ to come together and enjoy each other's company. Thanks to all the youth servers – you guys were awesome, especially in cleaning up!

Many Easter Blessings, Megan Winn (Megs)

Dcamp 2008

The food was great, my favourite was the soup! I loved the worship, the song choices were great and the worship team was brilliant. The in-depth training session which I chose to follow for the four days was called the 'C Word'. That was my highlight, because it set things straight for me. (Thanks Megs!!)

I had lots of fun and it helped me get closer to God and since then I have never doubted Him.

Kieran Byrch



Early on 5 December morning. Way too early for the bunch of teenagers assembled in front of St Francis; half were nervous for the upcoming week and others were still sleeping. Nine hours later, after several stops and tons of junk food, we arrived at Skogheim, the campsite for Dcamp 2008. What was to follow in the next five days would be memorable for all eight of us.

Dcamp is so different from the normal church environment; it is much more amped and dynamic. There is always something going on, from the escapades in the dorms to getting roasted on the beach. Dcamp caters for everybody, there is such a vast variety of workshops, IDTs and talks that nobody feels excluded. For me this year's Dcamp was far better than last year's because it made me feel more comfortable in my own self and in my faith.

Matthew Byrch

Student Camp 2009

This year Student Camp arrived with an air of much excitement and anticipation, especially for those of us who did not go last year, and so had no idea what to expect. We arrived just before dinner on Friday 27 February, all very hungry and exhausted from our long weeks. But Megan, Taiki, Andrew and Kyle would hear none of it, so at 10:00 pm we were forced up the mountain to play Stalk the Lantern. This game would have gone a lot quicker if my group and I had realized a little sooner that we had been stalking a porch light for the first half of the game. But it turned out to be a night of much laughter, stalking and mosquitoes.

The next morning we were up at the crack of dawn; it was actually already 7 o'clock, but it felt a lot earlier. Our first activity of the day was an icebreaker in which we were forced to get, literally, up close and personal with people we didn't really know. Next we did the typical Boeresport thing of bobbing apples and straight after that using our mouths to get Smarties out of flour. Our group, named Nancy Pants, won, but I think the name made up for the other teams' loss... That afternoon we did various water activities in which a few of us (mainly me) got wet, but I soon dried off when we played games like running netball and rounders. The day was full of excitement, especially when Justin got hit on the nose with a bat and consequently fractured it and had to be taken to the nearby clinic.



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That night we were supposed to have a bonfire but, due to the rain, the braaing of the marshmallows was postponed... and so we were forced to eat them raw. Sunday came a lot sooner than we all hoped... and a lot earlier for those who woke up to climb the mountain to watch the sunrise and have our devotions at the peak of God's creation. We had a few visitors over the weekend as well: a few students from Brooklyn Methodist Church came through for one afternoon; we had some monkeys playing around the camp... oh and let's not forget the frogs in the bathrooms and the mosquitoes... well everywhere. As much as they got to us, I'm sure everyone misses the Peaceful Sleep poisoning we all got due to Megan Lowes' paranoia.

The weekend ended on a powerful note when the wall on which Andrew had written only the negative things we often feel in our lives was painted over with the face of Jesus. The camp's theme was Return: Coming back to the Heart of the Father. In one weekend I think a lot of us did exactly that.

It was a beautiful experience in which we were all reminded in some way how much Jesus really loves us, despite all our flaws. I will definitely be going back next year!

Kayleigh Hill



Tateni Swimming Lessons January 2009

This update should have been sent at the conclusion of last year's swimming lessons, but the end of term busyness and the fact that I took a much needed break from mid-December meant that I did not get it together.

The lack of a newsletter does not, however, indicate a lack of activity on the swimming front. November saw the boys' last few swimming lessons for 2008 and also an outing to the St Francis Children's Church and lunch and a fun time swimming at Eric and Gesine Buitens' home. The three boys that came on the outing (unfortunately Calvin did not make it) and their carer sang a song for the children and joined in the Children's Church lesson.

The visit to the Buitens' house was great fun, but ended with a small drama when Mahlatse (the most nervous swimmer) somehow fell into the swimming pool and panicked. I had to dive in and rescue him. All was well that ended well, and luckily it did not set him back too much in the last few lessons, where the teacher paid special attention to teaching him, and reinforcing with the others, what to do if they fall into the pool. She had them all practising the drill of jumping in, turning around and catching the side of the pool.



Around Gesine and Erik's pool eating ice creams

A very rewarding spin-off of this Tateni swimming project is that I have managed to maintain contact with the four girls who did the previous round of lessons. I try at least each school holiday to get together with them and to take them on a fun outing. It is sometimes difficult to get together with them all as I do not have direct phone contact with them.

I saw Nonhlanhla and Dumo this last weekend and was interested to learn that Nonhlanhla, who is now 17, has an opportunity to go to Italy for 8 months as a member of a dance group that she has been part of for a number of years. It is not certain that she will go as her mother wants her to stay and complete her schooling. Please pray for her that God's hand will be at work in her life and that the right decision will be made. Dumo starts high school this year and hopefully will continue to reach her full potential. I am still hoping to see Gontse once the term starts and the Tateni carers can make an arrangement with her. Phumzile has moved to another section of Mamelodi and has been difficult to get hold of.

Hopefully those of you sponsoring the boys did not do a deposit for December, but were geared up again to make payment for January to March. The amounts for these three months are Jan R100, Feb R140 and March R140. You may just prefer to do one deposit of R380 which will take us to the end of March when we will stop lessons for the current group of boys. (We will probably start with a new group again in September.)

By the end of March, Calvin, July, George and Mahlatse will hopefully all be totally water-safe and some of them will be swimming styles quite well. July managed to practise in a pool in another section of Mamelodi during the holidays and there is no holding him back; he also came back from holidays looking very cool with a 'diamond' stud in his ear! Please let me know if your circumstances have changed and you were no longer able to continue the sponsorship for January to March and I will try to make alternative arrangements. Thanks again to all of you for your ongoing support of this project!

Cathy Meiklejohn

Sarah Breytenbach – God is Great

I was very fortunate and privileged to attend the service for Sarah Breytenbach, at Christ Church, Polokwane, on Friday 13 March. What impressed me was that the church was filled to overflowing – in fact they had set up marquees outside, and the sound was relayed there as well.

It was very emotional because the pew leaflet contained a letter which Sarah had written to her three children, knowing that she would be leaving; but asking them to be strong and courageous. Indeed she gave thanks to God for having been with the children, and Martin, for so much longer. Remember that the cancer was diagnosed years ago, and many of you will remember the all night prayer vigils which we had at St Francis, when Martin joined us and we prayed for Sarah. We can give thanks that she lived for so long.

Also we can give thanks that she was able to accompany Martin when he went, as Bishop, to the Lambeth conference, attended by all Bishops of the Anglican Communion. When I had breakfast with Martin and Sarah a few weeks ago, she mentioned how much she had enjoyed visiting Lambeth.

What was interesting for me was that Sarah obviously had a very fond connection with our St Francis church. This was emphasized by the fact that our choir was there in force. Dave Evans played the piano; Rob Lewis and Cherry Archibald played the guitars and Anne Thistlewhite sang. They were all joined by our former pastor, Gail Blunden, who had also been so active in the St Francis choir groups when she had been with us. St Francis was represented at the service by Reverend Joan Jones.

The eulogies given by the three children were amazing: very kind and appreciative; but also very emotional. Martin was magnificent in the strength which he displayed. Bishop Philip Le Feuvre gave the sermon: and he stressed what Sarah had always said (and sung): 'God is Great.' And the Bishop referred to the choice of songs which were all of praise. The final committal was given by the Archbishop of Cape Town, who had come specially for this very moving occasion.

Don MacRobert

A FUNERAL AS A TESTIMONY OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

(More reflections on Sarah Breytenbach's funeral)

It is with great sadness, mixed with overwhelming joy, that I share my experience of the funeral of Sarah Breytenbach. For those who are new to the parish, Sarah was our previous rector's wife. She shared in the life of the parish for twelve years and ran the house group which I currently lead, as well as being a counsellor, running the dance group and facilitating listening courses, amongst many other ministries.

Sarah was diagnosed in 2000 with a highly malignant brain tumour – at this point she was given nine months to live! Her battle with cancer has been followed closely by many of us and we have supported the family where we could (mainly with continuing prayer), but recently the tumour started growing rapidly and the past six weeks was a roller coaster of events culminating in her death last weekend.

Sarah died suddenly as a result of an embolism in the mesenteric artery and the funeral was held in Polokwane on Friday 13 March. About 25 people from this parish drove up and the family made a special request that a group of us lead the music with Gail Blunden (a priest in Limpopo, who was for many years a worship leader and deacon in this church).

What I feel called to share was the sense of joy that overcame the deepest sadness and personal loss that I felt. Every aspect of the service was pointed upwards to the glory of God. Normally one hears eulogies about the person; this time all three her children and Bishop Martin simply gave testimonies about God's glory in Sarah's life and even in her illness. It was their wish that the devil would not rob them of God's victory, despite their lives being shattered by losing their mother and wife.

There was a powerful message from Bishop Le Feuvre who spoke about the words from Isaiah that Martin had received during Sarah's brain scan the previous week:

And as for me, this is my covenant with them, says the Lord: my Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouths of your children, or out of the mouths of your children's children, says the Lord, from now on and forever. (Isaiah 59:21)

Standing there before us was a family in which it is clear that already God's promise is being made real – all three children have a deep faith, which they are determined to share with all they meet, and which they live out in their daily lives. What a testimony to Sarah as a mother (and to Martin of course) and what a promise to take into the future. As Martin observed about this scripture: what a promise for Sarah who would not live to see her grandchildren.

Throughout the singing, I was aware of Sarah dancing and smiling (which I subsequently discovered several others had also seen) and I was very aware of the promise in 1 Cor 15: 54-55:

Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled:

'Death is swallowed up in victory.'

'O death, where is your victory?'

O death, where is your sting?'

Terry Brauer

My experience of Sarah has always been one of 'dance' and a deep sense of her spirituality. Her amazing ability was to give God the glory for whatever was happening and to turn the focus from herself to Him. If someone complimented us for something we had done, I would be busy saying 'Thank you' and Sarah would be saying 'Praise God' or 'Thank you Lord'.

Sarah's funeral reflected so much of that. It started with the harmonies and rhythm of African voices and I could see Sarah swaying to the beat, and from the singing of the first praise song *I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart* through choruses like *Praise is rising, How great is our God* and *Lord I lift your name on high* I felt her presence. Sarah in death did what she had done in life, she pointed us to the Lord. Yes, there were lots of tears, but Sarah's testimony, through her children, Martin, and her funeral, is that we serve an amazing and mighty God.

Heatherlynn Lewis

It was a big decision to decide to drive to Polokwane – two and a half hours to get there, two and a half hours there and two and a half hours back, but it was well worth it. None of the pomp and ceremony impressed me. God was there in the sermon and the eulogy – this is what blew my mind.

Martin and his children gave a Christian account of family values and support. The focus was not on a person (Sarah as wife and mother), but on God's goodness, faithfulness and provision, through suffering, death and resurrection, and in their future. There was none of the usual drama, questions or emptiness. It was wonderful to see a father supporting his children, and to hear them, in their own words, proclaiming their faith. Martin's pain was not visible, only love for his children and his God. Jeremy, the youngest, had composed poems, but at the last minute told us it was not right to read them, so he chose to tell us what his faith meant to him. The prepared sermon was likewise dumped and words spoken from the heart. But to hear the sermon, it seemed as if it had taken weeks to prepare.

I drove back refreshed, but wishing that I had asked for a recording for all to share.

Joan Jones

For me, the whole tone of the funeral was one of triumph – Satan has not won the glory from Sarah's illness! Rather, she, Martin, Katy, Tasha and Jeremy have been witnesses for Christ through it all.

It **is** incredibly sad and difficult for them, but they each professed their faith that Christ was, and will remain, with them. Lois Breytenbach read the passage from 1 Corinthians 15 vs 50-58, reading so powerfully verse 55: 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' and verse 57: 'But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.'

Heather Napier

The Orthodox Ethiopian Cathedral

While recently in Addis Ababa, I had a chance to tour the Orthodox Ethiopian Cathedral.

There is also a primary school there, behind the Cathedral. It was letting out as my guide and I drove up the long drive at the end of which the Cathedral stands. We had to purchase admission tickets to the precinct. We entered the grounds, which are quite large. There were many capped monks with long gowns and sandals shuffling towards or from the Cathedral, looking serious and purposeful.



My guide turned me over to another guide, who instructed me to take off my shoes before entering. The Cathedral was mostly empty, with single worshippers here and there. In front of every portal by which entrance can be gained, there was an old, frail woman, begging, silently. There are rows of beautiful stained glass windows – depictions from the Old Testament on one side and of the New Testament on the other.

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At the very front of the church is the Holy of Holies where the Ark of the Covenant is kept behind closed curtains. There is also a special, closed off room to the right of the altar reserved for the Bishop of Alexandria.



Many murals adorn the ceiling and the dome. To the left of the altar are the tombs of Haile Selassie and his Queen, in huge sarcophagi. A special chair is in place used only by King Selassie.

Two non-religious murals have important pride of place: one of King Selassie addressing the League of Nations on the treatment that Ethiopians were receiving at the hands of the Italians and one showing the lowering of the Italian flag and the raising of the Ethiopian flag at the end of that element of World War II.

In the middle of the roof of the Church is a gigantic Star of David with a Christian cross in the middle, signifying the Jewish-Christian connection which the Ethiopian Church claims – dating back to the time of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.



I was impressed by the piety of the people, as represented by the many depictions contained within the Cathedral, and certainly came away knowing I had been inside a most holy place.

James Aiello