



Pentecostal Flames



# *The Franciscan*

Trinity July 2011  
St Francis of Assisi Parish Newsletter

## Contents

Foreword .....	2
From the Rector's Desk .....	3
The Meaning of Easter .....	5
Understanding the Trinity (or trying to) .....	8
The Devil and the Duck .....	10
The Silent Sermon .....	11
My Years at Pretoria Sungardens Hospice .....	13
Bible Society of South Africa .....	15
Three Trees .....	16
The Craft Fellowship Group .....	18
Gatang Comprehensive School .....	20
Mission Zimbabwe: Binga Project .....	22
Irene Homes Fête .....	23

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## Foreword

Many thanks to all who contributed to this Trinity edition. The articles are varied, but a common thread running through them is mission, in the sense of active participation in parish activities to help one another and the wider community. The tone is set by the Rector's letter, but several contributors echo his call to mission, or provide examples of the various outreach projects undertaken at St Francis of Assisi.

Our next edition (Michaelmas) is due in September, which is quite soon, so please continue writing and submitting your articles and photos. A final word of thanks to our printer (Dave Tweedley of Signmart) for printing four editions a year free of charge – another example of mission.

Jill Daugherty, Editor

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## From the Rector's Desk

**My dear Parishioners,**



- When I left the service this morning, I felt I had been held in the arms of a loving family.
- I have just come out of rehabilitation and came to your Church for the first time on Sunday. I come from a Pentecostal background and I just loved the service. It was so warm and structured and real. Also, I felt the message was just for me.

These are comments made to me in the past few days – both by first time visitors to our shores. Reminding us that there is much we must thank God for in terms of what we represent as a community. I thank each and every one of you for your contribution to this reality. Perfect, we are not (from Rector downwards and don't I just know that) – but God is always so gracious using even our imperfections to His glory. Be encouraged my dear fellow sojourners.

To this end, may I also express my deep gratitude to you for the many, many kind words of consolation regarding my friend's unfortunate death. Your prayers have certainly sustained me and got me through the extremely difficult funeral service I had to take. And finally, the warm words of welcome and undeserving kindness poured on Nina and me upon our return from our week at the coast, take one's breath away. Tongue in cheek, might I suggest that 'things are not quite the same when you're not here Father' could read 'but they are a lot more predictable you eccentric old bat.' Amen!

On a more serious note however, let us not cease from being about God's work. I received a deeply moving e-mail in which a parishioner expressed

the hope, in the light of the proffered 'challenge' to each of us to bring our prolific gifts to bear on Parish life, that this may indeed be so. Thank-you to those who have already contacted me – it is most encouraging. There are SO many opportunities. Together we represent the 'living stones' which create this House of God.

So what role can **you** play? Here are a few suggestions:

**Bible Study Groups:** There are a number of House Groups all meeting at different times. One is bound to suit your needs. Contact the Rector and he will gladly advise.

**Family Matters:** Assisting in social functions pertaining to this ministry – contact Theresa Innes 0834152585; Televisiting – Hank Doeg 0826835681

**Welcoming Committee:** If you come to the 7:30 service, you can contact Hank 0826835681. If you want to assist at the 9:30 service, please phone Eric Buiten 0833258159

**Praying** with those with needs in the Lady Chapel during Mass – Deacon Joan Jones 0832319477

**Intercessors Group:** Meets on Thursdays at 17:00; contact Monique Winn 0824670078

**Soup Kitchen:** Soup is made in the parish kitchen on Tuesday mornings. Contact Shirley in the parish office 012-34661106

**Alpha Course:** I want to run an Alpha Course later this year when it's warmer. This requires a lot of workers, feeders, leaders, etc. Perhaps you can commit yourself to attending the Alpha Course

**Men's Breakfast:** Always a treat (in more ways than one) – the food is good, the fellowship warm. Contact Dave Winn 0827792451

**Fill-a-Bag/Tumelong Mission:** Contact Shirley 012-3461106

**Parish Dedicated Giving Scheme:** Contact Shirley 012-3461106

**Lay Ministers:** Contact Rector

**Sacristans:** For the 7:30 & 9:30 services. Contact Linda Lewis 0832659840

**Hospital Visitors:** Contact Linda Lewis 0832659840; attend workshop on hospital visiting on 27 August.

**Spirituality & Quiet Mornings:** Contact Rector

**Choir:** Contact Rob Lewis 0829230505

These are just some of the activities your Parish has to offer. Can you find a 'home' in one of them?

**YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!**

**The Meaning of Easter**

Recently I was approached by a Parishioner who came to share her Easter journey with me. It was a delightful experience. Firstly, because I was deeply moved by her taking the time to do so. And secondly, because I was bowled over by the depth of it all. With her permission I reproduce here some of her reflections on these matters. I have no doubt you will benefit from them.

**Fr Timothy**

Easter is a celebration of Jesus' Resurrection after the sacrifice that God made by bringing his Son into this world to pay the price of our sin. Equally, we should be celebrating our resurrection. Lent is a time to reflect and we should be resurrected because God can only manifest Himself through us. GOD, and the meaning of God, is beyond our human comprehension, so just as God had to bring Jesus into the world – manifest Himself in human form – so that our human minds could begin to try and comprehend the magnitude of Himself, He can use us as humans to bring other people closer to Him. We are Jesus walking around and if we could even grasp the impact of what that means, our lives would be forever changed. God sees all of us as extraordinary in our ordinariness, so we should strive to be more like Him to bring people closer to Him.

I have been privileged to attend the Lenten course because I have learnt that there are so many opportunities to tap into the knowledge of getting to know God. If we put everything into boxes, we will miss God. If we say that these courses are only for adults, we miss God. If we say the youth know nothing, what can they possibly contribute, we miss God. If we say that we won't attend church because Father Tim is not there, we miss God, because God uses all of us as vessels. We can all learn a lot from each other if we start seeing God in each other. The focus of the Lenten course

was to reflect and by getting into groups we learnt so much about each other, our thought processes. Everyone grew and came out a better person. There was such a generation gap and I feel it's important to reflect on some of the questions asked and lessons learnt so that the youth can understand how exciting it is to get into deeper levels of knowing God, because religion is the foundation, but spirituality is a journey, your personal journey with God.

However holy we may be on Sunday, how do we spend the rest of the week? How do we treat people at work and at home? Do people see God through us? Remember we are all Jesus. Evangelism is a way of life. The way we conduct ourselves is important so that people say that they want to be like us. (Just like Toy Stories and Ben Ten make the best sales and leave us parents broke, because they advertise to our young children who don't even know how to read.) The way we advertise ourselves is more effective than trying to read the Bible to everyone at work. It is more effective to show God exists by being compassionate, e.g. encouraging people, sharing your lunch with someone who doesn't have or giving advice. God sees our hearts and He will use the most humble or unlikely people to touch others – simply through their recognizing him in these actions.

Talking about giving. This is a beautiful and active church. There are a lot of behind-the-scenes activities, e.g. printing of leaflets and pamphlets, maintenance and much pastoral activity. How do we support the church in all this? I am embarrassed to say that I have been working for four years and I have only recently pledged myself to the Dedicated Giving scheme – because it was always a matter of: 'I will start when my debt is sorted'. But that's going to take a long time. The irony of it is that somehow, even when we have our 'just enough money for petrol for the last 3 days before month end', it's amazing how God provides. We always have what we need, even if we don't have what we want. It is true that when we are blessed with more, we have more of a responsibility to give. Not because we are forced, but because we recognize God's grace and blessings in our lives and we want to extend those blessings by giving back.

We can also give back by getting involved. For example, the televisiting programme has failed to take off as well as it should, due to no one volunteering. People are hesitant to get involved and it would make such a difference if people would volunteer more. It's like a relay race. Fr Timothy carries the baton but he can't run the whole race alone, it needs a team. He needs the rest of the church involved in this race in order for the baton to be passed from hand to hand and accomplish whatever goals are set for the Church. In our own personal lives, we ought to give in a variety of ways, e.g. money, time or expertise. Of note, a hug or a smile can be the greatest gift if someone is having a bad day or when they're going through some sort of crisis.

**God be in your road**

**Father Timothy**

**Easter Flowers**



## **Understanding the Trinity (or trying to)**

Understanding the Trinity has always been rather difficult for me. I mean, three spiritual beings that are separate, yet the same; that can operate independently of each other, yet rely on each other; that are three, yet one. It's not a concept that our human minds are able to wrap themselves around and comprehend easily. Trying to understand Them individually is bad enough, but together, as the Trinity? Oy vey! The mind boggles.

The only one I've been able to understand with any level of certainty is God the Son, Jesus. He is our Saviour, our Comforter, our Friend. He's the one we turn to when we need a sympathetic ear, when we need to share our deepest hopes and dreams and fears with God, and when we're in so much pain that we cannot speak and can only sob in a heap of raw emotion at His feet, needing the kind of comfort that only He can give.

God the Father is a bit more difficult for me, a bit more remote. The easiest way for me to understand Him (as much as my human mind ever could understand Him) is to think of Him as my Father. That way, I can try to understand what He wants from us, and how He loves us. It's not a precise and complete understanding of God, but I hope that it's pretty close. It's as close as my human mind is going to get anyway. At least now, whenever I need to ask myself how God wants me to act, and how He might react to me, I think of how a father might think and feel, and it helps me to understand Him a little better.

And the Holy Spirit? My understanding of Him is very vague and unclear, like looking at something through a thick veil. He's indistinct, and a vague concept at best. I know that He's the Spiritual aspect of God and Jesus, who was left behind to dwell within us and comfort us when Jesus left the physical or earthly plane, and that He is what fills us with joy when we worship God. He's also our conscience, telling us right from wrong, and our internal alarm bell, warning us when we're about to go off track. But other than that.....? He's a mystery.

And the Trinity? Something one of our parishioners said to me last week reminded me of how my own father used to explain it to me. Imagine

water, steam, and ice. They're different aspects of water, but still water. They're the same element, but in different forms, offering us different things in their different forms. But they're still all water. It's the same with the Trinity. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are all separate forms, but still all God, just in different forms, and portraying different aspects and traits of God. But together, They make up the whole that is God. Perfect and complete in the Trinity, and leaving nothing out. That's probably the closest I can come to explaining it. But let's look at how the Trinity can impact our own families.

The three aspects of the Trinity have a very complicated (and symbiotic) relationship, each one important in Their own right, able to operate independently of each other, yet be dependent on each other. They complement each other perfectly. They form a perfect whole, each form slotting into the next, like a perfect puzzle, with no holes or Godly aspect left untouched. Where the one ends, the next begins. Yet each form also affects the other forms, co-operating perfectly, forming an interdependent relationship with the other forms of God, creating the perfect Whole that is the Trinity. There is no competition or discord between the three. And that is how we should try to be within our own families, and relationships.

It's not a competition with those around us, trying to be right all the time, as if it's some kind of war or competition. It's not trying to make our loved ones into replicas of ourselves, or fighting over our differences, trying to force the other person/people into thinking and feeling the way we do. We should also aim to have an interdependent relationship with our loved ones, using the best of ourselves, playing to our strengths, celebrating our differences, in order to create the Perfect Whole, like the Trinity.

We will never be able to achieve Perfection, or to come close to the Perfect Wholeness that is the Trinity. That's not the point. As I said, it's not a race or a competition. The point is to try, to put our best efforts into trying to be more Godlike. Let's not beat ourselves up for not achieving it, for being human and imperfect, because it's an impossible, unrealistic goal. God just wants us to love Him enough to sacrifice our most imperfect, selfish, human desires and needs, to put Him first, and to put

everything we have into trying to be more like Him. And second to that, all He wants from us is to try to love as perfectly as He does, without pride, selfishness, or egotism; to put others' needs and feelings before our own; to be self-sacrificing; to be compassionate and kind towards those around us; and to practise His unconditional love daily.

Why? Because ..... Family Matters!

**Theresa Innes**

Family Matters Co-ordinator

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### **The Devil and the Duck**

Once a little boy was visiting his grandparents on their farm. He was given a slingshot to play with out in the woods. He practised in the woods, but he could never hit the target. Getting a little discouraged, he headed back for dinner... As he was walking back he saw Grandma's pet duck. Just out of impulse, he let the slingshot fly, hit the duck square in the head and killed it. He was shocked and grieved! In a panic, he hid the dead duck in the wood pile; only to see his sister watching! Sally had seen it all, but she said nothing.

After lunch the next day Grandma said, 'Sally, let's wash the dishes.' But Sally said, 'Grandma, Johnny told me he wanted to help in the kitchen.' Then she whispered to him, 'Remember the duck?' So Johnny did the dishes. Later that day, Grandpa asked if the children wanted to go fishing and Grandma said, 'I'm sorry, but I need Sally to help make supper.' Sally just smiled and said, 'Well that's all right, because Johnny told me he wanted to help.' She whispered again, 'Remember the duck?' So Sally went fishing and Johnny stayed to help.

After several days of Johnny doing both his chores and Sally's, he finally couldn't stand it any longer. He came to Grandma and confessed that he had killed the duck. Grandma knelt down, gave him a hug and said, 'Sweetheart, I know. You see, I was standing at the window and I saw the whole thing, but because I love you, I forgave you. I was just wondering how long you would let Sally make a slave of you.'

**Thought for the day and every day thereafter:**

Whatever is in your past, whatever you have done...? And the devil keeps throwing it up in your face (lying, cheating, debt, fear, bad habits, hatred, anger, bitterness, etc.)... Whatever it is... You need to know that: God was standing at the window and He saw the whole thing. He has seen your whole life... He wants you to know that He loves you and that you are forgiven. He's just wondering how long you will let the devil make a slave of you... The great thing about God is that, when you ask for forgiveness, He not only forgives you, but He forgets. It is by God's grace and mercy that we are saved.

**Always remember:**

God is at the window!

When Jesus died on the cross; he was thinking of you!

**Submitted by Theresa Innes**

## **THE SILENT SERMON**

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the preacher decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his preacher's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace ... and waited.

The preacher made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the preacher took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone, then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The preacher glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the preacher reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday.'

We live in a world today, which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

The Lord is my Shepherd --- *that's a Relationship!*

I shall not want --- *that's Supply!*

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures --- *that's Rest!*

He leadeth me beside the still waters --- *that's Refreshment!*

He restoreth my soul --- *that's Healing!*

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness --- *that's Guidance!*

For His name's sake --- *that's Purpose!*

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death --- *that's Testing!*

I will fear no evil --- *that's Protection!*

For Thou art with me --- *that's Faithfulness!*

Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me --- *that's Discipline!*

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies --- *that's Hope!*

Thou anointest my head with oil --- *that's Consecration!*

My cup runneth over --- *that's Abundance!*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life --- *that's Blessing!*

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord --- *that's Security!*

Forever --- *that's Eternity!*

***Face it, God is crazy about you!***

**Submitted by Hank Doeg**

## **My Years at Pretoria Sungardens Hospice**

What a privilege it has been to be a member of Pretoria Sungardens Hospice for a period of over twenty years – my Certificate of Service hangs proudly in my entrance hall at home.

My years as Hospice Chaplain were particularly rewarding as I was able to come face to face with patients and their families at a time when they needed all the spiritual support available – even baptism at times – apart from all their physical care. I met some truly wonderful people of all denominations, several of whom stand out in my mind. Our patients are always our first priority and I have, over the years, learnt much from our wonderful team of ICU (Intensive Care Unit) sisters and others.

How did I get to be so deeply involved with Hospice? As a lay pastor from St Francis of Assisi Church, Waterkloof, I used to visit cancer patients in the Mary Potter Ward of the Little Company of Mary Hospital. This is where I met our founder member, Shelagh Lahoud, who was a nursing sister there and whose daughter was a cancer sufferer. One day Shelagh said to me, “When I open my hospice, you must come and work with me there.” And that is exactly what I did, when the original home of Hospice was established at the Roman Catholic Seminary in Jacqueline Drive, where we had our first in-patients.

We were all required to do various courses to equip ourselves to do the necessary work, which included a Personal Growth Course. I was fortunate to be one of six people sent to Durban in 1989 to a Hospice Conference. Later I went to St Luke’s in Cape Town to attend a course in Bereavement Counselling, which qualified me to run bereavement courses for staff members and volunteers. Sungardens Hospice has grown over the years and today we have our own Training Department.

Our Day Care meetings bring back lots of memories. These meetings were held weekly when patients either from the Unit who were mobile or those who were being nursed at home, together with others who were bereaved, were brought to the Hospice for the morning and kept busy in various ways. During the morning we would have ‘Devotions’ when we

would read a suitable passage from Scripture and pray together, ending the morning with lunch prepared for us by the kitchen staff.

Hospice has never been all doom and gloom. Amidst all the sadness involved with death and dying, we had many occasions when we experienced fun and laughter. Our dear Sister Wally was one of our main sources of fun and it was a sad loss to Hospice and to all of us when she herself died of cancer. It was Wally who called me 'the Vicar in Knickers' – an expression she got from her father-in-law, a priest in Zimbabwe, who could not abide women priests. Little did he know that I inherited some of his vestments after he died – or perhaps he does! I became known as 'the Vic' for short.

We are blessed with having our own Chapel, which was consecrated in March 1998 by the former Anglican Bishop of Pretoria, the late Richard Kraft, assisted by ministers of several other denominations. Funerals and other services are held here.

Over the years, deep friendships have been formed. Several of us 'Golden Oldies' or 'Goldies' – now mostly retired or semi-retired – meet together regularly for lunch, when we often recall different events from the past, funny or sad.

We thank the public of Pretoria for their love and support in visiting and supplying our shops with books and other items to enable us to raise funds to meet our various needs. Your prayers for the work of Hospice would also be deeply appreciated.

**June de Klerk**

### **King James Bible 1611 – 2011**

This year South Africans celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible, together with the rest of the English-speaking world. This Bible was published in 1611 and had a great impact not only on a spiritual level but on the English language and culture as well.

***The Sower Winter 2011***

## **Bible Society of South Africa 1820 – 2010**

For 190 years the Lord has made it possible for the Bible society to make the Bible available to millions of South Africans.

Through the years the Bible Society has been involved in the translation of the Bible into all the languages of our country. Some 18 translations and 12 revisions have been done in South African languages. Today Southern Ndebele is the only official language in which there is not yet a complete Bible available. [...] The translation of the Old Testament is complete and the revision of the existing New Testament is expected to be finished in 2011. Only then can the layout and proofreading of the text commence. The publication within the next two years of the first complete Bible ever in Southern Ndebele is being looked forward to with great expectation.

### **Bible Society of South Africa, *Review 2010***

#### **The Centre of the Bible**

Q: What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?    A: Psalm 117

Q: What is the longest chapter in the Bible?    A: Psalm 119

Q: What chapter is in the centre of the Bible?    A: Psalm 118

Facts:    There are 594 chapters before Psalm 118

          There are 594 chapters after Psalm 118

Add these numbers up (594 + 594) and you get 1188

Q: What verse is at the centre of the Bible?    A: Psalm 118: 8

Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will in our lives?

***It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.***

**Psalm 118: 8 (NKJV)**

**Submitted by Jill Daugherty**

### **Three Trees**

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods. They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said, 'Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty.'

Then the second tree said, 'Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take Kings and queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world. Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull.'

Finally the third tree said, 'I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest Tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill and look up to my branches, and think of the heavens and God and how close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me.'

After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. When one came to the first tree he said, 'This looks like a strong tree, I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter, 'and he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree the woodsman said, 'This looks like a strong tree. I should be able to sell it to the shipyard.' The second tree was happy, because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship. When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true. One of the woodsmen said, 'I don't need anything special from my tree, I'll take this one,' and he cut it down.

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for. The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end. The third tree was cut into large pieces, and left alone in the dark.

The years went by, and the trees forgot about their dreams.

Then one day, a man and woman came to the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this manger would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and He stood and said 'Peace' and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in its boat.

Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. When they came to a stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill. When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible, because Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral of this story is that when things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, God will give you great gifts.

Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined.

We don't always know what God's plans are for us. We just know that His Ways are not our ways, but His ways are always best.

**Submitted by Sheila Cave**

## **The Craft Fellowship Group**

'Time marches on', they say. We thought of this the other day as we celebrated Peggy McLaren's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and reflected on the years gone by. The Craft Fellowship Group was started at St Francis of Assisi during the reign of Robin and Margaret Briggs. Our aim in those days was to equip the then 'new kitchen' – which is now in the process of being renovated once again! We used to gather at Dianne Bam's beautiful home where we shared our expertise and learned new crafts.

After this initial project we put our talents to work for various Church charities, until the plight of the Tumelong Aids orphans was brought to our attention. Since then we have concentrated our efforts on bringing them a little joy and warmth. Winter has been severe this year and we are aware that we are no longer able to accomplish all that we used to do in the past. However, through the grace of God, and thanks to two exceptional knitters in our group, we were able to hand over 50 jerseys and caps to Keba Matlhako from Tumelong Mission, when he joined us for tea and cake one morning at the end of May. Keba took the photos below.

**June van der Merwe**





**Margaret & Denise, the two main knitters, arrange the display**



**GATANG COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL MAMELODI**



St Francis parishioners donated blankets and clothes to the students of Gatang Comprehensive School to help them through the winter. Fr Timothy and Jon-Reece made the first delivery on 7 June (see photo above) and Linda Lewis, David Ntswane and a few other parishioners delivered the remainder on 24 June, which was the last day of the second term. Gatang Comprehensive is a non-fee-paying school in Mamelodi East. Most of the children who attend the school are underprivileged and many of them are orphans who have to fend for themselves for shelter, clothing and food. Deacon Joan came across the school by chance one day last year when she was looking for All Saints church. She was moved by the dedication of the principal and teachers and the plight of the students. Since then, she has appealed to parishioners for second-hand clothes and has visited the school on several occasions to deliver what has been collected.

**Linda Lewis** describes below the visit to the school on 24 June:

It was a lovely day and, when we arrived, there were boys playing football and a few groups of girls strolling around and chatting among themselves. They had just finished exams and there was an air of excitement and anticipation. The pupils were all very polite and greeted us with a smile as we passed them. It was obvious that the school was being run by some very dedicated people.

We were taken to the hall, which seems to double up as a classroom as there were English and maths notes on the blackboards. We must have had about 40 or 50 blankets for distribution. The headmistress arrived, explaining that they had had an urgent meeting. We carefully unzipped some of the blankets. The pupils and even some of the teachers enthusiastically put them around their shoulders and with pride exhibited what they were about to receive.

It warmed our hearts when six pupils got up and each gave us a vote of thanks and told us what the blankets would mean to them. One of these was a girl of about 14 who had collapsed during an exam the previous day due to hunger. A joyful occasion was slightly overshadowed by this news. Funds are limited but the principal informed us that they were trying to get sponsorship so that they could provide a meal a day to the pupils.

**Jill Daugherty & Linda Lewis**

Jesus tried to propagate a new paradigm of power. Power and might in this paradigm are not meant for self-aggrandizement, not meant to be lorded over others. Power and might are not for throwing our weight about, disregarding any laws and conventions we may find inconvenient. Power in this new paradigm is for service — for being compassionate, for being gentle, for being caring — for being the servant of all.

**from *God Has A Dream* by Desmond Tutu**

## **MISSION ZIMBABWE : BINGA GRINDING MILL PROJECT**

Following our mission to Bulawayo, Kamativi and Binga in November 2009, the Mission Zimbabwe team have been communicating with the social development team of the Church of Ascension in Bulawayo and St John's parish in Binga regarding possible assistance with sustainable income generating projects. The establishment of a grinding mill (to grind maize and sorghum) that can service the Binga community was identified as a much needed project. A business plan was prepared, submitted and approved for the project. Mission Zimbabwe partnered with a private foundation in Germany (the Burkhardt-Stiftung) to fund the project on a 50/50 basis.

In August 2010 we paid R44,200 over to the Church of Ascension so that their social development team could implement the project. This entailed the purchasing of a grinding mill, the registration of a site to establish the mill, the installation of an electricity supply line and the construction of a building to house the mill.

By the end of May 2011, the building to house the mill had been completed, but an add-on for the toilet was still under construction. This was an additional health requirement from the authorities which had not been anticipated. Additional funds for electrical equipment and windows were requested and transferred to the Church of Ascension. The grinding mill had already been purchased and was transported from Bulawayo to Binga and installed once the electrical connections were in place and the building activities completed.

The project is to be commissioned on 23 July. Members of the Mission Zimbabwe team, including Fr Timothy, will travel to Bulawayo and continue on to Binga with Jonathan Sithole and Fr Shingi to be present at the commissioning. I want to ensure that institutional arrangements are in place to properly manage the project and will then report on the project outcome (and other potential projects) to the Burkhardt Foundation.

**Erik Buiten**

(We look forward to including a report on this event in our next issue, **The Editor**)

## **Irene Homes Fête**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May saw Margie Couper, Jill Daugherty and me laying out bowls of puddings at the Irene Homes Fête. This was in spite of a shower of light rain early in the morning, but the downpour at one o'clock sent us scurrying for shelter for both the puddings and ourselves.

By then we had done a brisk trade with a super sago pudding, a delicious baked apple pie, apple crumbles, jellies, brownies, milk tarts, chocolate whip, trifles, a tipsy tart, malva puddings and other goodies. The response from the faithful pudding makers and the generosity of donations was so great that St Francis was able to hand in over R2000 for the wonderful work done at Irene Homes. If you weren't there, you missed a joyful occasion!

**Elizabeth Bojé**



