

# NOTICES

## PLEDGE ENVELOPES

Please note that your pledge envelopes for January to June 2019 is be available at the back of the chapel. If your envelopes are not there, please add your name and phone number to the list provided.

## 2018 CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



It is the time of year that we make our usual appeal for donations towards the flower fund for decorating our church over the Christmas period. Your donations may be put in a clearly marked envelope with the collection. If you would like to donate in memory of a loved one, please include the relevant information in detail. Thank you so much.

### PERSONS ON DUTY AT ST FRANCIS – 30 December

**Clergy:** Revd Rod Walsh  
**Lay ministers:** Rosetta and Karren  
**Sidespersons:** Cecil Karen, Selwyn January & Simone  
**Readers:** 1<sup>st</sup> reading Kagen 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Cee-Jay  
**Servers:** MC Wesley Crucifer Cameron Acolytes Jaryd & Alyssa

### ◇ HALL HIRE:

Parishioners are to please note that to book the St Oswald's hall, the church wardens, (**Loretta Welcomets:** [welcometsloretta@gmail.com](mailto:welcometsloretta@gmail.com) / 071 3420353 **Andrée Lombard - 082 449 4955 – andreelombard@absamail.co.za**) should be contacted. You may also contact **the office (021 551 8529)** where your booking will be put into the calendar **provisionally** until the wardens have been consulted about arrangements and fees.

**CLERGY:** Revd Selwyn Engelbrecht Ph 021 552 3262  
Revd Ernest Ward-Cox Ph 021 554 1777  
Revd Tozamide Shweni  
Revd Tembeka Mpako-Ntusi  
**PARISH OFFICE:** Deirdre Marshall Ph 021 551 8529  
8.30am-12.30pm Tues – Friday Fax: 021 5518529 & 0866469561

**CHAPEL WARDENS:** Karren Lakey Ph 081 271 0656  
Selwyn January Ph 071 947 2665

**Self-supporting & Retired Clergy periodically assisting in the Parish:**  
Revd Anthony Gregorowski, Revd Canon Mervyn Moore, Revd Maxwell Malan, Revd Rod Walsh, Revd Mxolisi Mpambani, Revd Matthew Esau

**NEW E-MAIL:** [info@stoswalds.org.za](mailto:info@stoswalds.org.za) [www.stoswalds.org.za](http://www.stoswalds.org.za)

# ST FRANCIS CHAPEL

## BROOKLYN

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (A.C.S.A)



*The Fourth Sunday of ADVENT* 23 December 2018

### SERVICES AT ST FRANCIS CHAPEL

**SUNDAYS** 9:30am Holy Communion **WEDNESDAYS** 9:30am Morning Prayer

Worship Evangelism Caring Ministry Awareness of needs Reaching out Education  
of others renewal/revival

#### Vision

*To be a vibrant parish which supports all our ministries through the strength and guidance of our Lord Jesus Christ to show that 'WE CARE'*

*A very warm welcome to you all, especially to visitors who are worshipping with us today. Should any newcomer wish to join the parish, forms are available on the shelf at the chapel entrance.*

### PERSONS ON DUTY AT ST FRANCIS – 23 December

**Clergy:** Revd Selwyn Engelbrecht  
**Lay ministers:** Karren and Charles  
**Sidespersons:** Antonio, Lucinda, Rosetta, Simone  
**Readers:** 1<sup>st</sup> reading Karren 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Cecil  
**Servers:** MC Cee-Jay Crucifer Caitlin Acolytes Kayleigh & Storm

### READINGS FOR THE DAY (The Revised English Bible)

**1<sup>st</sup> Lesson** Micah 5: 2 – 5a p 816  
**Psalm** Song of Mary p 57 APB  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson** Hebrews 10: 5 – 10 p 179  
**Canticle** 2 p 357 APB  
**Gospel Reading** Luke 1: 39 – 45 p 52

### COLLECT FOR THE DAY

**God of Elizabeth and Mary:  
Make our hearts fill with joy,  
Fill our mouths with songs of praise  
And make us ready to welcome the Christ in our midst;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, in glory everlasting, Amen.**



## Advent 4

The last week of Advent returns us to the beginning of John's story, as Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visits Elizabeth, and John leaps within his mother's womb.

Mary's song is, of course, one of the highlights of the birth narratives, and carries a powerful justice-proclaiming message. In

the waiting of Advent, it can be tempting to become passive observers of God's activity, but the Scriptures call us instead to be active participants in God's salvation. May our worship inspire and empower us to be both recipients of God's salvation and little incarnations who carry salvation to our world.

*The Rector invites all in the parish to join him on a Daily **Advent Retreat** in the comfort of your own space. Please refer to the website under Devotions, [www.stoswalds.org.za/devotions](http://www.stoswalds.org.za/devotions) or if you do not have access to this, please speak to Fr Selwyn.*

### **BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK 24 - 29 Dec 2018**

John 12: 44 – 47 : John 1: 1 – 14 : John 1: 1 – 5  
John 1: 6 – 14 : Matthew 2: 13 – 18 : Luke 2: 22 – 35

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS –Sunday 30 December 2018**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** 1 Samuel 2: 18 – 20, 26 **Psalm:** 148

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Colossians 3: 12 – 17

**Gospel reading:** Luke 2: 41 – 52 **Canticle:** 10

### **PRAYERS**

**Godfrey Abrahams, Helen Wastie, Stanley Peterson, Nazli Pandit, Wilma Brandt, Rebecca Morgan, Keith and Mark Vincent, Hazel Heyburgh, Jane Solomon, Carla Pretorius, and all in need of the Lord's healing.**

### **HOME VISITS**

Parishioners who would like someone to visit them - please make contact with the office via telephone: **021 551 8529** or email: [info@stoswalds.org.za](mailto:info@stoswalds.org.za)

### **BIRTHDAYS**

**24/12** Marco Alexander **26/12** Rene Absolon

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

**26/12** Rodney and Berenise Wichman

**Luke 1: 39 - 45**

**The Spirit of Christmas**

In a few days we celebrate the birthday of Christ. Christ comes most readily to those who realise their need of him.

In his book, *Christmas*, the writer, John B Keane, talks about the 'urging' of Christmas. He tells about a man who in normal circumstances wouldn't give you the crumbs from his table, but who, when imbued with the spirit of Christmas, phone his estranged daughter in England and begged her to come home for Christmas. The daughter accepted the on both sides, all was forgiven. John B says that he wasn't half as mean afterwards and concludes: 'So, my friends, take Christmas by the horns – it can work wonders.'

He goes on to say that we shouldn't be ashamed to be weepy or sentimental about Christmas, because we might not get the chance during the year ahead to show our humanity to the world. That, after all, is what Christmas is for – taking stock of our humanity and dispensing it where it is most needed.

SO, if we feel the impulse to be forgiving and charitable and loving, we shouldn't think about it twice or we'll miss the boat. 'The milk of human kindness comes from that great repository of compassion and hope, namely, the human heart.'

The spirit of Christmas cannot be killed. It has survived Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini, and many other tyrants. It has survived human greed and human jealousy, and every human failing one cares to mention. Nothing lasts like Christmas. Not all the inhumanity, nor all the greed, nor all the violence will reduce its message by a whit. It's here to stay and there's nothing evil men can do about it – and that's one great consolation.

Of course, there are things that can damage Christmas. Chief among these is alcohol. It can lead to death on the roads and stupid rows. To take one's drink at the end rather than at the start of one's journey, and to take it in moderation, may be one's best Christmas gift to one's fellow human beings.

Christmas is a time of opportunity. It creates a climate which encourages us to reveal our better natures. Just as the spring assures the growth of crops, so Christmas assures the growth of love.

It is not possible for us, because of our fallen nature, to be charitable and compassionate all the year round. Let us, therefore, make the most of Christmas. It is not true that Charles Dickens invented Christmas as we know it. Christmas was born out of love and carries on out of love. It springs from God's gratuitous love for us.

How bleak the world would be if there was no Christmas. There is nothing else with the power to move the human heart to its utmost capability. We mustn't take it for granted. If we haven't done anything about it yet, then for pity's sake let us do it now or we'll be guilty of the awful crime of undermining Christmas.

Christmas is ae feast of the heart. It reveals to us what the heart of God is like. It was God who started it all when he gave us the gift of his Son. At the same time, it revealed to us what the human heart is capable of. Christmas causes us to open our hearts. And the extent to which we open our hearts to God and to one another, will be the extent to which we experience the 'great joy' the angels announced to the shepherds, because joy is the fruit of love.

***Father, fill our hearts with love through the coming of your Son. Give us the grace to overcome our fears and anxieties, and keep us joyful in your service. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.***

(Taken from New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies – Year C – by Flor McCarthy SDB)