



3rd Sunday of Easter

6th April 2008

Archbishop Buti Tlhagale explains then the concept of "transformation" in the post-apartheid era, which focuses on the socio-economic upliftment of the poor, only to expand on the Christian vision of transformation.

"The Christian vision of transformation or conversion on the other hand, coincides with the secular vision of transformation in so far as it also seeks to address the plight of the poor and needy. This is the key message of today's Gospel readings.

The Spirit of the Lord has been given to both the lay priests and ordained priests. Both the lay priest and the ordained priest complement each other in this Mission of Christ. They are to proclaim:

"Liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free to proclaim the Lord's year of favour".

And yet the Christian vision of transformation goes deeper. First, its foundation is rooted in Christ himself and not exclusively in the erratic generosity of human beings. Through faith and the Holy Spirit, Christians experience the power that brings about transformation in their own lives. It is this power that makes them new beings, new persons. It is transformation from within, unleashed by the power of Christ who lives in me. Faith transforms deeply so that priests, both lay and ordained, no longer live for themselves, "It is Christ who lives in me" (Gal. 2.2). This transformation is brought about by a total openness to the gift of the Holy Spirit. This transformation moves Faith from the periphery, to the centre stage of our lives as Christians. Faith then ceases to be an occasional event, a Sunday ritual, an occasional devotion to Our Lady or an occasional devotion to the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist. Faith becomes the power that grasps and gives meaning to the entire Christian person. St. Paul in

Weekend masses: **SATURDAY 5 pm and SUNDAY 10.30 am**
Confessions: **SATURDAY 4.30 pm** or by appointment
Weekday masses: **TUESDAY 9 am and WEDNESDAY 7.30 pm**
First Friday of the month: **ADORATION 6.15 pm and MASS 7.30 pm**

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Bank details: **STANDARD BANK, Acc. Nr. 170 2130**
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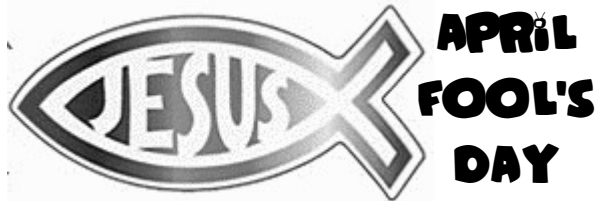
For **Mass intentions** and **appointment** with Father, please contact Shantha by phone at the office on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9.30 to 12.30
OR leave a message on the mailbox OR send an email.
For **Sick calls**, please contact
Clive Padayachee on 011.854.5060 or 072.493.4773
For **Funerals**, please contact **Vivian Patel** on 011.854.8523 or **Cynthia Thomas** on 011.854.5490
In case of emergency only, Fr. Philippe's cell is 082.729.3758

Join in the following activities...

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP : every Monday 7.30 pm in the Hall.
Contact Edgar 011 852 4960
INTERCESSION PRAYER GROUP: every Friday 10 am - 24 Opaal Street - Extension 5. Contact Vivian 011 854 8523
PRAYER GROUP: every Saturday 3.30 pm in the Hall.
STOP: every Wednesday @ 7.30pm in the Hall. Contact: Sebastian 078.111.9991 or Gregory 082.902.6721

Romans 12 writes: "Please wake up. Recognise that the meaning of your life is to offer yourself and all you do (both small and big things, your daily chores) to become part of God's own project of saving and claiming creation for eternal life". "

To continue next week.



As for many traditions, the origin of this "feast" is so ancient that it has become unclear. Some claim that it originates in the signs of the zodiac, hence the "April Fish". "April Fool's Day" would have become "fish day" because at the beginning of April, the Moon comes out of the sign of the Fish.

In reality, the 1st of April corresponds to the beginning of Spring (in Europe) and at the end of Lent (except this year, because Easter was so early). Lent being a time of fasting, people used to eat lots of fish, to the point that they were "fed up" of it. So the Christians, tired of eating fish, used the leftovers of fish hanging them on doors or on the back of people's clothes... without their knowing of course!

A little joke to end the long fast of Lent! A good Christian celebration after all, just for a laugh... unless we think that our belonging to Christ prevents us of having a good laugh!

In any case, be honest: I did pull your leg beautifully, neh? Watch next year!

I'll be very watchful myself!

Keep smiling!

Father Philippe

Candidates for RCIA are requested to present themselves this Sunday after mass in the Church.

First **baptism prep session** for parents and sponsors this Sunday after mass in one of the hall's classrooms.

Altar Servers Roster

Wed 9th: Adrian, Jacklyn, Kewan, Janine P., Andrew
Sat 12th: Kyle, Mitchell, Adrian, Tesania, Nathanie, Claudene, Claudette
Sun 13th: Justin, Jacklyn, Janine P., Kylin, Bradley, Andrew, Maegan

Flower List

Angela Pillay, Colin & Neala Pillay, Mark & Shireen Pillay, Paul & Angeline Pillay

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 5th: Amit Naran & Sangeeta Lalloo RIP
Sun 6th: Lawrence & Donovan Joseph RIP
Tue 8th: Leslie Thomas & deceased family RIP
Wed 9th: Thanksgiving

This Sunday, at 2pm, Wedding of Smith and Marie-Ange, who are working at TYC, Fr Philippe's Youth Centre near Orange Farm.

This Sunday, at 3.30pm, YES regional meeting in Fr's Flat.

Inflation hits St. Thomas'

No wonder! You all suffer from the rise of prices: food, petrol, soon electricity... And the Sunday collections have hardly gone up, scoring an average of R2000 per Sunday, or R8000 per month, minus Church Levy, R6400.

The average ordinary expenditures are as follows:

- The poor: R640
- Salaries: R4,300
- Allowance Father: R1,500
- Electricity, water, tel: R3,200
- Assistance Ext10: R600
- Altar bread/wine: R350
- Office: R350
- Newspaper: R960... TOTAL: R11,900

For the moment, Father pays his cell-phone, internet consumption, website, the diocese pays for the petrol. This should change soon.

The dedication saves us, but there are quite a few big expenses ahead of us. More next week.