



St. Thomas Lenasia

# Feast of Christ the King A

23<sup>rd</sup> November

South Africa, a living Democracy.  
Preparing for the Elections

A Pastoral Statement of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ and all people of goodwill,

For Democracy to live, we all need to participate. For Christian voters, this participation is a serious obligation. Participation is not only about making your mark on Election Day, but also means that we need to participate in a responsible way in the preparations for the Election.

For Christian voters, voting expresses our love and concern for our country and for the common good of all who live in South Africa. Each vote will affect the lives of every individual and group in the country.

To vote responsibly means that you need to prepare well so that you know what you are doing. To be well prepared means that you have to find out all you can about the policies of the different political parties and how they might affect the country. You must ask the question of yourself and of political parties if the policies and practices of a particular party are or will be good for the whole country.

Politically motivated hate speech, intimidation, violence and disruption kill democracy. People have different views and so they support different parties. For a democracy to live, we must tolerate the different views of others. A wide range of ideas and policies help us to see what might be best for our country and people. This will help us choose what is best for the common good of all. Not to respect the views of others and their right to support the party of their choice is unchristian and undemocratic. Violence or the threat of violence towards those who differ from us or to parties other than the one you support is unchristian and undemocratic.

Your vote and the effort you make to prepare to vote are your personal responsibility and contribution to the democratic life of our country. No one can tell you which party to vote for. Voting for a party just because you voted for it before or because your father or grandmother votes for it does not give life to our democracy. It might be tempting to vote for a party that serves your own interests or those of your social or economic group, but if other people will suffer because of your choice, you are not making a good choice.

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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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.  
**YOUTH CJA GROUP**: every Friday 7.30 pm in the Hall - contact Lerece 083 411 5650

What you should do to prepare to participate responsibly in the election? You can find out what the various parties stand for by attending meetings where people can freely listen and discuss what is best for the country. You can also listen to the radio, watch television and read newspapers to find out more. Organizations such as Churches, Clubs, Societies and Associations can arrange these meetings for themselves so that there can be debate about what is best for our country.

Choosing to be ignorant and voting by prejudice is not a Christian expression of love and concern for our country. Remember that your vote expresses your considered opinion about what will be best for as many people in South Africa as possible – especially the poor, the marginalised and the voiceless in our society. This will help us all act responsibly to make South Africa a home in which all God's Children can live in hope and freedom.

Responsible preparation also means that we pray for peace and for guidance. Prayer is the strongest influence God has put into our hands. Remember how the St Francis Prayer for Peace, prayed every day by individuals in many communities supported our struggle for democracy. Praying this prayer would be a powerful reminder of our responsibility and the instruments of Peace. Pray from now until the Election that all people who will vote will allow the Holy Spirit to guide their choice.

Archbishop Buti J. Tlhagale  
Archbishop of Johannesburg.  
President of the SACBC

## THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS OF LENASIA CANDLE LIGHTING EVENING

*In memory of our children...*

We pay tribute to our loved ones, for their lives and to ensure their light continues in our hearts and memories.

At Lenasia Recreation Centre (ext 3) on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov at 6.30pm  
ALL WELCOME !

## Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Saturday celebration for the youths and the children was very well attended. By 12 o'clock, most of the children had their faces painted and where rejoicing. The highlight of the celebration was, of course, the Youth Mass, but unfortunately by then two third of the children had been collected by their parents. Father, together with all the benevolent organisers are still puzzled by that. On Sunday, fair attendance from the parishioners. Many remained for the braai, which was truly a social event, as most of the parishioners took their time greeting and speaking to each other.

Thank you very much to the 50th Anniversary Committee and to those who spent time and energy ensuring this day would be unforgettable. Saint Tomas' Parish is well alive and kicking!

## Altar Servers Roster

Wed 26<sup>th</sup>: Jacklyn, Kewan, Janine P.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup>: Claudene, Claudette

Sun 30<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln, Sherwin

## Flower List

Krishnan & Paula Pather, Angela Pillay, Colin & Neala Pillay, Mark & Shireen Pillay.

## SVDP ANNUAL DANCE 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2008

They request:

- Donations of Cold drinks, Sweets, crisp and peanuts for the tables, etc.
- Man power to assist with the Hall setting, tables, chairs and Décor
- Donations of Food, eg: salad, or Roti,
- Cash donations are welcome.

## JCJ ANNUAL RETREAT

All parishioners are invited to join our Mass which closes our retreat at the Good Shepherd Retreat Centre. Mass is scheduled for 11:30. We will have a bring-and-share lunch thereafter. Everyone is encouraged to come and greet our Young Adults after a weekend away from home.

## DIRECTIONS AVAILABLE FROM OFFICE OR FATHER

The Tamil Community is invited us to a **FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS** at Saiva Sithantha Sungum Hall - Smarag Street Ext 5 - on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November from 2pm to 7pm. If possible, let us answer positively to the invitation in order to better the relationship with our brothers and sisters.

*Jonathan Naicker and Jesh Marrie were joined together in the sacrament of Marriage this Saturday afternoon. The community of St. Thomas' congratulates them and wishes them well in their new life.*