



St. Thomas Lenasia

7th Sunday of the Year B 22nd February 2009

From our Archbishop
in the name of the SACBC

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After 15 years of democracy, we are once again about to take part in elections to choose a new government. Since the "miracle" elections of 1994, when God answered our prayers for peace, the excitement about the end of apartheid and the new experience of voting is over.

South Africa is an emerging democracy, with all its vigorous debates, conflicting interests and related power struggles.

Outstanding Challenges

As a nation we have made many advances over the past years. We thank God for the wise and selfless leaders that have helped us to achieve this, and for the goodwill shown by so many of our people. Yet we all remain concerned about the enormous challenges that still face us. We know that there will be no easy solutions to the problems of:

- Poverty, the growing gap between rich and poor, rising prices and the lack of jobs;
- The lack of adequate housing, public services and service delivery;
- Unstable families, increasing domestic violence and teenage pregnancies;
- Sexual exploitation and alcohol and drug abuse;
- Increasing instances of abortion;
- The high levels of crime and violence, and a justice system that is slow and often ineffective;
- The weakening of organs of society which should be strengthening our democracy (such as the SABC and the courts of law);
- The increase in HIV&AIDS and the plight of vulnerable children;
- The low quality of public education; and
- The influx of migrants and refugees and the associated xenophobia.

These and many other problems are a serious challenge to any government, and it is up to each one of us to decide which party has the policies and commitment to address them effectively. It is important to judge a party on its overall policy regarding the key values of the Gospel such as promoting life, human dignity and justice in relation to the above issues.

TO FOLLOW

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**
of **LENASIA CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Website: <http://www.stthomaslenz.org>

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

One of our parishioners has sent, in the name of the Community, a huge basket full of goodies to Father Smith at the occasion of his birthday. Father Philippe got some feedback from one of Fr Smith's confrere. It seems he was very touched by the gift from HIS family. Thank you so much for the initiative.

JCJ1 Parents' meeting on Sunday 8th March after mass.

EMC meeting with father on Sunday 8th March at 3pm.

PPC Exec meeting this Sunday after mass in father's flat.

Full PPC meeting on Sunday the 1st of March after mass in the Parish Hall

Change your heart... Change your fast !

The Indian Community in Lenasia willingly adopts the fasting tradition of Hinduism, which replaces the meat diet by a vegetable diet. While fasting is very much a question of personal choice, the question is: "is the effort sufficient to really change our hearts?". The tradition of fasting in the Church is more radical, and the spiritual benefits of fasting are expected to be of real conversion.

Please refer to the article of Pope Benedict in the last edition of the Southern Cross (photocopies available from Father).

May we suggest all parishioners from JCJ1 try to fast completely, i.e. denying any food for 24hrs during the time of Lent. The more committed could do it once a week, for example of Fridays.

THE FUND RAISING COMMITTEE OF ST THOMAS CATHOLIC CHURCH PRESENTS " A WINTER BALL" AT THE LENASIA CIVIC CENTRE ON FRIDAY , 24TH APRIL 2009 FROM 8 TO LATE

Music rendered by the E'SPLENDOS
R50-00 per person
Refreshments will be sold.

We need everyone in our church support to make this dance a success !
Tickets will be available from the fun raising members

Altar Servers Roster

Wed 25th: Marlene, Mitchell, Jason, Sonam, Kewan, Steven, Tiffany

Sat 28th: Justin, Jacklyn, Sonam, Bradley, Janine J.

Sun 29th: Jason, Kewan, Sherwin, Claudene, Claudette

All altar servers are kindly asked to fill out a form which will be on the notice board in the sacristy.

Flower List

Colleen Jackson, Gordon Jackson, Marcel & Lynda Jackson, Neville & Tilly Jackson

Mass Intentions

Sat 21st: Mr C. Lalloo, Sangeeta Lalloo & Amit Naren & Muriel Naidoo

Sun 22nd: Thanksgiving Mass

Tue 24th: Aubrey Morgan RIP

Wed 25th: Lawrence & Donovan Joseph RIP

To the Newly confirmed: We will be having our final meeting for all those who have been confirmed in December 2008 for an hour on the 28 February at 10am to be held at St Kizito Parish.

Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

Timetable of the Week

Ash Wednesday:

masses at 9am and 7.30pm
service for school children at 4pm

Thursday morning:

During Lent, mass will be celebrated every Thursday morning at 5.30am

Friday evening:

The Way of the Cross will be conducted by Father in the traditional way at 7.30pm. The mass intention of the 1st Friday of March will be transferred to the Thursday before.