

Update on St Cyprian's Anglican Church, Sharpeville

Introduction

This update is written at the time when our country and the world in general, is mourning the death of the late Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Mpilo Tutu who passed away on Sunday 26th December 2021. Arch, as he was affectionately known and called by the South Africans, was a great stalwart and icon of faith and activism. He played a huge role as the mediator of peace and reconciliation in our country. I personally have fond memories of his visiting my home town of Boipatong after the tragic Boipatong massacre of 17th June 1992. He won the respect of all South Africans across all age groups, faiths, political parties and social classes. The Arch will be laid to rest on 1st January 2022 and we continue to pray for his dear wife, Mrs Leah Tutu, their children and grandchildren.

Worship

We are on Level 1 of the lockdown restrictions, so we are allowed to have 250 people indoors for worship, 500 outdoors.

Weekly services Wednesdays at 9:30am & 6pm, Sundays at 8am

Daily (Monday to Friday) Scripture reflection and prayer is sent to our parishioners via WhatsApp.

The Ordination service on 27th November 2021 went well.

The Diocesan memorial service of the late Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu will be held at St Cyprian's in Sharpeville on 31st December 2021 and it will be led by the Diocesan Bishop (William Mostert); the retired and former Bishop (Peter Lee) will be the preacher.

The parish will dedicate the Eucharist Service of Sunday 2nd January 2022 to the memory of the late Archbishop, and Bishop Peter Lee, who was consecrated by the late Arch in 1990, will be the celebrant and preacher.

Pastoral Care

Ministry to the Sick (distribution of Holy Communion) was done on 12th December 2021.

To date since the beginning of the lockdown period (26th March 2020), we have buried 95 people in the parish and 38 of them were confirmed cases of Covid-19.

We thank God that the impact of the Omicron variant is not that severe; yes, we had cases of about 8 families going into isolation but they have all recovered.

The vaccination process is continuing and gradually more and more people are getting vaccinated.

On 14th November 2021 we had a guest speaker (Mrs Thandi Mennen) from the Department of Social Development and she addressed the parish on Gender-based Violence.

Outreach Ministry

28 families under our care continue to receive their monthly food parcels from the parish and we are grateful for the ministry of our Outreach Ministry team and for December, with the donation from Little St Mary's, we managed to give bigger quantities than usual and also gave to more (45) families.

We had a Christmas Party for the Sunday School and children from the community on the 4th December 2021 and we are grateful to our Women's Ministry for organising that special event for the young ones. Our priority continues to be child-headed families and any other homes with children, the aged and disabled.

As from next month, we shall have an NGO (Non-Government Organisation) that is working with vulnerable and abused children operating from our Rectory house. This will provide emotional and psychological support to the children as well as one meal per day from Monday to Friday.

The South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drugs started to operate from our church on 4th October 2021. They give treatment to people who are in the process of rehabilitation from drug and alcohol abuse. We are happy as a parish to be part of the healing process of these brothers and sisters of ours, "love your neighbour."

Maintenance and Projects

Our properties are well kept and maintained. Other projects (i.e. painting the interior and exterior of the LSM building, wall of remembrance) are on hold.

The Rectory house will be used to care for the vulnerable and abused children in society and we are grateful as the parish to be using our resources to nurture and protect children. Finances

We are grateful for the love and generosity from Little St Mary's and as much as the Parish is struggling financially, we are committed to using a portion of those funds for Outreach Ministry.

We thank God for our Parishioners who continues to give towards the sustainability of the Parish during these difficult times.

For 2022, the Diocese has reduced our Assessment from ZAR51,500 (£2,454) to R45,500 (£2,168) and our monthly budget for 2022 as projected by the Parish Treasurer will be R72,000 (£3,431).

Conclusion

As we approach the year 2022 in hope, we pray for a better year, healing, peace and prosperity for all. We thank God for the lovely people of LSM Cambridge and may God continue to prosper her ministry undertaken in God's name.

Blessings,

Fr David Mahlonoko (Sharpeville)

30th December 2021