

UPDATE ON ST CYPRIAN'S, SHARPEVILLE

27th NOVEMBER 2023

INTRODUCTION

As we begin the season of spring, trees are starting blossom with beautiful colours, nature is being renewed and there is a great sense of newness and freshness. Socially and politically, we hope to see the end of loadshedding which is affecting everyone in the country quite negatively and causing so much frustration. As the Diocese, we thank God for the successful Elective Assembly and we are looking forward to the Consecration of the new Bishop on 8 th October.

WORSHIP

- Weekly Service : Wednesdays at 9:30am & 6pm(Home Eucharist Service) and Sundays at 8am
- Junior worship has three classes running parallel with our main service on Sunday.
- Mothers' Union prayer meeting every Thursday at 11am and those who are working meet on Sunday at 7am
- Youth group meets every Friday 4-5pm
- 48 Candidates have been Confirmed on the 17th September by the retired Bishop, Peter Lee.
- On 6th December Bishop Mkhusele will be visiting St.Cyprian's for the first as Bishop. We intend bringing the sick and aged to Church that day and treating them with lunch after the service.

PASTORAL CARE

- Ministry to the Sick is done every second Sunday of the month after the service.
- To date for this year, we have buried 25 people as a parish.
- Depression is a real challenge in our society and this is caused by various reasons I.e post traumatic stress, unemployment, gender based violence etc.
- South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drugs Dependence on Tuesdays and Thursdays (9am-3pm) from our Church. They offer outpatient treatment, Counselling and Support group. As a Church we offer pastoral ministry.

EVANGELISM

- "My brother's or sister's keeper" ministry is doing so well, this is an initiative which the Parish undertook to go and look for people who have stopped coming to Church post Covid.
- Our Lay Ministers are leading "My brother's or sister's keeper" ministry through home visits and cell groups every Thursday evening.
- Youth and Sunday School ministry will be closing for festive season holidays.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

- We are grateful for our people who despite their circumstances continue to donate groceries and clothes for the needy.
- 28 families receive food parcels from the parish monthly.
- The parish has partnered with South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drugs Dependence (SANCA) to administer outpatient treatment to people who are recovering from substance abuse. Healing, recovery and restoration is taking place, gradually and now the challenge is maintaining the "sobriety" and assisting them with resources to be self-sustainable.
- Alcohol and Drugs abuse is a huge challenge in our community.
- On 19th November Dr Phemelo Tsoeu (oncologist) addressed the parish on various forms of cancer and gave pamphlets and information.

PROJECTS AND MAINTENANCE

- The interior of the rectory house is painted and we hope to do the exterior in the foreseeable future.
- All our properties (i.e. Church building, LSM centre and the rectory) are well kept and maintained.
- A group of ladies from the congregation are working on the project of painting the interior and exterior of Little St. Mary's building and fundraising plans are interesting and promising.

FINANCES

- Our monthly budget for this year is R73,000, not much of a difference from last year's.
- Our people continue to make every effort to give, despite the circumstances.
- As a parish we are almost at the point where we are unable to make ends meet and that's very worrying.
- The Parish Gala Dinner which was planned for November has been postponed owing to logistic difficulties and we aim to do it in the first half of next year.

CONCLUSION

We are eternally grateful for the love, support and generosity of God's people in our Parish and Little St Mary's, Cambridge. As we approach the end of the year, we give thanks to God for sustaining us as the Parish through 2023. We wish you all a holy and blessed season of Advent, a merry Christmas and a prosperous 2024.

Blessings ,

Fr David Mahlonoko (Sharpeville)