

## ***Christ the Mediator & Christ the Good Shepherd***



### **The Rector's Christmas & New Year Message**

When Philip, one of the disciples asked Jesus to show them the Father who was invisible, Jesus told him, "he who has seen me has seen the Father" as he was "the image of the invisible God." (John 14:8-9). Jesus has come to show who God is. The teaching of Jesus about God as the 'Father' is a revolutionary idea at a time when the Jews were so afraid of him as a strict Judge, 'eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth' a type of judgement or punishment. But Christ said that he is like a father , forgiving and loving and caring for us like his children. The fatherhood idea of God was thought of much at that time. Such an invisible God made visible in the life of Christ.

Billy Graham once said: "If you wish to converse with the ants you must come down to their level." God did just that. He came down to our level to live like us here on earth. Thank God, he knows our problems, our challenges and our sufferings. It is not a fact, that those who have passed through difficulties in life have a more merciful attitude than those with a self-righteous attitude. My friends, the more you are forgiven, the more you have to be humble.

Did you know that the Church of Nativity (the birthplace of Jesus) at Bethlehem is only 4 feet high? Those who visit the manger where Christ was born have to humble themselves and bend down to enter through that small door.

Now let us remind ourselves this CHRISTMAS season that our God is 'Immanuel':

- Whenever we feel rejected by the world or feeling lonely, we turn to the Babe of Bethlehem, who is Emmanuel. For he is a far better companion than the closest friend or relative.
- Whenever we face problems or challenges like Goliath , we turn to the Lord like a David with God's help.
- Whenever we are afraid of some situation we turn to the Lord. For the Lord is stronger than the darkest fear, because our God is Immanuel.

The problem with us is that we behave as if we have no God amidst us, though we profess faith in the living God. In our troubles, instead of blaming God, it is time to turn to him and seek his help. Let us this CHRISTMAS season renew our faith in our God, who is Immanuel (Christ with us). My dear friends, God is with us in all our circumstances. Let us not forget to turn to him. He will help us.

In the NEW YEAR 2014 , let us take a decision to put out FAITH into ACTION:

- What are the NEGATIVE things that I have and my decision to put them away one by one?
- What are the POSITIVE things that I need to put my mind to and practice one by one?
- What are the things I need to be thankful to God for and practice giving thanks to God in my prayer of thanking, in my private devotions?
- What way do I see a need in someone I know of and try to help that person? So let us prayerfully seek God's help in our positive side of life suring this New Year 2014.

On behalf of my family and I, the Wardens and Parish Council, I wish to extend to all of you and your loved ones a blessed CHRISTMAS and a properous NEW YEAR.



Meet our new Lay Ministers: Kęnan Łodęwyk , Bonita Twigg and Douglas Edom. We pray that God will bless them in their ministry.



**Mary & Martha Wellness Centre** recently celebrated their 5th Anniversary. Bishop Margaret was the celebrant and preacher. The Wellness Centre is there to support women who are affected and infected by HIV/AIDS. Bishop Margaret encouraged women to reach out to those who have been raped. "Show them we can help. We are here to break the silence." She appealed to the men to get up and say "Don't do that.....!" On 2 February the Diocese of False Bay will be remembering Anene Booyesen in a campaign to "*Stop the violence*".



*Lydia Veldsman thanking Bishop Margaret.*

*Happy Birthday Ma Adams  
(Area PTDD) – who turned 94  
on 13 December 2013.*

*God Bless.*



**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** *Linda Conrad*

## **Sunday School is Cool**



Greetings beloved in the name of our Saviour. The year 2013 has been blessed for our Sunday School Teachers and children. Little did we know that we would achieve so much. Teachers Nadine and Julia were involved in studying and it is with pleasure that I report on their achievements. Nadine achieved a "Certificate For Excellence" at Metropolitan Life and Julia a foundation phase teacher has taken a step further to do teaching at a higher level and we await her result and know "the light" will shine even lighter. Teacher Hadley started a different working career and we pray God's guidance on his new venture. Last but not least teachers Sally, Elmarie, Chantal and I are standing firm by God's grace both as working parents and leading the little flock. Parents, our children have shown us once again that *anything in Christ is possible*.

Guidance from Jossie Jacobs has helped us prepare our little ones for First Holy Communion. What a solid 6 months it has been. It started at Portland and Eastridge and ended with a memorable visit to St Georges Cathedral. Back to school early in the year showed the platform for a need for sound education.

At very short notice Marilyn Samuels took the children, parents and teachers under her wings for the Passion Play. That was a truly humbling experience and a play that will not easily be forgotten. Sunday School at Eastridge is up and running. Excitement ran high for the kids having a Winter Ball. We have been blessed and drawn closer to our Lord's throne.

Parishioners of Christ the Mediator and Christ the Good Shepherd, thank you for your love, support, guidance and treasured moments thus far. Let this not be the last. We pray that in the New Year, you will continue to give us assistance, for all is possible, by God's abundant grace.

May the joy and grace of our Lord surround everyone now and always!

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*Look past the Christmas glitter and see the heavenly child.*

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*Don't let anything take precedence over Jesus' birth.*

This Christmas, work on the things that come between you and Him

Ask the Father for a new vision of Christ's role in your life  
Trust the Father. Leave every one of your worries in his hands.

*Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela: Let us remember him.*

*Thanks be to God for giving us such a superb gift.*

*"Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him."*

*Hamba Kahle Madiba. (1918 -2013)*

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## THE DIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP VISION STATEMENT

*To enable and encourage parishioners to become faithful stewards by participating in the ministry of the church , by sharing their gifts of time, talents and treasures.*

### **Why do we give?**

We give to say "Thank you" for God's gift of life in his world.  
We give to say "Thank you" for God's love day by day,  
We give to say "Thank you" to God for new life in Christ,  
We give to say "Thank you" to God for enriching our lives,  
We give to share all that we have received from God,  
We give to share the good news of God's love in Jesus,  
We give to share through the worship, fellowship, outreach and service of the church,  
We give to maintain and develop church buildings as places of worship, fellowship, outreach and service.  
We give to provide ministers, deacons and other parish workers in all parts of the Diocese of False Bay.  
We give to provide resources for our parish church,  
We give to care for the most vulnerable in our society,  
We give to provide a Christian voice on the issues facing our society.  
We give to enrich the lives of individuals and communities , the life of South Africa and the life of the world.  
Our giving makes a real difference.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

31 December 2013: New Year's Eve Old School Party in the Church Hall. R50. Bring your own platter . Tickets available at the office. Fundraising in aid of the **Garden of Remembrance**.

15 February 2014: AWF presents a **Day Trip** to the Farmyard. Adults R120 Children u/12 R60. Tickets available from AWF members.

1 March 2014 : **Food Fair:** (Booklets R50 ) This is a Parish fundraiser.



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*Mediator News invites you to submit photographs, articles, news stories and letters for future editions. Please send information to: [geraldine.february@gmail.com](mailto:geraldine.february@gmail.com) or leave it at the office.*

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