



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

Served by the Jesuits in Southern Africa

16 Stiemens Street, Braamfontein, 2001, Johannesburg, South Africa

P.O. Box 31087, Braamfontein 2017, Johannesburg, South Africa

🌐 trinityjhb.co.za ✉ parish@trinityjhb.co.za ☎ 011 339-2826

29 SEPTEMBER 2024

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Psalm Response:

The precepts of the Lord are right; they gladden the heart

This week's liturgies

<p>Sunday 07h30 RIP: Carlo Pietro Vittorio Valle 09h30 Thanksgiving for Richardson & D'Oliviera Families 16h00 Pro Populo</p>	<p>Num 11, 25—29 Ps 19 Jas 5, 1—6 Mk 9, 38—43.45.47-48</p>
<p>Monday 13h15 RIP: Lionel Lesar</p>	<p>(ST. JEROME PRD) Job 1, 6—22 Ps 17 Lk 9, 46—50</p>
<p>Tuesday 13h15 Irvine Family</p>	<p>(ST. THERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS VD) Job 3, 1-311-17.20-23 Ps 88 Lk 9, 51—56</p>
<p>Wednesday 13h15 Pro Populo</p>	<p>(GUARDIAN ANGELS) Ex 23, 20—23 Ps 91 Mt 18, 1-5.10</p>
<p>Thursday 13h15 Special Intention & Healing for the Santana Family</p>	<p>Job 19, 21—27 Ps 27 Lk 10, 1—12</p>
<p>Friday 13h15 RIP: Olive Lesar</p>	<p>(ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI) Job 38, 1.12-21;40,3-5 Ps 139 Lk 10, 13—16</p>

PROCLAIMERS

** Italics indicate Mass intention*

07h30

Phelistus Tarwireyi
Daniel Pretorius

09h30

Sabie Makgothi
Rudi Maritz

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

07h30

Mary Salmon
Laura Geretto
Thelma Melk
Fiona Pretorius

09h30

Marcia Bello
Lorraine Zvigo
Bertin Zinsou
Oswald Mokoena

Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 09h00—13h00

Mass Times

Monday - Friday: 13h15

Sunday: 07h30 | 09h30 (Sung)
16h00

Morning Prayer

Sunday: 09h00 (before 09h30 Mass)

Join in the prayer of the Church led by our *Schola Cantorum*

Confessions

Monday – Friday: after 13h15 Mass

Exposition

Monday – Friday: 12h00-13h00

Benediction

Friday: 13h00

Weddings and Baptisms

by appointment, contact parish office

Parish Staff

Pastor: Fr. Russell Pollitt SJ
frussell@trinityjhb.co.za

University Chaplain: Fr. Matsepene Morare SJ
frmatsepene@trinityjhb.co.za

Deacon: Rev. William Davies
revbilly@trinityjhb.co.za

Director of Music: Mr. Cameron Upchurch
music@trinityjhb.co.za

Administrator: Mr. Tebogo Petja
parish@trinityjhb.co.za

Residence Manager: Mrs. Cathy Setlogelo
resmanager@trinityjhb.co.za

Banking Details

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Standard Bank, Braamfontein (004805)
Account: **002 294 192**

St. Vincent de Paul, Braamfontein Standard Bank, Braamfontein (1842)
Account: **22 090 752 8**



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PARISH NOTICES ~ 29TH SEPTEMBER 2024

RIP: CLEM VENTER

We pray for the soul of **Clement “Clem” Colin Venter** who passed away on the 24 September. A memorial Mass will be held here at Trinity on Tuesday **01 October** at **11h00**.

CONFIRMATION 2024

Next Saturday Archbishop Buti Tlhagale OMI will preside at the annual Parish Confirmations at **16h00**. All are welcome to attend the mass!

SR. MURA PROJECT

This Sunday ladies from the Sr Mura Foundation will be here after all Masses selling some of their creations to raise funds for the project. The Sr Mura Foundation looks after HIV+ migrants in Yeoville

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Members of the St. Vincent de Paul will renew their commitment at the 09h30 Mass this weekend. We will also take a second collection. If you would like to join this ministry, please talk to one of the members after Mass.

ENGAGING OUR JEWISH AND MUSLIM NEIGHBOURS—PART II

You are invited to the next discussion in our series, hosted by Fr. David Neuhaus SJ and the Jesuit Institute on 5 October from 09.30 - 12.30 at 15 Molesey Ave, Auckland Park. We will welcome a Jewish friend to join the dialogue on how Catholics and Jews are called to engage with one another in South Africa today. Please [register](#) with the Institute.

MUSIC BY FRENCH COMPOSERS

Nerina von Mayer (flute) and Cameron Upchurch (organ) play music by Ravel, Rameau, Marais, Loeillet and Fauré during the celebration of the **09h30 Mass** on Sunday **06 October** Please join us.

THE SOUTHERN CROSS

The Parish has been requested to resell the Monthly Catholic Magazine, we have 10 copies of the September edition at the moment—each costs **R40.00**, if you would like to place an order for a monthly subscription, please email or call the parish and we will add you on the list.

SUPPORT THE PARISH

A reminder that you can make a contribution to the ministry and maintenance of the parish by scanning the SnapScan QR code on the benches or in the bulletin. During the collection time, instead of cash, scan the code and make your contribution. We appreciate your support, thank you!

MASS INTENTIONS

You can contact the office for Mass intentions. A suggested donation is **R50** per Mass. The Mass intentions will be published so that people know which intention or who the Mass is being celebrated for.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO NGOME

The Parish annual Pilgrimage to Ngome Marian shrine will be on **13 to 15 December 2024**, for further details please contact the organisers; Prudence Xaba 0824486067 or Oswald Mokoena 0820861334.

THE POPE’S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER:

We pray with Pope Francis that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people

PASTOR'S CORNER

Why I preach welcome and mercy...

Someone asked me: "Father, why do you preach about being welcoming and merciful? I have never heard you preach about sin and hell!"

This is a question worth engaging with. I was reminded of a column I read by Fr Ronald Rolheiser OMI. He says that some believe that more people will come to Church if we preach about mortal sin, God's wrath, and the danger of going to hell when we die.

He goes on to say:

What's valid in this kind of reasoning is that preaching about mortal sin and hellfire can be effective. Threats work. I know. I grew up subjected to this kind of preaching and admit that it affected my behavior. But that effect was ambivalent: On the one side, it left me scared enough before God and life itself to fear ever straying very far morally or religiously. On the other side, it also left me religiously and emotionally crippled in some deep ways. Simply stated, it's hard to be intimate friends with a God who frightens you.

So why not preach fear? Because it's wrong, pure and simple. Brainwashing and physical intimidation are also effective, but they are antithetical to love. You don't enter a love relationship because you feel afraid or threatened. You enter a love relationship because you feel drawn there by love.

More importantly, preaching divine threat dishonors the God in whom we believe. The God who Jesus incarnates and reveals is not a God who puts sincere, good-hearted people into hell against their will on the basis of some human or moral lapse which in our religious categories we deem to be a mortal sin. For example, I still hear this threat being preached in our churches: If you miss going to church on Sunday it's a mortal sin and should you die without confessing it, you will go to hell.

What kind of God would underwrite this kind of a belief? What kind of God would not give sincere people a second chance, a third one, and seventy-seven times seven more chances if they remain sincere? What kind of God would say to a repentant person in hell: "Sorry, but you knew the rules! You're repentant now, but it's too late. You had your chance!"

A healthy theology of God demands that we stop teaching that hell can be a nasty surprise waiting for an essentially good person. The God we believe in as Christians is infinite understanding, infinite compassion, and infinite forgiveness. God's love surpasses our own and if we, in our better moments, can see the goodness of a human heart despite its lapses and weaknesses, how much more so will God see this.

The famous psychiatrist, Fritz Perls, was once asked by a young fundamentalist: "Have you been saved?" His answer: "Saved? I'm still trying to figure out how to be spent!" We honor God not by living in fear lest we offend him, but in reverently spending the wonderful energy that God gives us. God is not a law to be obeyed, but a joyous energy within which to spend ourselves generatively.

That is why I preach welcome and mercy...

Fr. Russell Pollitt SJ



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Women are justified in their anger with the Church by Russell Pollitt SJ

Next week, the second session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the [Synod of Bishops](#) will meet in Rome (2-27 October). A worldwide consultation was held prior to the first session in October 2023. A number of issues, including the role of women in the church, and specifically ordination to the diaconate, were discussed. It has been a discussion for many years now, not something that was recently flagged.

Many women – and men! – believe that the church should restore the admission of women to the diaconate. We have Scriptural evidence that women were deacons in the early Church – St. Paul writes (Romans 16:1) to the Church in Cenchreae about “Phoebe the deacon”.

Pope Francis established two commissions to study the question of women deacons – in 2016 and in 2020. There has been no official report back on the findings of these commissions. Last week, the Vatican announced that the issue would not be on the agenda for the second session of the Synod.

Many people thought that Pope Francis would take this issue seriously after studying it and listening to the issues raised in the first session of the Synod. Surprisingly, this has not happened. In an [interview](#) in May 2024, the pope seemed to close the door to women being deacons. He was asked if a little girl growing up now would have the opportunity to be a deacon and participate in the clergy. He responded by saying: “No”.

Many women feel disillusioned with the church. They ask why there has been no report on the commissions and why the issue has been dropped from the Synod. They wonder why a women’s diaconate was studied, thinking it was being taken seriously. It is as if this has been buried again. However, for many, it will not go away despite the Vatican seemingly shutting it down again.

Last month, at the bi-annual plenary of the Southern African Catholic Bishops’ Conference, Archbishop Buti Tlhagale addressed gender-based violence in South Africa. He then went on to speak about the question of women in the church.

“We might not be beating up our wives, but we do something to women, and women feel strongly about it, and we are not doing anything about it,” the archbishop said. “Deep down, they are calling us names because we exclude them.”

Archbishop Tlhagale went on to say that the church readily accepts women into churches, and they are “the majority in any community”. He that, despite this, “there is an inbuilt prejudice against women among the Catholic clergy, and I don’t think we’re going to do much about it now.”

“Women are friendly and sympathetic to clergy, but deep down, some articulate anger that we have excluded them from ordination,” he said.

Ordaining women to the diaconate will not solve all the clergy problems in the church, granted. However, if we take Scripture seriously, we cannot but admit that women played a pivotal role in proclaiming the resurrection. They were deacons in the early church. Women today can contribute considerably to church ministry by preaching and celebrating some sacraments.

Women who are angry about how the church has handled this issue are justified in their anger. No good and caring parent would do this to their children – invite discussion and study, then, seemingly, shut them down.
