

THE SCEPTRE

2021



-Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

3:11



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01

A REASON TO HOPE

by Father Thabiso, (Parish Priest)



For some reason, I end 2021 with a strong sense of hope, and a strong feeling that the terrifying cloud of Covid is slowly losing its thickness and terror. I am convinced that the looming 4th wave might not see the light of day. However, I do acknowledge the devastation this novel pandemic has caused to our families, nation, and humanity. The strong feeling of hope is what I end 2021 with.

Hope to give us all reason to live and to dream. In my regular mail that I sent to you as a community, you will realize that I have said very little about the novel pandemic. I said very little because I felt that those authorized to speak about it have been speaking very well and providing what I consider to be relevant information. Like someone driving through the storm, I chose to stick to the basics and keep moving. That is how I cope with hard times. In a world of the unusual someone must volunteer to take care of business as usual. We have our fair share of this abnormality; we deserve to return to some normality.

Together we held hands through it all

We have joined hands through the storm and kept the parish life moving. I am grateful to the parish council and the parish community for ensuring that life goes on anyway. Despite the storm we continued to worship God and pray for each other, we continued to bury the dead, we continued to visit the Lord in the Chapel of Adoration, we continued to be mindful of the less fortunate and shared with them what we have, we continued to take care of the parish expenses, we kept the catechetical program going. We tried to give our parish some semblance of normality. There are still areas where we could not give our all due to circumstances beyond our control. Regrettably, we could not reach out with ease to our sick and housebound parishioners. Overall, we did all we could to consider ourselves a parish community doing all the tasks that make us be identified as such.

Projects accomplished

One extraordinary task we had to fulfil this year as a parish was to participate in the Archdiocesan Synodal Consultation. By its nature, this exercise is taxing, and the pandemic made people's freedom of movement badly affected. But under these conditions, we were able to fulfil this task through the assistance of those who contributed to the exercise. I am grateful to the Synod Committee for a job well done.

We are also grateful for the successful completion of the Solar Project. A comprehensive report was compiled by Andre Vest on behalf of us all. For that, we are sincerely thankful.

As time passes, things change, people experience new challenges and embrace new adventures, immigration is hitting hard on us as a community. We get to lose people who contributed so much to our lives. One of the persons immigrating is our Catechetical Coordinator Celeste Coetzer, we are sincerely grateful for all the time she devoted to our parish life as parish council secretary, as Catechist, as the monitor of the online mass bookings. It is almost impossible to imagine Celeste's arms folded. We wish her everything of the best in her future endeavors.

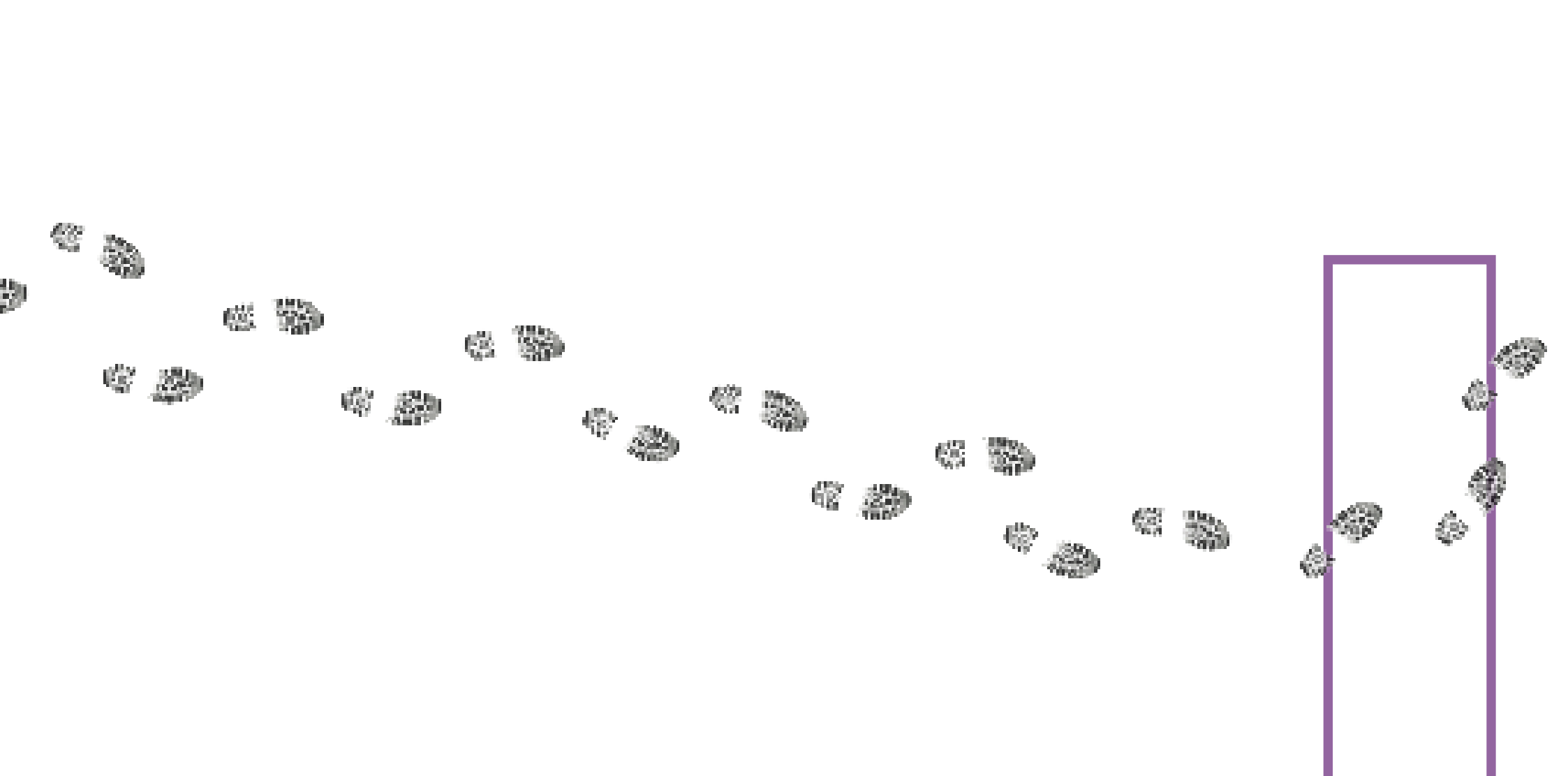
To all the families who have lost their loved ones, this year may the God of mercy comfort and strengthen you. Death leaves a void in our lives which no one can fill. That is the pain brought about by the signature of humanity called UNIQUENESS, rendering us all irreplaceable. May their souls rest in peace.

May the Good Lord bless each and every one of us in the parish community.

02

SPIRITUAL STEPS

by Shammy Naidoo,
(Chairperson PPC)



Dear Parishioners and members of Parish Council (PPC),

“Our former President Nelson Mandela once wrote: “I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb”

On 04 June 2020, after a few weeks of our hard lockdown, I addressed our parishioners by means of a formal letter indicating the rushed decision of the closure of our church. As parishioners, we must have all been worried about what we were seeing unfold before our eyes. It was something that we never imagined we would experience in our lifetimes and, almost a year and a half later, we are still not out of the woods.

Every one of us has a family member, a friend, or a colleague who has been infected. There are few in our parish, our communities, and our country who have not had to bury a family member, a friend, a colleague, and/or other loved ones who lost their lives to Covid-19. We have all had to endure great hardship over the past year and a half. So much so that we have a “new normal”if such a thing exists!

As I write this message, we are on Level one of our lockdown; on Day 554 days of the lockdown; and have lost almost 88 000 souls. With the vaccination rollout in our midst, many seem to think that life is slowly returning to normal, hence we can take a more casual approach to all the regulations. We are perhaps fed up with wearing masks in public and decide to keep it off. Some people and businesses have stopped enforcing regulations, and the anti-vaccine public has stopped wearing masks in totality. We go to social gatherings with masks on but take them off once we are inside and continue as normal. When we meet our family, friends, and loved ones we embrace, hug, kiss, and shake hands, believing ourselves and them to be safe from this

virus. We continue to accept invitations to social gatherings and parties, and host our own justifying them. The difficult truth is that this complacency comes at a very high price and as such we must maintain our guard and continue to be careful at all times.

In our Parish, the last year has been particularly difficult in all areas. We simply did not foresee the lockdown and there was just no backup plan available for anybody. As in all other Parishes, we had to close the Church, weddings were put on hold, funerals were uniquely reduced to minimal attendance, masses were cancelled, baptisms, communion, and confirmations were cancelled, and any form of parish social events was non-existent. The clergy and Parishioners had to adapt to online masses and our touch and feel the world was reduced to online interactions. The PPC embarked on unique touchpoints with all stakeholders and, whilst we tried our best to keep everyone abreast of events or at the least to keep some connection to our faith, it was simply not the same. What I can say is that Covid-19 and the associated lockdowns were a rude awakening for humanity. It pushed us to the limit and, through some of the most catastrophic events, many turned to their faith! Our Mass online numbers were fantastically high and also global. We reached numbers monthly that were seen in a year in the church. We “oldies” and technically challenged parishioners had to learn quickly so we could connect with the new world.

What the lockdown also taught us was that communication was pivotal to connecting with our parishioners in multi-touchpoint ways. Communication at Mass was simply not enough. A decision was thus taken to introduce a communication portfolio in the PPC and Zitha Mokomane was appointed to coordinate it. As part of the strategy to enhance communication, we will be launching an online data management system soon. Once the system is up and running, the PPC believes that the communication between Parishioners and the Parish will be effortless.

Our financial status was also seriously compromised in 2020. As a parish, our tithing was largely plate tithing and with the parish being unable to hold physical Masses for the most part of last year, we saw a tremendous decrease in our revenue. Over and above this, the Denis Adami Hall was unable to be used as public gatherings were prohibited. The use of the hall for unique events was a substantial contributor to our coffers and our inability to host social events robbed us of further income. Whilst our finances were the lowest it was in many years, the prudent efforts of the finance committee ensured that 2021 was a much better year. Whilst we are not out of the woods, our finances are cash positive and the restatement of items on our financials show a true picture of our financial position.

Our Social and Humanitarian Support committees as well as various other committees in our Spiritual journey were hugely impacted by their inability to have social gatherings. Whilst the Youth and Young adults continued to meet online, the Soup kitchen, Justice and Peace, and the Marriage and Family Group were unable to accomplish what they had planned for the year. They did, however, meet regularly with the PPC and offered guidance toward the smooth running of the parish. The Outreach continued with their remarkable work of assisting the vulnerable members of our parish community during this period.

Remarkably, in 2021, our committees and clergy assisted with 21 baptisms. In May 2021, we also confirmed 17 candidates for the 2020 confirmation group, and in October we confirmed 30 candidates from the 2021 group. Further, in 2020 we had 33 First Holy Communion candidates and in 2021 we had 23 candidates. Our clergy also conducted 12 marriage ceremonies. We congratulate all the recipients, couples, and families and, of course, our liturgical services on these achievements. These committees were also on point once the parish reopened and their service to the clergy and parish remains impactful under the guidance of Ashley Heslop and the whole liturgy team. Sadly, we have conducted 22 funerals for the same period and our condolences go out to the families.

Our staff and volunteers continue to make substantial efforts in the parish, and I want to take this opportunity to thank them. Angela Solomon, the Parish Secretary, continues to go beyond the call of duty and we remain very blessed to have her in our parish. We also have over 300 volunteers and, was it not for their efforts during the last 18 months, I am not sure how we would have coped. We were also able to continue paying all staff with no compromise to their monthly earnings

during this financially challenging period and this is as a result of the generosity of our parishioners.

Our Clergy and in particular our resident parish priest Fr Thabiso Ledwaba was remarkable during this period. His ability to adapt within a day's notice was incredible and we continue to seek his spiritual guidance, love, and friendship. His continuous commitment to our parish is undeniable and we are truly blessed to have him at Christ the King Queenswood.

To my fellow members of the PPC and the PPC Executive, I want to also offer my sincere gratitude and thanks to you for your continuous commitment, long hours, and undeniable dedication to the parish. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and this is clear to all stakeholders.

To our Parishioners and other Stakeholders, we thank you for your trust in the PPC and your Parish Priest. You remain the glue that holds us all together. Your contributions in whatever form or manner kept us going and on track to serve you. We will endeavour to keep Christ the King Queenswood as comfortable as possible, and it will remain your home where you seek your solace. The sanctity of our faith for all parishioners and other stakeholders remains of paramount importance and to this end, the PPC will continue to do what enshrines the sanctity of our faith with the creation and maintenance of the best possible environment for our parish.

Yours sincerely,

-Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

3:5-6

03

SPIRITUAL BATTLE

by Sheila Houghton,
(Vice Chair and Covid
Committee)

Covid-19, A Spiritual Battle for the 21st Century

Looking at the analysis on the SA Covid-19 statistics, last year has been like no other. Every person has had their lives shaken in the midst of these 3 waves.

Although vaccines generated discussion about reaching 'herd immunity', there are still some who remain vaccine hesitant. I am thankful to the Covid-19 Sub-Committee who viewed this pandemic as an opportunity to better serve our parish community. I am also grateful for our volunteers on duty before each weekend Mass, who through their compassion & humility learned to:

- Find deeper meaning in our work of registering parishioners when acknowledging each new adjusted level of lockdown
- Understand the shift in family rhythms & routines by lamenting inconvenience, disconnection, disruption, disorientation, pain, confusion & loss
- Recognise the blessing that our small gestures had on our parishioners' well-being

Spiritual Innovation:

The COVID-19 pandemic reminded us that deep down we are spiritual beings. We are not in control. We are not invincible. We are not infallible. We cannot guarantee anything. This was a test for humanity. Human life is fragile. God will allow whatever is needed to draw us closer to Him. God's heart is constantly in a relationship despite our circumstances. Cruise-control is not how God wants us to move through life. He wants us to be alert and ready, for whatever comes our way. We stay alert because we know God is moving. He moves in ways we sometimes don't understand. We trust His plans. Enduring this pandemic reminded us to set our priorities straight.

The lessons we learned woke us up to help us, refocus and retrain our thoughts toward Jesus Christ. Spiritual

distancing was not required. Our Parish Pastoral Council took a serious interest in human health, recalibrating priorities to align effort, energy, and discipline.

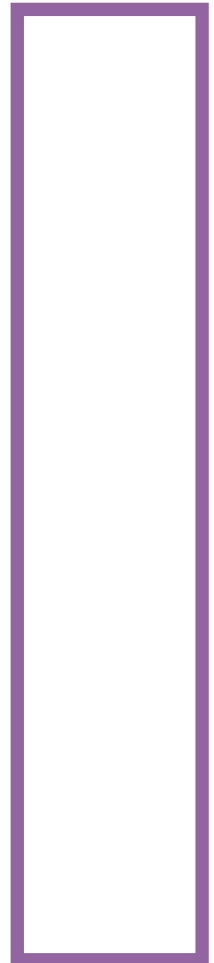
We will win this battle for our souls. No matter what chaos this world brings, Jesus Christ wins! The power of faith brings about the ability to take lessons from every trial - That we are stronger than we think & more resilient than we imagine.

Feeling vulnerable together.

04

SPIRITUAL SERVICE

by Ashley Heslop
(Liturgy Co-ordinator)



The Second Vatican Council is said to have ushered in the age of the laity, and the post-conciliar period has certainly seen an increase in lay ministry in the Church.

The term “lay ministry” often refers to an official type of service within the Church. It is a broad term that encompasses all these forms of services within or on behalf of the church community. All laymen and women are called to participate in the mission of the church, proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ by their actions and words, and work toward the transformation of the world. Most respond to this call-in ‘secular’ arenas in family life, in their workplace, and in the civic community.

Through our baptism and confirmation, we are called to serve at the Christ the King Parish in Queenswood. The services include extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Proclaimers, Cantors, Musician and Choir Members, Catechists, Parish Pastoral Council Members, Ministers to the Sick and Needy, Sacristans or helpers in sacramental preparation, Youth Ministers, and Members in Family and Justice programs.

Currently, we have 12 Sacristans, 20 Proclaimers, and 22 Ministers of Communion. We have musicians at our 18h00 mass on Saturday evening, 08h00, and 10h00 masses on a Sunday morning.

During this period, we have trained and received new Sacristans, Proclaimers, and Ministers of Communion. 22 Ministers of Communion spent time in prayer and adoration and were commissioned in two separate services.

The new period will again have a time of prayer for the Sacristans, Proclaimers, Altar Servers, and Musicians so that they may also be commissioned in their respective ministries.

My focus is fast-moving to having families become involved in the services of Sacristan, Proclaimers, and

Ministers of Communion, and altar services. We are finding this approach is working much better and it also means that families minister and worship together at the same mass.

What qualities do ministers need to have:

- We are to be baptised, confirmed, and attend mass every Sunday
- The Word of God is a daily part of our lives in prayer and reflection
- A great appreciation and adoration for the Body and Blood of Christ. Spending time with Jesus in adoration, in silent prayer, and in spiritual reading.

Thus, every person, through these gifts given to him/her, is at once the witness and the living instrument of the mission of the Church itself according to the measure of Christ’s bestowal (CCC913).

The COVID pandemic has restricted some of our ministers from exercising their Ministry during this period. However, we continue to pray that soon enough, we will have them back exercising their ministry alongside all of us again.

We thank God for blessing our parish with people who long to serve Him by serving others. May God bless and move the hearts of many others to give witness to their and love for the parish.

God bless us all and thank you.

05

YEARS OF SERVICE

by Louis Craddock
(Outreach & Repository)

Christ the King Food Outreach Programme - 18 Years of Community Service

In August of this year 2021, we have conducted a milestone achievement of 18 uninterrupted years of servicing our communities in our Diocese.

The Parishioners of Christ the King Church Queenswood have made this possible and we give GOD THANKS FOR HIS Grace and Provision.

During the COVID restrictions, we were still able to continue our monthly packing of food and clothing parcels and for this, we give thanks to all who continue to support us.

Every single month we not only give food assistance to 80 vulnerable families we serve but also assist with clothing, blankets, toys, toiletries, shoes, and many more much-needed items.

Our major beneficiaries are:

- Holy Cross (old age home)
- St Camillus (Hammanskraal)
- Salvation Army
- Ken Walters
- Siyafunde Day Care Centre
- Safe Home Fund - Bronkhorstspruit
- NW Gauteng and Upington
- Christ crisis Centre

A very special Thanks to CWL Sunnyside for their unwavering assistance in distributing the parcels.

To all the volunteers who have been assisting throughout the year. May you all continue to be blessed and keep safe.

A special thank you goes out to CBC Mount Edmund Principal and staff who put us in a position to assist

CHOC as well as the Salvation army with bread and specially prepared soup packs.

We would also like to thank Loreto Primary school Principal and staff for all the food and clothing drives that they have conducted throughout the year which help us to help our charities.

God Bless you all. Outreach redirects your generosity where it is most needed.

Repository

The Repository has reopened and is run by myself. We are open Monday to Friday from 08h00 till 15h30. Saturdays after the 18h00 mass and Sundays between 09h00 and 10h00.

We have lots of interesting items and encourage you to come and browse, we will soon be advertising our Bible diaries for 2022 as well as our Liturgical calendars for 2022.

Should you require any item not available in store you can place an order make a deposit and we will arrange to source the items for you.

All are welcome to browse and chat, we look forward to seeing you.

-Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap.

For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

6 : 38



06

GROWING FAMILY

by Zoran Basich (Young Adults)

Consistency and hope kept us meeting every Monday of this year. This enabled us to grow our faith either virtually or in person, depending on the lockdown restrictions. Even in these Covid times, new people joined our group, we welcomed Qurida, AJ, Sinéa, Chantal, CJ, and Tanna. One of our members, Bronwyn, has been battling cancer (and winning thus far) and we continue to pray for her healing and support to her family. We cheer Grant on getting engaged. Congrats to Zaine for marrying in May this year. Thank you, Chantal, for assisting YA with your plumbing skills, even though you are a qualified Lawyer.

We have discussed, debated, and learned through a wide variety of topics, some of them being highly intellectual. Some examples of what we did this year: We debated about Mary, the Protestant Reformation, and ethics. We learned about the order of creation and the nature of the fall, Revelations, and the early Church Fathers. We discussed what forgiveness is, contraception and the Catholic Church, and vaccines.

There have been three fun social braais this year and one exciting and eventful excursion to the Apostolic Nuncio.

We continue to welcome all who would want to come to join us, whether you are in College, University, Working, Single, Engaged, or Married, and consider yourself a young adult, we would love you to come.

Please contact Zoran on (+27)72 399 0968.



07

PAVING GREATNESS

by the Youth Team

If the last 2 years have taught us anything, it's that:

“Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.”

– Ferris Bueller, ‘Ferris Bueller’s Day Off’, 1986.

Never take an opportunity for granted. And as leaders we're proud that none of you did. You studied, you graduated, you were confirmed, you did what you needed to. You're an inspiration to us all.

But remember to ...

**... STOP ...
... LOOK AROUND.**

And enjoy this life.

-Co-Chairperson- Matthew Hoods



For Good Friday we spiced it up a bit by putting art in motion with a play of the stations. This re-enactment was not just for fun and games but a chance to immerse ourselves in the greatest sacrifice.

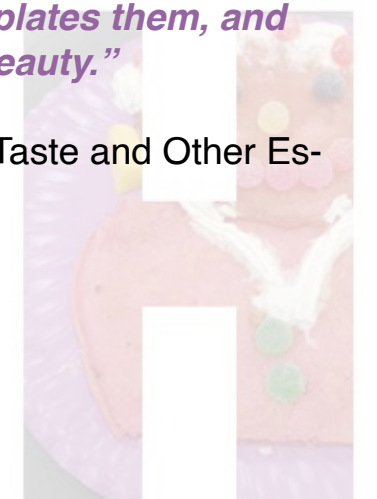
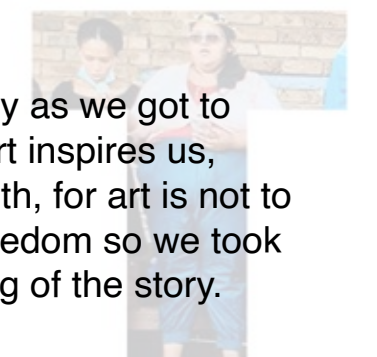
We were filled with both pride and joy as we got to breathe new life into the story. For art inspires us, challenges us, and reinforces our faith, for art is not to be judged but experienced. Art is freedom so we took some creative liberties with the telling of the story.

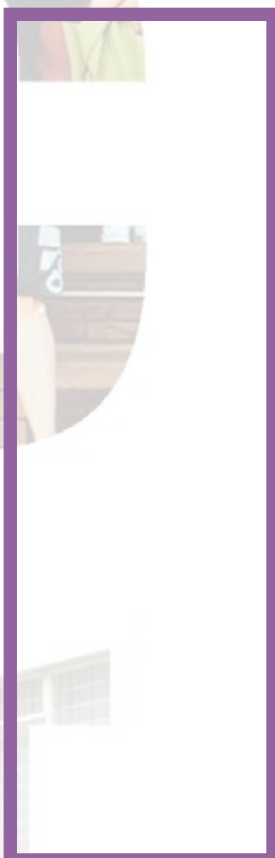
Although traditions are there for a reason, we are not limited to that one experience. Instead, the experience can be made anew for everyone. You might find that someone could bring forth not only more emotion but also a deeper meaning of things.

“Beauty is no quality in things themselves: It exists merely in the mind which contemplates them, and each mind perceives a different beauty.”

– David Hume, Of the Standard of Taste and Other Essays

-Sectary- Tara Pemu





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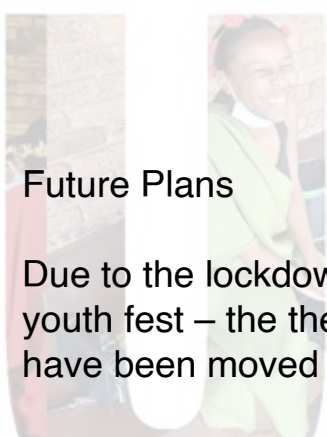
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Future Plans

Due to the lockdown regulations, the plans to host a youth fest – the theme being *Mind, Body, and Soul* - have been moved to the first half of 2022.

Other future plans for the youth include introducing Self-care Sundays – where one Sunday a month is reserved to checking on the well-being of the Youth members, a continuation of the Youth Fest theme; Bible story times, which will be based on that week’s Sunday Gospel.

So far these are the only confirmed plans we have for the youth; however, we are always coming up with ways we can make youth a learning environment, and a fun and safe space.

-Social director-Nonoki Segole



“What a year!” you could probably say that again. From the hectic term movement to having to keep up with the fast pace of the online world. We have all endured it. For some of us... well most of us have had to say goodbye to close and dear family members. We alone in the youth had at least 2 parents and a few grandparents that passed away. Being Youth Leaders, we live through the pain that our fellow youth feel. This is because we are a family. What is most important is that we are constantly there for each other. And thus, the youth and its leadership continue to work together to become a better Catholic in the modern world.

In conclusion no matter the craziness that has been thrown our way we have faced them head-on and preserved them. We are proud to have served such a wonderful bunch of teens and are proud of the young men and women they have become. We look forward to the year to come as we start preparing for our world youth day in 2023.

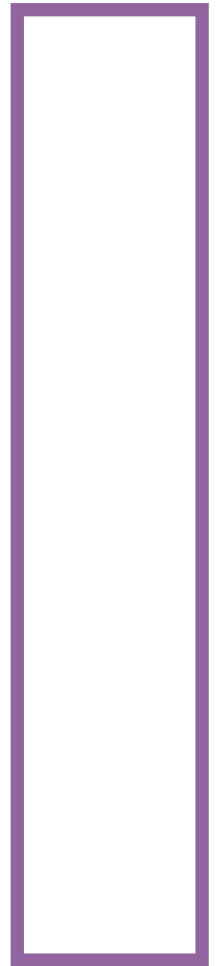
Stay blessed always.

-CO-Chairperson- Celine Cecelia Houghton

08

WORDS OF FAREWELL

by Celeste Coetzer (Catechism
Coordinator)



2020 got off to a great start from a Catechetical perspective. We had 226 registered candidates, with 146 in Primary School and 80 in High School. We even had an operational Pre-School group that we had managed to get running towards the end of 2019. For Confirmation Year 1 to Year 3, we'd introduced the dynamic LifeTeen programme, and although it was not without its anticipated teething problems, it was going along really well. We also had a bumper year planned with social events, retreats and first Sacraments. We were really excited for the year.

And then the pandemic hit. And it hit hard. Many in our Catechetical family, candidates and volunteers alike, lost employment and/or had to make due with severely restricted income and working remotely at all sorts of strange hours. Homes became places of work and school and caregiving, with families having to squeeze in family time in any free moment they could find. Many parents found themselves trying to get any sort of work done whilst also having to suddenly be experts in Mathematics, Science, Geography and the like. The stress on families was immense. Many elderly people were left completely alone and in isolation, with families not permitted to visit or check in on them. Most devastating of all, many of our families have endured the loss of dear loved ones, including married partners, parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts, etc. These people died not just from COVID but from all sorts of illnesses, including, no doubt, from stress and isolation. We've simply lost count of the number of people we've had to say goodbye to over the last two years. One volunteer lost no less than nine people over the course of around two weeks.

At a very practical level, the Catechetical programme was left reeling. Forced to stop in person classes at the end of March 2020, the programme was thrown into turmoil. Some groups continued with a pseudo online programme, sending out electronic resources and hoping that families managed to work through the

content on their own. The simple reality is that the content and setup of the lessons are very much designed for contact learning, with direct engagement with candidates, intra classroom activities, crafts, quizzes and games. We quickly found the virtualisation of lessons to be ineffective and generally placed undue stress on the families (and even the volunteers who needed to adapt classroom-based lesson plans to "home study"). There were many families who valiantly put in the effort to work through the content they had and we commend them for their efforts. We engaged with several schools and found their experiences to be in line with ours. Online classes were generally found to be impractical for young children, who are easily distracted from what is happening on the screen, and older candidates were already so overwhelmed by having to effectively teach themselves their schoolwork, that we did not see value in insisting that they attend online lessons. That, plus the plethora of logistical challenges, such as ensuring each family had sufficient internet connectivity and sufficient connected devices to allow multiple siblings to be online simultaneously, was a challenge we were completely unprepared for.

By the end of 2020, with restricted religious gatherings being permitted but without having seen our candidates since March, we made the difficult but necessary decision to defer our First Holy Communions and Confirmations to 2021. We simply could not confirm that the candidates were individually and collectively ready to receive these Sacraments and we feel strongly that proper preparation is essential and consistent with our beliefs and values.

Early in 2021, we sought permission from the Arch Bishop to be allowed to reopen Catechism on the basis that we are an educational group and so should be allowed to operate on the same basis and guidelines as the schools, irrespective of whether or not "religious gatherings" were currently permitted. Indeed, we are

particularly fortunate as a parish in that many of our classes are conducted in school facilities. We were over the moon when permission was granted. We quickly set about reorganising volunteers and candidate groups.

In collaboration with Loreto School Queenswood, we defined new protocols for ensuring the health and safety of our candidates and our volunteers. Whilst we did encounter hesitancy from some families, we also found that many were eager to get back to “some sense of normal”. It is true that we have “bled numbers”, initially opening to about 1/3 of our normal size but over the months, we have found that candidates are gradually returning and by the end of the year we are up to about 2/3 of what we would typically have seen pre-COVID.

In 2021, we relaunched LifeTeen, albeit with a smaller group of volunteers and many (many) activity adjustments to accommodate social distancing requirements. We also introduced the Edge programme into our Senior Primary with great success – Edge being the “middle school” version of LifeTeen. As required by the Arch Diocese, we introduced “candidate interviews” for all candidates to meet and discuss their faith with Fr before receiving Confirmation or First Holy Communion. In early May we were able to Confirm our 2020 candidates and by the end of the month, we’d completed First Holy Communion for our 2020 Grd 3 group. Having seen far fewer disruptions this year, we are excited to host the 2021 Confirmation and First Holy Communion Masses in October, as per our normal Sacramental cycle. If things continue to stabilise, we may even be able to reintroduce our Confirmation Camps in the next year or two.

We have learnt much from the last two years. We have started to adapt our content to make provision for remote learning should we find ourselves suddenly locked away from each other again. We have learnt to value the moments we can share together and to be even more sensitive to the personal, often silent challenges that the members of our community are facing. We have learnt to be tolerant of different opinions and viewpoints around the pandemic and appropriate responses to it, recognising that we are all ultimately interested in what is good and right. We have learnt that “pandemic fatigue” is real and we are finding ways of adjusting our programmes to better support our candidates and our broader community.

Personally, I have been blown away by the resilience and adaptability of our little community. I cannot thank the volunteers enough for their selfless and enduring commitment to the formation of our young candidates. Their sacrifices often go unnoticed but are not unappreciated. Catechism is a community activity and we are blessed with so many people willing to give of their time and their talent and to share their faith with our candidates. I cannot thank our families enough for their patience and understanding as we struggle to keep up with the everchanging pandemic requirements. I am grateful to them for entrusting us with the formation of their children. I am grateful to our candidates, for their participation in the process, for their insights and creativity, for their direct honesty and for really engaging with the content. I am also grateful to the broader parish community for their ongoing support. Finally, I’d like to extend a special thank-you to Father Thabiso. His spiritual leadership has been invaluable in steering us to the greater good. And, for those of you who don’t know this, in the words of one of our younger candidates after completing his first Reconciliation, Father Thabiso is

“actually quite a nice guy”.

As it turns out, this will be my last year as Coordinator and as a Catechist at Christ the King Queenswood. My family and I will be starting a new adventure in the Netherlands from November. After relocating from Cape Town to Pretoria, I joined the Queenswood community in 1988 and have been a Catechist since 2001. I say without reservation that I love being a Catechist, I love the candidates and I love the people I work with. This journey has enriched my life deeply and I will miss you all dearly. I leave behind a very competent group of volunteers and I have no doubt that the programme (and those involved in it) will continue to grow and flourish. If you’d like to get involved, please do reach out – we are always looking for more people to join the team.

If anything, these last two years have highlighted how much we need each other and how much we need God, how much we need love and how much we need to give love. In the words of Saint Therese of Lisieux, “Let us love, since that is what our hearts were made for.”

Wishing all our families a truly blessed (and safe) Christmas!



-Psalm 9:1

I will give thanks to you, Lord,
with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

9:1

09

NEW FAMILY

2020 & 2021

First Holy Communion and
Confirmation Candidates



First Holy Communion

- Ireti Ontlametse Margaret Adedayo
- Chase Marcel Alho
- Marjolijn Margaret Aucamp
- Alexis Brits
- Konnor Brown
- Keanu Furriel
- José Diego Gomes Serrão
- Máiréad Kathleen Gray
- Sheldon Caleb Hans
- Kiara Mia Jadrijevic
- Tiago Ricardo Jardim
- Skylar Jordaan
- Gia Lopes
- Isabella Allegra Mackenzie
- Candice Maigurira
- Omolemo Tshepan Makaleng
- Olorato Mogomotsi
- Mofapa France Mohlala
- Xavi Raul Monteiro
- Stephanie Kanini Munanda
- John Kgosi Sammering
- Moraka Joel Sehlapelo
- Signorelli Gianfranco
- Mathew Dylan Veldhuis
- Reuben Amadeu Carinhas
- Jane Malikita
- Sphelele Nomantombi Mokoena
- Tsheko Kamogelo Matlhare
- Gabriele Balletti
- Akasua Efu Nhyraba
- Quagraine
- Botlhale Sibusiso Sethiba
- Lwazi Mokoro Masinga
- Letlotlo Thabang Phala

Confirmation

- Mrinal Cherian
- Mila Dominique de Mûelenaere
- Clayton Dias De Oliveira
- Anastasia Fernandes
- Ashleigh Krystyna Hoffman
- Matthew Kingsley
- Ogaufi Mokomane
- Charayne Lyle Moore
- Keara Ngum
- Tenielle Nunez
- Nakita Gabriela Pires Parsons
- Micaela Peixoto
- Vincent Peters
- Simoné Sipriano
- Justin Solomons
- Francois Asse
- Affoue Bakan Hortense Kole

First Holy Communion

- Giavanna Chadinha
- Nathan De Olival
- Eli David Evans
- Gabriel Leandro de Sousa Camacho
- Isabella Jacobs
- Alonso Jardim
- Sebastian Joseph Lonappan
- Tintswalo Longwe
- Realeboga Mogomotsi
- Alejandro Morgado
- Gabriella Maria Raffa
- John Jordan Robertson
- Michael Moeletsi Sammering
- Victor Ivan Shterev
- Daniel Xavier Strachan
- Jesse Michael Strachan
- Noah Zanrené Tshepiso Wijnant-Flemmer
- Adam Noah Wolfaardt
- Eliseu Eljeray Anderson
- Ariella Cox
- Kamiyah Nkoulou Ella
- Bernardino Pedro Esteveao
- Ancilla Rweyemamu
- Mason Sonemann

Confirmation

- Enrique Alves
- Adissi Buetussa
- Cailyn Cavaleiro
- Monal Cherian
- Devin Da Silva
- Nicholas Da Silva Ribeiro
- Kiana De Sousa
- Daneal Griesel
- Dewald Griesel
- Ofentse Lebele
- Dylan Naidoo
- Rae-lana Ogle
- Ivana Pavone
- Ciera Pietersen
- Tatyana Plisic
- Tamryn Roos
- Neo Seleke
- Fabio Semedo
- Esmeraldo Sipriana
- Hannah Solomons
- Ricardo Teixeira
- Costa Xirogiannis
- Keziah Eckard
- Gabriel Goncalves
- Khulani Khoza
- Madimetja Ledwaba
- Maphothula Masenya
- Benedicte Ngoyi
- Ramosoeu Sekati
- Anye Tuma

10

VISIBLE PEOPLE

Marriage and Family Life Ministry

The Parish has heeded the archbishop's call to establish a Marriage and Family Life Ministry in all parishes. This ministry has been operating in our parish from the terraces with marriage preparations being carried out. Now with the help of a vibrant Team, the ministry will become more visible.

Marriage and Family Life Ministry encompasses every parishioner and as a Team, we started by rolling out a survey to establish the needs of our community. Big thank you to all who participated in the survey. We are going to prepare programs for all based on the outcomes.

At the archdiocesan level the Archbishop has set up a Commission to assist him with establishing the ministry and to nurture it and we have two members from our Team Irene and Charles who have been incorporated into the commission.

Already the commission has arranged a workshop for all parish representatives to go to the Cathedral on 13 November 2021. At this workshop, the representatives will be equipped with information on how to establish parish ministries and to keep them running. Our parish will be represented by Judy Ferreira-Prevost and Cornelia Masogo

The working team at Christ the King consists of Judy, Cornelia, Irene, Charles, Tom, Lydia, Sheila, Felicitus, and Zitha. We welcome more volunteers of all ages to join our team.





11

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS

by NS Nyamane, M Pallozzi and
Adrienne Blignaut

Loreto School Queenswood

What makes Loreto School Queenswood different?

It is our faith, hope, community, and love for what we do.

It is the deep spiritual base that is taught and not caught. We offer a faith-based education that permeates through every fibre in our school.

All that we do is to the ***“greater glory of God”***.

Loreto School Queenswood learners are ***“seekers of truth and doers of justice”***. We do not simply teach our learners about values, we expect to see the values being lived out by the children, through their actions and choices.

The 9th of September 2021, had us witness something rather unusual at our school. Four of our learners were baptised during school Mass. It was a precious and beautiful moment.

“As Christians we share a personal relationship with God and baptism is a commitment to that relationship.”

As we witnessed the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on these precious children of God, we renewed our personal commitments to God and prayed that we might all be infused with the same Spirit of God and be strengthened in our own Christian journeys.

“For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord...”

-Jeremiah 29:11

Loreto School Queenswood constantly strives to teach the learners about our faith, to teach them about love for all and to help them grow.

Our belief is that the greatest legacy anyone can leave, is to positively impact the lives of others. Whenever you add value to other people’s lives you are unknowingly leaving ***“footprints on the sands of time”*** that live on forever.

We would like to live on, in the hearts of all our pupils and we believe that what we teach them today will make them better world citizens tomorrow.

Our Motto is ***“We Grow Children for Life”***.

Our goal is to grow them in their faith, to instil respect for all, and for them to be able to find their inner voice, through all moments within their journey through life.

Our school is faith based, although we accept learners from all backgrounds and religions.

We do not discriminate. Everyone is welcome.

In the words of our Foundress, Mary Ward,
“Our greatness and strength consist not in the favour of princes and great personages, but in this, that we have free and open access to God, from whom all greatness and strength come.”



1 2

A CASE OF MAKING ENDS MEET

After the previous Annual General Meeting in September 2019, we set about formulating and implementing a new vibrant vision for the parish with the theme 'New Beginnings'; then Covid-19 hit us! And the rest is history, or is it?

The total **lockdown** of the country and the church in March 2020 saw most activities in the parish suspended for six straight months and intermittently thereafter as surges in infections challenged our resolve in consecutive waves. Besides the negative effect that this depressing scenario had on our pastoral journey, it disrupted working relationships and altered the established *modus operandi* in the parish. The financial management of the parish was no exception.

The **breakdown** of continuity in practically all aspects of parish life for the greater part of 2020 resulted in the suspension of the AGM for that year. The preparation of the financial statements for 2019 was delayed and only finalized in November 2020, just in time for publication in the 2020 Sceptre. The financial statements for 2020 are included here for reference purposes.

Unfortunately, the **shutdown** of activities in the parish has little effect on our monthly running costs. The 2020 standstill resulted in a 20 percent decrease in our tithing income compared to the previous year and this compelled us to take steps where possible to reduce our operating expenditure, which we did, but only by 9 percent. Our operating deficit of R151,945 for the year was nevertheless 38 percent lower than the deficit for 2019, thanks mainly to generous donations by our parishioners. However, we ended 2020 with our available own funds practically depleted. Mercifully, our parishioners have again risen to the occasion and responded admirably to the situation with own funds reaching R224,929 by the end of August 2021. Could this be the light at the end of the tunnel?

It was the practice in the past, where total yearly expenditure exceeded total yearly income, to accumulate the resultant shortages as a deficit in the balance sheet rather than to cover such shortages with transfers back from the parish's reserve funds. This anomaly has been rectified in the accounts for 2020 with the transfer of R624,265 to reduce the deficits accumulated up to 31 December 2019.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the following persons for their support during 2020:

- Our pastor, Fr Thabiso, for direction and guidance given.
- Goretti Allegria, for her leadership as Chairperson of the Parish Finance Committee until August 2020.
- The three current serving members of the Committee, Alphonso Flanagan, Tino Lovric, and Jason Bremner.
- Our parish secretary, Angela Solomons for administrative support pertaining to financial matters.
- Our parishioners who contribute financially or otherwise to ensure that our parish stays self-supportive and self-sustaining.

In conclusion, I may mention that there are a number of pressing issues to which the Finance Committee has not been able to give the required attention. To remedy the situation and ensure continuity on the Committee, we are looking to appoint two additional members who believe that one has to be proactive in order to make a difference.

Stay safe!

André Vest

Chairperson: Parish Finance Committee

CHRIST THE KING **CATHOLIC CHURCH QUEENSWOOD**

(Registration number PBO 930014229)

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

General Information:

Country of Incorporation and domicile	South Africa
Nature of business and principal activities	Catholic Parish Church
Registered office	1154 Woodlands Drive Queenswood Pretoria 0081
Bankers	Standard Bank
Practitioners	Fourie and Botha Auditors
Level of assurance	These financial statements have not been audited or independently reviewed.
Preparer	The financial statements were independently compiled by: WM Fourie CA (SA)

Approval:

The annual financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and are not subject to any material changes to the present financial status. The Annual financial statements as set out on pages 4-8 were approved by the Parish Council and were signed on their behalf by:



Parish Priest



Parish Finance Chair

Date: 16 September 2021

Practitioner's Compilation Report

To the Parish Council of Christ The King Catholic Church Queenswood


We have compiled the financial statements of Christ The King Catholic Church Queenswood, as set out on Pages 4-8, based on information you have provided. These financial statements comprise the statement of financial position of Christ The King Catholic Church Queenswood as at 31 December 2020, the statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

We performed this compilation engagement in accordance with International Standard on Related Services 4410 (Revised), Compilation Engagements.

We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to assist you in the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard of Small and Medium-sized Entities. We have complied with relevant ethical requirements, including principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care.

These financial statements and the accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them are your responsibility.

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information you provided to us to compile these financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on whether these financial statements are prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities.



W.M. Fourie CA (SA)
Partner
Fourie and Botha Auditors

Date: 18 August 2021



Fourie + Botha

Geregistreeerde Ouditeure
Registered Auditors

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2020

Figures in Rand	2020	2019
Assets		
Currents Assets		
Inventories	81 576	68 057
Trade and other receivables	3 960	11 128
Cash and cash equivalents	286 605	580 067
Total Assets	372 141	659 252
Equity and Liabilities		
Equity		
Trust funds	280 928	1 150 291
Accumulated loss	(34 263)	(658 528)
	246 665	491 762
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	125 476	167 489
Total Equity and Liabilities	372 141	659 252

Statement of Comprehensive Income

Figures in Rand	2020	2019
Revenue		
Planned giving and collections	1 205 063	1 506 518
Donations received	180 256	268 404
Cellphone Tower Rent	157 804	153 674
Fundraising	210	30 517
Stole fees	14 963	24 777
Interest Received	16 385	14 038
Repository Surplus	6936	-
	1 581 617	1 997 928
Operating expenses		
Security	(451 504)	(401 923)
Employee costs	(375 685)	(404 451)
Archdiocese assessments	(180 000)	(256 850)
Priests Allowances	(134 053)	(109 697)
Household expenses	(108 535)	(68 639)
Accounting fees	(82 000)	(78 000)
Utilities	(80 719)	(101 871)
Telephone and fax	(58 919)	(47 888)
Transport, Travel & Accommodation	(55 275)	(48 693)
Subscriptions	(41 337)	(14 981)
Repairs and maintenance	(38 443)	(74 613)
Bank charges	(30 341)	(23 228)
Liturgy	(19 281)	(114 848)
Cash collections fee	(15 315)	(44 848)
Cleaning	(15 129)	(12 773)
Entertainment	(11 321)	(30 129)
Deacon Costs	(9 013)	(35 462)
Bad debts	(7 342)	(5 025)
Fixed assets	(6 063)	(12 927)
Printing and Stationery	(4 499)	(33 336)
Consulting fees	(4 110)	(9 399)
Donations	(2 400)	(4 243)
Insurance	(1 678)	(39 062)
Mass Intentions	(600)	-
Functions	-	(11 492)
Retreats	-	(7 007)
Repository loss	-	(2 397)
Catechist	-	(854)
	(1 733 562)	(1 994 726)
Operating (loss) profit	(151 945)	3 202
Transfer from parish reserve funds	776 210	-
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	624 265	3 202

Accounting Policies

General information

Christ The King Catholic Church Queenswood is an organisation funded in South Africa and its principal activities are that of a Catholic Parish Church.

1. Basis of preparation and summary of significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies as set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and are presented in South African Rands.

These accounting policies are consistent with the previous period.

1.1 Investments

Non-current assets investments are carried at market value at the balance sheet date. Increases or decreases in the carrying amount of the non-current assets are recognised as equity in the revaluation reserve.

1.2 Inventories

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell, on the first-in, first-out (FIFO) basis.

1.3 Revenue

Revenue is recognised when it is received.

Interest is recognised, in profit or loss, using the effective interest rate method.

1.4 Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are written off to expenditure in the year of acquisition.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Figures in Rand

2020

2019

2. Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables

3 960

11 128

3. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of:

Cash on hand

5 100

10 139

Bank balances

281 505

569 928

286 605

580 067

4. Trust and reserve funds

2020

	Opening balance	Donations received & transfers from income statement	Expenditure & transfers to income statement	Total
Adami fund	277 972	9 110	(286 748)	334
Catechetics	5 217	27 765	(15 485)	17 497
Fr Peter Place Fund	303 330	-	(303 330)	-
Garden of Remembrance fund	131 973	53 790	(170 000)	15 763
Micro Grid fund	325 046	-	(144 253)	180 793
Outreach fund	65 809	162 660	(198 568)	29 901
Soup Kitchen fund	3 020	1 950	(1 314)	3 656
Young adults fund	606	-	-	606
Renovation fund	16 132	-	(16 132)	-
MAP Fund	8 538	2 192	-	10 730
Deanery fund	12 648	2 500	-	15 148
Benedict Daswa Fund	-	6 500	-	6 500
	1 150 291	266 467	(1 135 830)	280 928

2019

	Opening balance	Donations received & transfers from income statement	Expenditure & transfers to income statement	Total
Adami fund	149 160	169 141	(40 329)	277 972
Catechetics	6 556	73 521	(74 860)	5 217
Fr Peter Place Fund	305 601	51 950	(54 221)	303 330
Garden of Remembrance fund	73 212	98 147	(39 386)	131 973
Micro Grid fund	1 234 128	-	(909 082)	325 046
Outreach fund	64 965	201 566	(200 722)	65 809
Youth fund	1,350	-	(1 350)	-
Soup Kitchen fund	966	13 477	(11 453)	3 020
Young adults fund	606	-	-	606
Renovation fund	-	16 132	-	16 132
MAP Fund	-	8 538	-	8 538
Deanery fund	-	12 648	-	12 648
	1 836 574	645 120	1 331 403)	1 150 291

Figures in Rand

2020

2019

5. Trade and other payables

Trade payables	116 998	171 755
Deposits received	8 478	(4 266)
	125 476	167 489

6. Taxation

No provision had been made for 2020 tax as the organisation is a Public Benefit Organisation operated not for profit and is exempt from taxation.

CTKO PARISH MINISTRIES

Parish Priest

Fr Thabiso Ledwaba
Tel: 012 333 4738 / 083 669 7329
frthabiso@christking.org.za

Parish Secretary

Angela Solomons
012 333 4738 / secretary@christking.org.za

Parish Council Chair

Shammy Naidoo
060 960 9265 / shammy@sapphireauto.co.za

Vice Council Chair

Sheila Houghton
061 619 8308 / magic15.sh@gmail.com

Council Secretary

Marie Louise Samuels
082 3389 8086 / marielouisesamuels@gmail.com

Finance Committee

Andre Vest
082 459 4792 / Vestandre49@gmail.com

Adult Instruction and Formation

Felicity Mullan
072 211 1165 / 012 333 4738

Bookings for Dennis Adami Centre

Mona Vest
012 333 3328

Bookings for Dennis Adami Hall

Goretti de Souza Allegria
083 259 9620 / goretti@tonysliquor.co.za

Altar Servers

Francis Manickum
081 791 3992

Catechism Coordinator

Celeste Coetzer
082 786 2604

Perpetual Adoration Coordinator

Angela Solomons
012 333 4738 / secretary@christking.org.za

Family Ministry

Sheila Houghton
082 770 6412 / familyministry@christking.org.za

Food Parcels for Vulnerable Families

Louis Craddock
082 829 8105

Funeral Teas (weekdays only)

Mona Vest
012 333 3328

Ministry to the Sick

Angela Solomons
012 333 4738 / secretary@christking.org.za

Repository

Louis Craddock
082 829 8105

Youth Group

Celine Houghton / Matthew Hoods
084 448 7972 / 076 608 1825



GTKO WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening

Confessions 5.15 pm
 (Vigil Mass for Sunday) 6.00 pm

Sunday

Mass 8.00 am
 Catechism Gr 1 - 7 9.15 am during school term
 Mass 10.00 am
 Youth 4.00 to 6.00 pm still to be decided
 Mass 6.30 pm
 Baptisms First Sunday of the month
 Baptism classes 3rd Tuesday evening of every month

Monday

Communion Service 6.00 pm

Tuesday

Confessions 5.15 pm
 Mass 6.00 pm
 Adult Classes / RCIA* / Bible Study 7.00 pm

Wednesday

Confessions 5.15 pm
 Mass 6:00 pm

Thursday

Morning Prayer 7.40 am
 Mass 8.00 am at the school during the term otherwise in the church
 Bible Study 9.00 am
 Confessions 5.15 pm
 Catechism Gr 8, 9, 10 and Confirmation 6.00pm
 Mass 6.00 pm

Friday

Confessions 5.15 pm
 Mass 6.00 pm
 Soup Kitchen 6.45 pm

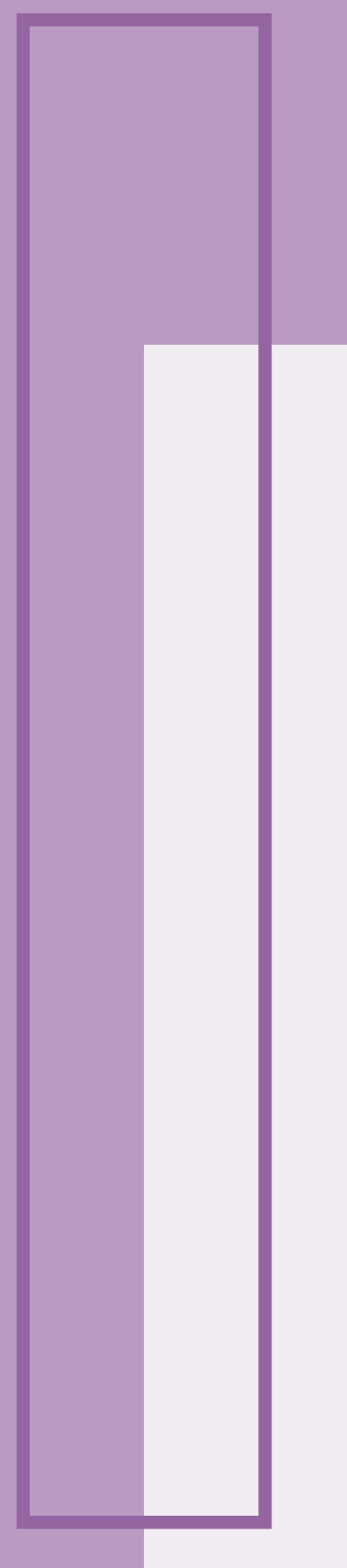
First Friday

School Mass during term 8.00 am in the church
 Exposition 5.00 pm
 Benediction 5.40 pm
 Healing Mass 6.00 pm
 Musical Adoration 7.00 pm

Public Holidays

Mass 8.00am

*RCIA: RIGHT OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS
 Some times have changed this year due to Covid





WISHING

YOU AND YOUR

LOVED ONES

A BLESSED

CHRISTMAS

-Matthew 1:21

She will give birth to a son, and you are
to give him the name Jesus, because he
will save his people from their sins

1:21



2021

by Christopher Gomes Erasmus

