

# 2019 Bishops' Lenten Appeal



## Brothers and sisters, thank you

As the Lenten season of 2019 is about to begin, we remember the words as clearly reflected in the message of our Holy Father, Pope Francis that this is a time of **Fasting, Prayer and Almsgiving**. I begin this year's message by thanking you for the great support shown last year. As has been reported, we collected throughout the season of Lent in 2018 the total sum of R10 664 544. This was collected and distributed towards the works of the Church, as well as the poor and needy. On the following page we have included a pie chart showing how we distributed this money, which you so faithfully entrusted to our care.

As we begin this new season of Lent 2019, cooperating together with the different departments of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, we remember that most important part of our creation through the "Laudato Si" initiative. Our Holy Father speaks of the "Redemption of Creation", so let us take this time and continue to pray for that which we benefit from through creation, by taking care of the beauty of creation that we benefit so freely from. Let this be a time for us to learn to love and accept that which is freely given to us. Our actions here speak louder when we show the love our Lord has entrusted to us through his 40 days in the desert as an experience of growth in our lives.

So much is happening in our lives these days, therefore it's important for us to focus on the message of Our Holy Father. Our country is going through challenging times, we become aware of the sadness of sin, and the destructive power attached to it. The Church equally is also facing its challenges, but it is a grace, that we are aware of it. So let this period of Lent be a time where we pray and fast to be united with God, to be in community with each other and the Lord, because without this communion our lives just don't make sense. *Once God's Law of love, is forsaken, then the law of the strong over the weak takes over.* – Pope Francis

During the period of Lent as stated earlier it is a time of: Fasting, Prayer, Almsgiving and Reconciliation. Yes, it is a time for us to turn from that which is contrary to the path of the Risen Lord, so that we can live fully in the abundant grace of the paschal mystery. *Lent is a sacramental sign of this conversion.* (PP Francis.) Let us make this period of Lent be a time of love of creation and self, by seeking reconciliation in our lives.

I conclude this Bishops Lenten Appeal letter encouraging you to be people of faith during this period of Lent. Let the care of creation be a priority, let our lives be a reflection of our prayer and allow our almsgiving during this time to be an awareness that our neighbours are important to us as fellow Christians. We are people of forgiveness, let reconciliation during these 40 days be a new seed in our lives that we will continue to nurture. May the grace of God be with you during this season of Lent 2019.

Bro Ashley Tillek, OFM  
Bishops Lenten Appeal Director

## Laudato Si' – Lenten Reflections



drawn up by different Departments of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference cooperating together and are designed to assist the members of the Catholic family in seeking new ways, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to relate to one another and creation.

The format proposed is a simple one: praying the scriptures of the relevant Sundays of Lent and sharing on Pope Francis' teaching in *Laudato si'*. It is foreseen that each family or individual make reference to the booklet which the Conference has prepared as an aid to personal and community reflection.

The goal is a renewed and changed heart leading to a new way of relating to persons and "things".

Make of this a God-filled moment to discover anew that we are God's work of art, "*created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.*" (Ephesians 2:10)

+Edward Risi OMI  
Department of Christian Formation, Liturgy and Culture

Pope Francis frequently emphasises how urgent it is that we put our faith into action through the decisions and choices we make. Our Bishops invite us during Lent 2019 to look with the eyes of faith at the challenges that face us and our world; and to respond with renewed hope in caring for one another and created things.

We are asked to examine the attitudes and habits which underlie the way we use and misuse the created gifts of God. All that has been created is a loving gift of the Father. "*We know that all things*

*work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.*" (Romans 8:28)

We learn much through the media about global warming and changes in the environment. There is a sense of urgency to do something about our life-style and the use of resources. The call of Pope Francis differs in that he emphasises that we heed these warnings as **PEOPLE OF FAITH**. Care for mother earth and the environment is part of the Great Commission to bring the Gospel to all creation. (Mark 16:15)

Lenten Reflections have been

## Our refugees are people The Scalabrini Sisters are doing us proud

The Scalabrini Welfare team offers assistance to any migrant and refugee in need. Through a process of consultation, the team is able to assist individuals access basic services such as medical care, schooling, shelter, SASSA grants and assistance with advice/applications for voluntary repatriation. The services include home visits to our most vulnerable clients.

The desk also manages a limited assistance programme, which offers direct support to emergency and special cases.

During 2018, Welfare consulted a total of 2090 people with varying needs. Consultations include referrals to internal programmes or external partner organizations (e.g. Trauma Centre, UCT Refugee Law Clinic, Cape Town Refugee Centre, Adonis Musati project etc.) In the reporting period for the

Bishop's Lenten Appeal, the Welfare team performed outreach work, including home visits and client accompaniment to shelters, hospitals or schools, as well as the Department of Home Affairs offices.

Increasingly restrictive policies and procedures have increased the refugee's legal and social vulnerability. The lack of documentation for refugees results in complications to access education, health care, shelter and housing, labour markets and welfare services.

Additionally, the lack of knowledge on refugee rights and responsibilities by service providers, government departments, institutions of justice, and the general public, results in further difficulties in accessing services and instances of discrimination. These factors, along with an urban environment with an unemployment rate approach-

ing 30%, regular service delivery protests, high instances of HIV/AIDS, high crime rates, poverty, and xenophobic violence, increase the mental and physical stress on this population.

So, it is important that we support the Scalabrini Sisters in the work they do for the people from our neighbouring countries. Through these good acts we save at least one family from destitution.

As an example, let us look at one of their success stories:

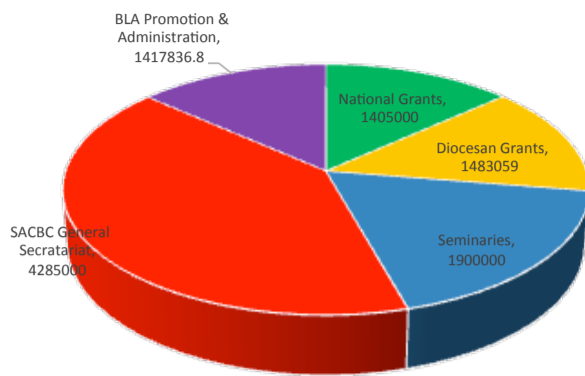
Pamela comes from the Congo. Pamela, a trained nurse, fled the DRC because it was too dangerous for her to stay. She fled to South Africa with no English skills and no money. As South Africa's economy is larger than that of DRC, Pamela expected that she would find a way to support herself. "I thought that if you go to a country that has many things, [you expect] that you too can have things."

*Continued on page 3.*



# Donations 2018

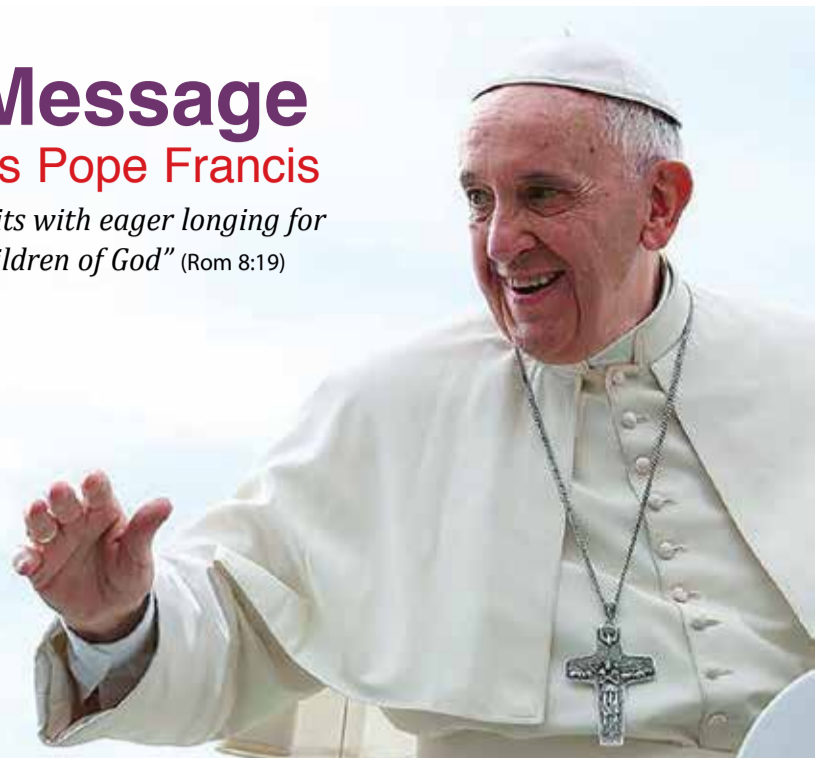
Tabled below is the list on how the funds have been combined for distribution:



DONATION INCOME	2018	2017	% compared to last year
Aliwal	R 64 270	R 67 919	95%
Bethlehem	R 124 543	R 98 165	127%
Bloemfontein	R 72 500	R 93 600	77%
Cape Town	R 1 751 960	R 1 816 610	96%
De Aar	R 33 854	R 34 218	99%
Dundee	R 133 925	R 139 600	96%
Durban	R 1 625 963	R 1 574 584	103%
Eshowe	R 162 346	R 140 000	116%
Ingwavuma	R 71 083	R 62 485	114%
Johannesburg	R 2 017 018	R 1 740 243	116%
Keimoes/Upington	R 306 640	R 287 000	107%
Kimberley	R 461 263	R 454 771	101%
Klerksdorp	R 236 515	R 230 000	103%
Kokstad	R 201 337	R 194 715	103%
Kroonstad	R 105 590	R 126 100	84%
Mariannhill	R 356 000	R 350 000	102%
Manzini	R 50 318	R 45 101	112%
Mthatha	R 267 183	R 294 528	91%
Oudtshoorn	R 133 027	R 149 713	89%
Polokwane	R 264 411	R 251 000	105%
Port Elizabeth	R 499 834	R 516 654	97%
Pretoria	R 716 540	R 679 915	105%
Queenstown	R 121 119	R 100 669	120%
Rustenburg	R 222 372	R 210 191	106%
Tzaneen	R 128 003	R 132 048	97%
UMzimkulu	R 108 823	R 184 659	59%
Witbank	R 383 995	R 399 354	96%
Other (not allocatable)	R 9 582	R 9 500	101%
St John Vianney	R 12 435	R 12 554	99%
Holy Cross Sisters		R 2 000	0%
SMS Donation	R 4 735	R 0,00	
Daughters of Charity	R 3 000	R 3 000	100%
The Monastery	R 2 664,	R 2 805	95%
St. Benedict School		R 542	0%
MFG	R 12 700		
Francophone Community	R 3 000	R 5 400	56%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>R 10 668 545</b>	<b>R 10 409 643</b>	<b>102%</b>

# Lenten Message of His Holiness Pope Francis

*"For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God" (Rom 8:19)*



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Each year, through Mother Church, God "gives us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed ... as we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ" (*Preface of Lent I*). We can thus journey from Easter to Easter towards the fulfilment of the salvation we have already received as a result of Christ's paschal mystery – "for in hope we were saved" (*Rom 8:24*). This mystery of salvation, already at work in us during our earthly lives, is a dynamic process that also embraces history and all of creation. As Saint Paul says, "the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God" (*Rom 8:19*). In this perspective, I would like to offer a few reflections to accompany our journey of conversion this coming Lent.

### Redemption of creation

The celebration of the Paschal Triduum of Christ's passion, death and resurrection, the culmination of the liturgical year, calls us yearly to undertake a journey of preparation, in the knowledge that our being conformed to Christ (cf. *Rom 8:29*) is a priceless gift of God's mercy.

When we live as children of God, redeemed, led by the Holy Spirit (cf. *Rom 8:14*) and capable of acknowledging and obeying God's law, beginning with the law written on our hearts and in nature, we also benefit creation by cooperating in its redemption. That is why Saint Paul says that creation eagerly longs for the revelation of the children of God; in other words, that all those who enjoy the grace of Jesus' paschal mystery may experience its fulfilment in the redemption of the human body itself. When the love of Christ transfigures the lives of the saints in spirit, body and soul, they give praise to God. Through prayer, contemplation and art, they also include other creatures in that praise, as we see admirably expressed in the "Canticle of the Creatures" by Saint Francis of Assisi (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 87). Yet in this world, the harmony generated by redemption is constantly threatened by the negative power of sin and death.

### The destructive power of sin

Indeed, when we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbours and other creatures – and ourselves as well – since we begin to think more or less consciously that we can use them as we will. Intemperance then takes the upper hand: we start to live a life that exceeds those limits imposed by our human condition and nature itself. We yield to those untrammelled desires that the Book of Wisdom sees as typical of the ungodly, those who act without thought for God or hope for the future (cf. 2:1-11). Unless we tend constantly towards Easter, towards the horizon of the Resurrection, the mentality expressed in the slogans "I want it all and I want it now!" and "Too much is never enough", gains the upper hand.

The root of all evil, as we know, is sin, which from its first appearance has disrupted our communion with God, with others and with creation itself, to which we are linked in a particular way by our body. This rupture of communion with God likewise undermines our harmonious relationship with the environment in which we are called to live, so that the garden has become a wilderness (cf. *Gen 3:17-18*). Sin leads man to consider himself the god of creation, to see himself as its absolute master and to use it, not for the purpose willed by the Creator but for his own interests, to the detriment of other creatures.

Once God's law, the law of love, is forsaken, then the law of the strong over the weak takes over. The sin that lurks in the human heart (cf. *Mk 7:20-23*) takes the shape of greed and unbridled pursuit of comfort, lack of concern for the good of others and even of oneself. It leads to the exploitation of creation, both persons and the environment, due to that insatiable covetousness which sees every desire as a right and sooner or later destroys all those in its grip.

### The healing power of repentance and forgiveness

Creation urgently needs the revelation of the children of God, who have been made "a new creation". For "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Cor 5:17). Indeed, by virtue of their being revealed, creation itself can celebrate a Pasch, opening itself to a new heaven and a new earth (cf. *Rev 21:1*). The path to Easter demands that we renew our faces and hearts as Christians through repentance, conversion and forgiveness, so as to live fully the abundant grace of the paschal mystery.

This "eager longing", this expectation of all creation, will be fulfilled in the revelation of the children of God, that is, when Christians and all people enter decisively into the "travail" that conversion entails. All creation is called, with us, to go forth "from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God" (*Rom 8:21*). Lent is a sacramental sign of this conversion. It invites Christians to embody the paschal mystery more deeply and concretely in their personal, family and social lives, above all by fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

Fasting, that is, learning to change our attitude towards others and all of creation, turning away from the temptation to "devour" everything to satisfy our voracity and being ready to suffer for love, which can fill the emptiness of our hearts. Prayer, which teaches us to abandon idolatry and the self-sufficiency of our ego, and to acknowledge our need of the Lord and his mercy. Almsgiving, whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us. And thus to rediscover the joy of God's plan for creation and for each of us, which is to love him, our brothers and sisters, and the entire world, and to find in this love our true happiness.

*Francis*

From the Vatican, 4 October 2018  
Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

## THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' FOUNDATION

The Foundation extends its gratitude and good wishes for the year ahead to all its members.

Together last year, 2018, we supported 18 projects nationwide ranging from Care centres for children, School infrastructure, equipment for an Old Age Home, church renovation, disabled children's homes and other.

The Foundation can't do everything, obviously – but it helps and lets people know that their efforts are not going unnoticed especially in the rural and less resourced areas of the country.

For more information see the website [www.catholicbishopsfoundation.org.za](http://www.catholicbishopsfoundation.org.za) or phone Msg. Barney McAleer at 072 469-3710.

[www.catholicbishopsfoundation.org.za](http://www.catholicbishopsfoundation.org.za)

## To donate ...

... contribute directly to the Lenten Appeal:

Account name: SACBC Lenten Appeal  
Account number: 010009744  
Bank: Standard Bank  
Branch: Pretoria Cnr Paul Kruger & Church St

As a reference:  
use LA, your name and your diocese



# St Kizito Children's Programme



This is an extract from a report sent to the Bishops Lenten Appeal for the support you have given to one of the many groups looking for financial aid from the Bishops Lenten Appeal Fund. With the Bishops Lenten Appeal contributions you make, so much more can be done, as is testified by the following.

St Kizito Children's Programme (SKCP) is extremely grateful to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal for the funding received as it enabled us to continue our work with orphaned and vulnerable children in the Archdiocese of Cape Town.

Through engagement with SKCP parish groups, the issue of substance abuse was identified as a major concern in many of the communities in which we operate and a comprehensive training workshop was organised to deal with this.

The workshop was split into two training sessions and provided much insight into this area of concern. The Rural Development Support Programme (RDSP) was the facilitator for both training sessions. A third and final part of the workshop is the POPPETS programme to run during the early part of this year.

Volunteers will be trained to use puppets to share the negative impact of drug abuse to young children. Substance abuse during childhood can be directly attributed to peer pressure, poor self-esteem and a lack of essential life skills such as decision-making and communication.

The POPPETS programme focuses on these risk factors by providing critical information to children in a creative, enjoyable and entertaining manner. Course material, workbooks



and teaching techniques are supplied and imparted in the POPPETS Programme. The training provided has enabled our parish groups to better understand what substance abuse is about and how we are able to inform the families we assist.

The SKCP office maintains regular contact parish groups through visits, phone calls and meetings. Through this communication, our Co-ordinator ensures the mentorship and assistance required is received. The office in this last quarter has worked hard on a recruitment strategy to establish new parish groups and increased membership.

SKCP parish groups visit families on regularly to establish how they are doing.

Another initiative is the parish soup kitchens run by our Kleinvlei and Guguletu members.

During the school holidays parish groups organise activities with children where they are fed and entertained. Our Guguletu group had a very successful Christmas party for 60 of their children which was hosted by Genesis in Rondebosch. The children had a delightful day with a magician, face painting, jumping castle, games, eats and the arrival of Father Christmas with presents for all of them.

by yourself and how to have the courage to achieve your dreams." Following AMKA, Pamela was supported through a six-week hospitality course, following which she started looking for a job with the assistance of the Employment Access Programme. After a short-term job at a guesthouse in Brooklyn, Pamela heard of a position in the Scalabrini Guesthouse. Following interviews, Pamela was offered the position and has been working there ever since.

Steps to building a life in South Africa are slow and small, but Pamela remains positive. "Scalabrini and the people here like Fortune, Papa Etienne and Jane gave me courage. Before, I had big challenges, now I have peace in my heart and my child has food."

\*Name has been changed to protect identity

# From Childhood to Adulthood



The Church serves all through Sr Colleen Simpson, RGS in Madidi (Pretoria North)

Working for the holistic empowerment of all women and children

The Bishops' Lenten Appeal Office had the opportunity to visit the Madidi project of the Good Shepherd Sisters run by Sr Colleen.

The Madidi project currently involves over 400 young people with over 800 expected by the end of February. Not only are various skill projects offered but it also has a feeding scheme for all those who attend the skills projects.

As I arrived students were having their lunch break. The area was shaded, neat and very tidy – serving the young people with a sense of dignity. Very apparent was the sense of respect and love that the young people have for Sr Colleen, a no-nonsense sister who nevertheless loves to be with the people she serves.

Sr Colleen, a Good Shepherd sister, started this project over 40 years ago and has devoted much of her time to the community of Madidi and Hebron. Projects have included, but are not limited to those beginning with a crèche stage right up to adult skills courses.

Interesting to note was that it wasn't just a centre but one that offered safety.

Her love and dedication was illustrated by an incident that took place as we sat down for lunch. She received a call that a mother was about to abandon a newborn baby. This became a priority for her and she took it under her wing and dealt with the situation immediately. The baby needed a home and this was the priority. This is the charisma of the sisters – they look after the needy.

The staff too are evidently happy. Most of them were trained through the centre, and now they give back to the centre by training others.

There is an air of people who are determined to make something of



the lives. One of many courses offered is a computer course comprising of 5 different modules that are accredited by BankSETA – the Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) for the banking industry, focused on skills development. Many young adults in the area have gone through, and passed exams for this course, which is also recognised by Government.

Skills provided include catering, dressmaking, basic home care (including looking after patients at home) and basic services in a community clinic. The dressmaking section also sells school uniforms as well as traditional clothing and bead work in order to help the centre raise funds. The catering section also looks after feeding the students at the centre.

Last year the Minister for Higher Education, Minister Naledi Pandor, praised the work done at the centre and more so that by Sr Colleen. As quoted from an article on the SACBC website, the Archbishop of Pretoria had the following to say.

*The Archbishop said that it is the joy of the church to work with the government, and there is no doubt that what the community learning centres are endeavouring to do is to offer skills to all young people and to make them creators of skills in the future.*

*Archbishop Slattery also remarked on the importance and impact of basic skills in our society. He said that they are absolutely fundamental for the lives of South Africans, and South Africa needs basic skills to build up the country.*

He noted that many countries have great economies today but they all started off with basic skills.

About the Good Shepherd Centre itself the Archbishop said, "Yes, this is a Catholic Centre, but it is for everybody. The people who are here are all very welcome here. Our task as the Catholic Church is to enrich humanity and give people an opportunity."

The Bishops' Lenten Appeal is pleased to support projects like this. For the past three years we have been able to support them from the money you collected through the Bishops' Lenten Appeal. However, it does not stop there. Their needs are great – the youngsters always need clothing and food. The children in the crèche are given fruit every day in order to have something extra in their tummies to end the day. Please support them in any manner you can, this will be much appreciated.

If you would like to help, please find attached the details of the project. Sr Colleen will appreciate help of any kind.

Bro. Ashley Tillek, OFM  
Bishops Lenten Appeal Director

## Good Shepherd Sisters

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## S.P.R.E.D. Special Religious Development

Pope Francis at the beginning of "Laudato Si" mentions that Saint Francis "shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society and interior peace." (10).

Over the past twenty years the Spred programme has offered an opportunity within parishes for volunteers to offer a safe, secure place – a sacred space where both volunteer/faith companion and faith friend (person with a disability or special needs) create a community of inclusion, harmony and growth in faith which reflect aspects of Saint Francis words.

Spred invites volunteers to reflect within themselves so as to be able to share with their friends. Pope Francis said, "we are speaking of an attitude of the heart, one which approaches life with serene attentiveness, which is capable of being fully present to someone without thinking of what comes next". (226).



The goal of Spred is for inclusion of all parishioners particularly the faith friends in the participation of the Eucharistic celebrations of the parish. Pope Francis said, "Joined to the Incarnate Son, present in the Eucharist, the whole cosmos give thanks to God. Indeed the Eucharist is itself an act of cosmic love" (236).

We are extremely grateful to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal for supporting the Spred programme and, through it, enabling people with disabilities or special needs find a place of acceptance and inclusion within the parish community.

## Readings and Prayers

Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Ash Wednesday March 6, 2019	Joel 2:1-2, 12-18 or Isaiah 58:1-12	Psalm 50:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20-6,2	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.				
First Sunday of Lent March 10, 2019	Deuteronomy 26:4-10	Psalm 90:1-2, 10-15	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
Lord our God, you alone do we worship; only your word gives life. Sustain your Church on its Lenten journey. When we walk through the desert of temptation, strengthen us to renounce the power of evil. When our faith is tested by doubt, illumine our hearts with Easter's bright promise. We ask this through Christ, our deliverance and hope, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever. Amen.				
Second Sunday of Lent March 17, 2019	Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18	Psalm 26	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)
Loving Jesus, whose desire is to hold all people close to you, we bring before you those situations and people whose needs are utmost in our minds and hearts. We pray for your world, fractured by war, conflict and division. As we have read in today's gospel passage about Jesus' relationship with Jerusalem, we pray for all people in the Middle East. We pray for communities hurting, communities grieving, communities divided and for those working desperately for peace and reconciliation.				
Third Sunday in Lent March 24, 2019	Ex 3, 1-8.13-15	Psalm 102: 1-11	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
Living God, whose son Jesus conquered death and lives forever, giving us cause for hope we hold before you those places and situations in our world which seem lifeless and hopeless. We bring before you in prayer those who farm against the odds. We pray for those whose crops, livelihoods and futures are in jeopardy through drought or flood. We pray for those who go without or have to pay inflated prices which they can ill afford in order to feed their families.				
The Annunciation of the Lord March 25, 2019	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 45 or Psalm 39:7-11	Hebrews 10:4-10	Luke 1:26-38
Almighty Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You have revealed the beauty of your power by exalting the lowly virgin of Nazareth and making her the mother of our Savior. May the prayers of this woman bring Jesus to the waiting world and fill the void of incompleteness with the presence of her child, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit one God forever and ever. Amen				
Fourth Sunday of Lent March 31, 2019	Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 33	2 Corinthians 5:17-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
God our Father, your Word, Jesus Christ, spoke peace to a sinful world and brought mankind the gift of reconciliation by the suffering and death he endured. Teach us, the people who bear his name, to follow the example he gave us: may our faith, hope, and charity turn hatred to love, conflict to peace, death to eternal life.				
Fifth Sunday of Lent April 7, 2019	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 125	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 8:1-11
God of power, God of mercy, you bring forth springs in the wasteland and turn despair into hope. Look not upon the sins of our past, but lift from our hearts the failures that weigh us down, that we may find refreshment and life in Christ, our liberator from sin, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever. Amen.				
Liturgy of the Palms April 14, 2019 Sixth Sunday of Lent		Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29		Luke 19:28-40
Liturgy of the Passion April 14, 2019 Sixth Sunday of Lent	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
Compassionate God, your love finds full expression in the gift of Jesus Christ your Son, who willingly met betrayal and death to set us free from sin. Give us courage to live obediently in these days until we greet the glory of our risen Savior. Amen.				

**AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**  
CRY OF THE EARTH - CRY OF THE POOR! Pope Francis Laudato Si

**THE EARTH**

**ABUSE BY LITTERING**  
Poor communities consume the contaminated water.

**THE POOR**  
Crying for our help

**VIOLENCE AND ABUSE**  
ACT AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN ABUSE  
Happening every day  
All it takes is one good PRISON TO DESTROY hope!

As this Lenten season of 2019 begins, grant us Lord the grace to be faithful.  
Give us grace to PRAY, to FAST, to be GENEROUS and to be able to RECONCILE with each other and you Lord.  
AMEN

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**South African Catholic Bishops' Lenten Appeal**  
Sacrificium

*Are you a Catholic business?*  
For more than 50 years the Catholic Bishops Conference, through the Bishops' Lenten Appeal has supported the poor and needy and looked after the works of the Church.  
*Can you as a Catholic business do the same?*  
We ask our Catholic business people to please consider a donation to the Bishops Lenten Appeal during this period of Lent.

(Please email the office for more details for acknowledgement)  
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