

AD CLERUM - JUNE 2011

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Jerusalem the “Abode of Peace” has been destroyed and rebuilt over 32 times and, if the current state of play continues, looks scheduled to be built and rebuilt time and again. With both Israel and Palestine governed by right wing political parties that are unwilling to acknowledge or make any concessions to the other, the situation will remain tense and in a state of stalemate until some future events tip things over into yet another state of conflict. Beautiful though Jerusalem (and all Israel) is, it is a grim and enduring reminder of the dangers of polarisation and “win-lose” politics in which the winner takes all.

In her latest book, “In the Narrow Times,” Dr Erica Brown, the Scholar-in-Residence for the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, claims that Jewish leadership is in a state of crisis. In an interview with the Jerusalem Post shortly ahead of her lecture at the Great Synagogue in Jerusalem she explained what, for her, has gone wrong. While her remarks were made specifically in respect of Israeli politics, much of what she says has a direct bearing on leadership everywhere and sounds a powerful warning both for us as church and for our own political leaders.

She says:-

“We have gotten so used to a poor moral level of leadership and of competency in leadership, and leadership which is almost visionless, that we actually don’t know what it’s like to be led well. ... You’re seeing that people who are falling into leadership roles right now just aren’t top-tier spiritually or people who many people feel comfortable with as role models.”

While Brown refrains from naming names, the newspaper has no such qualms. But Brown is not so much concerned about the morality of certain individuals, serious though that is, as about the fact that, for her, their individual moral failures reflect a larger and more serious moral vacuum in society. Their failures then become a manifestation of their lack of competent moral leadership. Instead of showing a way out of the moral vacuum, their behaviour simply reinforces the moral decline of society.

This speaks powerfully to me of our need as spiritual leaders to live holy lives and to inspire others to strive for holiness in their own lives. We must so incarnate Christ values in our lives that they become the norm in our faith communities and in the wider society. In effect what she as a devout Orthodox Jew is saying to her own faith community and ours is this, “Unless as leaders we walk the talk, we cannot talk the walk.” With the significant number of moral lapses within our diocese in recent times, this not only becomes a moral imperative for all of us in leadership positions, but also demands of us that we find ways of supporting one another in the quest for holiness and Godly living. And so I, as St Paul did, pray that ‘... you may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him’ (Col 1:9,10). For ultimately it is about Christ in you, in whom you are glorified and through whom you glorify God.

Erica Brown goes on to say: “While most of our politicians apparently aren’t involved in criminal activities, a large number can be tried and convicted for mediocrity and instilling boredom.” This picks up her earlier comment about “...vision which is almost visionless.” For Brown, leadership is about vision and the ability to articulate that vision with eloquent language that inspires people to think about the challenges facing them and to respond to them in new ways that further develop the vision. The importance of vision raises for her another issue that she believes needs to be addressed: money.

She says: “Many institutions today are very focussed on raising money, and not necessarily on contributing meaning to people and creating relevancy.” When that happens, she says, the effort put into raising funds becomes an end in itself, one that shapes and compromises any vision the institution might have had. Leadership then is reduced to keeping people happy far more than in articulating and pursuing a vision. And that, she would say, is not leadership at all.

While much of what she says is perhaps more relevant to political parties and NGO groups, nevertheless it does raise the question about how much of our energy is spent on raising money for special projects (or even survival) rather than in powerfully presenting a vision of the Kingdom of God that inspires sacrificial commitment and response. Leadership that is not driven by a powerfully articulated vision can never move beyond mediocrity and will only generate boredom. Where a community is drawn together around a common vision it will be filled with enthusiasm and passion. True leadership is about articulating a vision so eloquently that people are drawn to it, enthused by it, and aligned around it.

Today, says Brown, “...we’re all about sound bites, tag lines and spin doctoring – none of which feels sincere or genuinely inspiring. I pray that we as the church will provide true moral leadership in the moral vacuum of our times, and draw people to that Truth that alone offers new life and hope for our planet. As we prepare to celebrate Pentecost, so may the power of Pentecost renew our faith, our leadership, and our church.

For self reflection:

1. As a leader in the things of God, is my life a moral beacon for the world around me? What in my life needs changing in order that the light of Christ might shine more brightly?
2. How important is money in my life and to what extent does the pursuit of it colour my behaviour?
3. What is my vision for my life? How does this compare with God’s vision and purpose for your life?

For group discussion:

1. How do we grow a holy people set apart for God and living Godly lives? How do we support one another in the quest for holiness? How can we better support, nurture and help each other in a spirit of love and out of a real desire to help each of us become more fully formed in Christ?
2. Are we a community of faith aligned around a common vision and working together for the building of the kingdom? What changes do we need to make?

May we live resurrection lives in the power of Pentecost

+ Suen

Spiritual Formation

Clergy Day: The next Clergy Day will take place at St Andrew, Pimville on Tuesday the 7th of June beginning at 09h00.

Youth Formation: Chris Uitzinger will be leading a group of 9 young people between the ages of 18 – 30 on a 4 night trip to the Benedictine brothers of Mariya uMama weThemba Monastery in Grahamstown. The purpose of this tour is to expose our young Anglicans to Benedictine Spirituality and to the Monastic life. They will live with the brothers taking part in their rhythm of life and prayer. Besides developing a deep appreciation for Benedictine Spirituality and for the religious life, it will also be a deeply meaningful spiritual experience.

The tour will take place from the 6th – 12th of September 2011 and the cost is R2,000.00. We would encourage all parishes who have youth attending the tour to please assist them in meeting these costs. Should anyone require further details please contact Chris on 072 601 5122.

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Reading Recommendations

Philip Sheldrake has recently published “**Explorations in Spirituality: History, Theology and Social Practice.**” It is a revised collection of some of his previously published essays together with some new material. His emphasis is that spirituality is far more than interiority and “spiritual experiences,” but is rather about lived faith in the social context of our everyday life. The book addresses much of what I have been writing about in my reflection this month.

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St Joseph's

We are delighted to announce that we have now appointed Peter McMurray as Project Manager to manage the renovations of St Joseph's. The 1st phase of work on the floors, windows and doors has been approved and is expected to take approximately 3 weeks. The work includes the South wing downstairs and the hall floor repairs so that the hall will be safe to use again. The cost for this piece of the renovations is R68 951.06. We would encourage all individuals, parishes, schools and organisations to consider ways that they could help us raise the funds to cover this. As the work is not firmly under way, please discuss with your parish how you will raise the funds you promised for the purchase and renovation of the property.

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Website

In addition to the Parish and Organisation Telephone Directory which have been available on our website for quite some time, we now have a **Clergy Directory**. The only contact

information shown is email address which is not a mandatory field (even though it is a Diocesan requirement that all active Priests and Ordinands have an email address and we would strongly encourage any of you who do not have an email address to contact Rodney Taylor to sign up for your [anglicanjoburg.org.za](http://www.anglicanjoburg.org.za) address) and work telephone which is also a non-mandatory field which can contain either a landline or cell phone number depending on what the priest wants. We encourage each of you to please log on and check your details. If you are a retired priest not currently licensed your details will not appear – should you wish them to please contact Tumi at the Diocesan office who will assist you. In addition, if you spot an error that you cannot change yourself please contact Tumi.

Please visit <http://www.anglicanjoburg.org.za/telephonedirectory.aspx> to find the work telephone number of any active clergy person in our Diocese.

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Provincial News

- On the 18th of June at 10h00 Bishop Martin Breytenbach and the **Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist** will inaugurate Christ Church Cathedral and install Luke Pretorius as Dean of Polokwane. Please keep Bishop Martin, Luke and the Diocese in your prayers.
- Please find attached details on the '**Back to Church**' initiative from Bishop Martin and Growing the Church.
- As tensions in **Zimbabwe** mount we ask that you please pray for Zimbabwe and for all Anglicans there facing uncertainty and persecution. Should you wish to read more please click on this link to a recent New York Times article on the situation there: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/30/world/africa/30zimbabwe.html?pagewanted=1&r=2&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha22>

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Diocesan Family News

- Please find a copy of the **June Prayer Diary** attached.
- It is with sadness that we inform you that **Brian Smith** passed away on 9h00 on Saturday the 28th of May. His funeral will take place at 14h30 on Thursday the 2nd of June at St Michael & All Angels, Weltevreden Park.
- The Germond family would like to thank you all for the love, prayers and support you have shown us as we mourn the loss of our wife, mother and granny **Dorothy Germond** who peacefully with Charles, her husband of 66 years, beside her on the 27th of May. We feel truly blessed to be part of such a caring Christian family.
- And while we mourn those who have died we are reminded that life is a cycle.... We are delighted to announce that **Sarah and Andrew van der Watt** are expecting a baby. While this might not be 'news' to many of you, we did want to ensure that they

were able to share this with all their friends and family before we published it which is why there has been such a delay.

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Moves and Placements

- I apologise for the delay in making this announcement public but **Michael Masisi** from the Diocese of Christ the King has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge of St Thomas, Kagiso with effect from the 1st of May. His licensing will take place on Sunday the 12th of June at 15h00. All clergy of the Diocese are invited to attend and robe for the occasion.
- **Philip Louw** will be inducted as Rector of the Parish of St Francis, Newclare at 15h00 on Sunday the 5th of June. All clergy of the Diocese are invited to attend and robe for the occasion.
- **Simon Kortjas** has been appointed Rector of the Parish of St Mary, Orlando with effect from the 1st of September 2011. We welcome him into our Diocese from the Diocese of False Bay.
- **Rob and Marion Hofmeyr** have been issued with Letters of Permission at the Parish of St Margaret of Scotland, Bedfordview effective from the 1st of June.
- **Audrey Hick** has been appointed as Assistant Priest at the Parish of Community Anglican Church, Ruimsig with effect from the 1st of June.

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Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

We would like to wish the following people a very happy birthday and wedding anniversary:-

Date	June	July
01	Thato Molipa John & Susan Alexander	Tebogo May Barrie & Val Lodge(45)
03	Ian Macintosh Diana Thorburn	Yvonne Meyers +Brian & Susan Germond(40)
04	Mabatho Rakale Andrew & Yvonne Payne	Morgan Ellis Lyn Bewsher
05	Basil Matthews	Trevor Slade
06		Eunice Marubelela Barbara Siaki
07	Ivy Matthews Jerry & Beryl Bailey	John Westwood
08	Diana Keartland	
09	Fred Robb	Wendy Mollink Ian Lane Allan & Linda Williams (37)
10		John Ntsoko
11	Maud Khumalo Lee-Ann Minakium	

12		Wilhelm & Liz Klingenberg(42)
13		Joe Maboe
		Alfred Khumalo
14		Liz KLingenberg
15	Maria Mhlongo Boitumelo Masemola	
18	Jack Williamson	Rodney Taylor
21		Xolani Dlwati Gerard & Pearl Sharp(27)
22	Abe Mokgohlane Eve Abrahams	Eric Richardson
23	Neo Motlabane Neo & Beatrice Motlabane Basil & Ivy Matthews	
24		Precious Chaane
25		Mamosebetsi Maloka Helen Els
26	Tim & Jos Mncube	Paul Germond
28		Bernice Stevens David Eades
31		Ranthite Namo Nomhle Moselane Erna Basson Sarah Van der Watt

Should there be any errors or omissions in the above dates please contact Noxolo at the Diocesan office.

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Dates for Diary

Please be advised that, as usual, the Diocesan office will be closed on Ascension Day, Thursday the 2nd of June.

The Churchwarden's meeting with the Bishop will take place at the Parish of Randfontein starting at 08h30. All Rectors are encouraged to attend this meeting with their warden's.

JUNE		Parish	Diocesan	Bishop
Thursday	2	ASCENSION DAY	Diocesan Office Closed	
Saturday	4		STILIM & FOX I	
Sunday	5			Pastoral visit: Simunye
Tuesday	7	Clergy Day	Clergy Day	Clergy Day
Saturday	11		FOX II / Region 2 Archdeaconry Meeting / Parish Minister Training	FOX "Ministry in All its variety"
Sunday	12	PENTECOST		Pastoral visit: Bez Valley
Thursday	16	YOUTH DAY		
Saturday	18		Ordinands / Transformers	Bishop meets with Churchwardens, Randfontein 8h30 - 12h00
Sunday	19		Choir Fellowship, Rockville	Pastoral visit: Coronationville
Friday	24	Government Schools Close		
Saturday	25		POST / SAINTS	
Sunday	26		Archdeaconry Region 1 Pulpit Exchange	Pastoral visit: Bryanston

JULY		Parish	Diocesan	Bishop
Friday	1	Independent Schools Half Term		
Saturday	2		STILIM & FOX I	
Monday	4			Retreat
Tuesday	5	Clergy Day	Clergy Day	Retreat
Wednesday	6			Retreat
Thursday	7			Retreat
Friday	8			Retreat
Saturday	9		FOX II / JDACF Spiritual Formation / Anglicare / Parish Ministers Training	Leave
Monday	11	Independent Schools Open		Leave
Saturday	16		Ordinands / Transformers	Leave
Sunday	17		Choir Fellowship, Jabavu	Leave
Monday	18	Government Schools Open		
Saturday	23		POST	
Wednesday	27		DFB	
Saturday	30		AWF Quiet Day / SAINTS	
Sunday	31			Pastoral Visit: Krugersdorp

Bishop's diary is always very full. Should you have any special events in 2012 I would encourage you to submit those dates now to ensure that Bishop is available to attend.

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General Notices

- Archdeaconry Region 5 will be hosting a **Youth / Family Day Celebration** at Bishop Bavin School, Bedfordview on Thursday the 16th of June. The day will start with a Eucharist at 09h00 followed by sports and a picnic from 11h00 – 16h00. Sports activities include soccer (6 a side), basketball (5 a side), touch rugby (7 a side) and netball (7 a side). All are invited to attend. For more information please contact Waratwa on 079 949 0090.

- Are you interested in architecture? "**Park Views**" is hosting Prof Frederico Freschi who will be talking on "Unity in Diversity: South African architecture 1910 – 2010" at St. Francis, 46 Tyrone Ave, Parkview, Thursday 9th June at 6pm sharp. For more information please contact Bart Cox 011-447 1139

- The next **Preaching Course** will take place at the Parish of Holy Cross from the 23rd to the 26th of June. For more details or to book your place please contact Nomawethu on 011 936 1394.

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