

AD CLERUM – AUGUST 2009

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

At a party given by a billionaire friend of his, John Bogle (founder of one of the two largest unit trust fund groups in the world) overheard a conversation between Kurt Vonnegut and fellow-writer Joseph Heller. Vonnegut was telling Heller that their host had made more money in one single day than Heller had earned on his best-selling novel, 'Catch 22.' Heller responded, "Yes, but I have something he will never have enough."

That comment had a great impact on Bogle and in time became the title of a book he wrote: 'Enough: True Measures of Money, Business and Life, in which he questions the excesses of capitalism as practised in the USA and the world in general. From all that has been said it would seem that our present world-wide recession was to a large extent sparked by overly leveraged speculative banking that took inordinate risks in the pursuit of profit. We have also heard of the obscene annual salaries paid to the CEOs of those organisations and of the even more obscene bonuses they paid themselves (both in the UK and USA) for non-performance at a time when they were dependent upon government financing to keep their banks from insolvency. In the last century we have moved from being an 'industrial' economy to a 'service' economy and now to that of an 'information' economy. In his book Bogle comments that: "... far too many of us seemingly no longer make anything; we're merely trading pieces of paper, swapping stocks and bonds back and forth with one another, and paying our financial croupiers a veritable fortune."

What Bogle describes so trenchantly is not confined to the UK and USA, nor is it contained within the financial sector; it is a global greed that extends into almost every area of life. In our own country we have seen bonuses running into the millions paid to Eskom management in a time of blackouts and the collapse of services; we have seen contractors abuse billions of taxpayer's money with seeming impunity; and we have seen the acquisitive lust after million rand luxury cars (and sometimes more than one) by newly appointed public servants and members of parliament.

At the other end of the spectrum we are currently seeing a wave of wage-related strikes in which people earning salaries of as little as R 3000 per month are asking why management which earns such huge salaries and ever greater bonuses are unable to meet their request for a living wage. A fair question! But those wage demands in a time of massive recession and the intransigence with which they are being made again begs the question, "What is enough?"

Our advertising industry is built, as someone once said, on creating a need for things we cannot afford and do not need in order to impress people we do not know. It tells us that if only we can reach this level and buy this product, then we will be satisfied. If only we could have a little more, then we will have enough. In such a climate of artificially induced consumerism we can never have 'enough'. We will always 'need' more – hence both the bonuses and the strikes.

The excessive salaries paid to the few coupled with the wage demands of the many have their own inevitable consequences. The larger each slice of the pie becomes; the fewer the number of slices that can be cut from the pie. The increase in salaries for some will mean retrenchments for others. And in an economy in which there were almost 300,000 retrenchments over the past 3 months this must be cause for great concern.

But the question of 'enough' in a world of both conspicuous consumption and poverty is not simply one of inequalities of wealth that impacts the individual, but also one of how power is used and abused at national and international levels. Miguel De La Torre in his commentary on Jonah shows how colonialism was driven by economic factors that gave rise to immense wealth in the colonising countries through the brutal exploitation of the resources and the people in the countries colonised. He describes the USA as a modern day empire that controls a global economy for the benefit of its multinationals. He writes: "Like the Assyrian or Roman empires of Old the United States secures a *pax Americana* so that the elite leaders of the empire and their counterparts within dominated countries can reap the economic benefits, usually at the expense of the vast majority of the world's marginalised."

All of which takes us back to Joseph Heller's comment made about a billionaire: "I have something he will never have ... enough." 'Enough' cannot be quantified – a billion dollars was not enough for the man of whom he spoke – nor is it even about money. It is an attitude of mind, a contentment with life as it is right here and now. Richard Rohr speaks of living in the present moment rather than wishing our life away in longing for a more perfect future. He says, "Only this moment is real. This moment is as perfect as it will ever be."

Enough is the quality of enjoying the life we have and of rejoicing in its many blessings. It is living in faith and trust with God. It is also the capacity to live generously and sacrificially for enough does not need more and can easily do with less. Enough is living more simply so that others might simply live.

I believe that the concept of 'enough' has a great deal to say to us in these difficult economic times:-

- It challenges our ongoing desire for upward mobility which stands in such marked contrast with the downward mobility of Jesus.
- It challenges our present lifestyle and desires – "Is this truly necessary or just desirable?"
- It challenges our generosity towards those less fortunate than ourselves and our willingness to express our gratitude to God for the blessings we have received.

I will again pose only two questions this month. The first is for your own personal reflection. The second is for group discussion and I am asking that it be a discussion question in your Parish Council and Archdeaconry meetings.

1. What does 'enough' mean for you? To what extent is it shaped by financial and material considerations rather than an attitude of contentment and gratitude for what you have?
2. In these difficult financial times when many of our people are being retrenched, how can we, as a parish / archdeaconry / diocese, embrace one another in a spirit of generosity and mutual care?

We love because He first loved us. May God's love be visible in our 'enough'.

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Parish Contributions

Johannesburg Diocese is the only diocese within our Province that operates on the basis of voluntary parish contributions instead of a negotiated 'tax' based on a fixed percentage of income. When the system was first introduced parishes were incredibly generous with many giving more than what had been their assessed contribution which was then in the region of 25% of gross income. A few gave their end of year surplus as a "Love Gift" to the Diocese.

Over the years the voluntary gift to the diocese has not kept pace with the dramatic rates of increase in parish giving. Even parishes which have increased their gift to the diocese at the same percentage rate as their income has grown will, over a period of years, end up giving a smaller percentage of their income to the diocese because their percentage increase to the diocese is calculated off a lower base figure. The result is that from an original assessment of around 25% of gross income the average parish giving to the diocese has dropped to below 10% and many strange anomalies have crept in. Five parishes which ended the 2007 year with a deficit gave above the median percentage while 3 parishes that posted surpluses running into the hundreds of thousands of rand gave less than 2% with a further 7 who also posted similar surpluses giving at or below the median.

We have done a random survey of some of the assessment rates of other dioceses and the lowest assessment rate we were given stood at 22% of gross income. If everyone were to give at that rate we would have an additional R 4.5 million of working capital – enough to make a major difference in the running and growth of the diocese.

We have no intention of re-introducing a 'taxed' assessment, nor do I expect parishes to immediately increase their level of giving to the diocese to such an extent, but I am asking all parishes to discuss their level of giving to the diocese in the light of what parishes in other diocese pay as a matter of course and to consider increasing your current level of giving. Looking at the levels of giving and the size of some of our surpluses I believe that many parishes could and should be making a far greater contribution to the building of this diocese.

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Spiritual Formation

Clergy Day: The next Clergy Day will be held at the Parish of St Francis, Newclare on Tuesday 4th August. We have invited three guests to speak on developments in respect of HIV and Aids that have taken place in the field of medicine and within the country as a whole, as well as to report on what is happening in the Diocese.

Clergy Quiet Day: The next Clergy Quiet Day will take place at Bishop's House on 18 August. I look forward to seeing you there.

Clergy Retreat: September: I will be conducting the Clergy Retreat this year. The theme will be "Liberating Jonah." I am asking that every priest who has not already made a retreat this year attend. If you wish to attend please give your names to Claire. The cost of the retreat is R1,040, a cost your parish should meet.

St Benedict's Retreats: Please find below a list of the upcoming retreats taking place at St Benedict's. Bookings can be made directly with them.

18 – 20 th September	Peace, Be Still (Mark 4:39).	Led by Fr Don Thomson.
2 – 4 th October	Celtic Retreat.	Led by Revd Patricia Lane.
9 – 11 th October	Down to Earth.	Led by Revd Tim Grey.

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Reading Recommendations

The book "**Architects of Poverty**" by Moeletisi Mbeki is a recommended read from Rob Hofmeyer who says, "Mbkei's book is rigorous and important in dealing with issues of poverty. It does not detract from our Christian responsibility at individual and church level. It does make clear the context in which our best efforts are exerted, often ineffectually."

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Communion by Intinction

There has been much debate about the Swine Flu epidemic and how it might impact us in South Africa as the number of confirmed cases continues to climb. My own feeling is that, given that the Health Department has issued a statement that the local dose of flu this winter has been more serious than Swine Flu and that there have to date been no deaths due to Swine Flu in our country, we need not be alarmist. However, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have written to Bishops in the Church of England recommending the suspension of the sharing of the chalice at communion following advice from the Department of Health in England not to share "common vessels" for food or drink. Some of you may wish to follow their advice which is the use of "personal intinction by the presiding minister" - allowing the priest to dip communion wafers in the chalice before handing them out to communicants. This is preferable to intinction by the communicant as germs on their hands are more likely to be transmitted.

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Remarriage of Divorcees

There have been an increasing number of applications for remarriage of divorcees. I would like to remind you that all forms must be completed in their entirety and signed by both parties. While the forms state that they must be submitted to me before any arrangements concerning the venue and date of the marriage are finalised, I know that many people have to book venues almost a year ahead. Nevertheless, forms can and must be submitted in plenty of time (measured in months rather than weeks). I have had a spate of requests

coming in just days before the event and will not in future consider an application at such short notice. Please also remember that you are required by the Canons to obtain a remarriage licence before conducting the ceremony and that failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

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Diocesan Telephone Directory

You will all have received a form for completion for the forthcoming Diocesan Telephone Directory. I implore each of you to complete it – especially if any of your details have changed - and send it to Zodwa as soon as possible.

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2010 Calendar

Thank you to those who have contacted me regarding booking dates in the 2010 calendar. I would like to have a draft of my 2010 diary completed by the end of August so if anyone would like to book me for some special occasion next year please forward dates to Claire as a matter of urgency.

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Parish Finance Portfolio

The next meeting of the Parish Finance Portfolio (old Treasurers Meeting) will take place at St Joseph's Home on **19th August** starting at 08:30 for 09:00 and ending at 12:00.

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Diocesan Website Revamp

The next website meeting will be held on **Monday 3rd August** starting at 16h30. Please come along to share your ideas and suggestions as we plan ways of making our Diocesan Website a more effective communication tool. The meeting will take place at 4 Sixth Street, Houghton, the home of our out-going Chairperson, Anne-Marie Moore.

Anne-Marie has resigned because of pressures of work and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work on the web committee over the years. We wish her and David every blessing with their future plans and wish her all the best as she focuses her efforts on promoting her book that has been accepted for publication.

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Provincial News

- **Diocese of Mpumalanga** will be holding their 2nd Synod on Saturday 15th August 2009. This will be the last time that Bishop Leslie Walker will preside over a synod. Please remember Bishop Leslie and the Diocese in your prayers.
- **Allison and Peter Gunning** are now proud grandparents to Imogen Zoe, their first grandchild. Our best wishes go to Jonathan and his wife Ceri as well as to the proud grandparents.
- **Bishop Martin Breytenbach's** father-in-law, Sarah's dad, Robin Simpson, died in the Eastern Cape on Friday 24th of July. It has been a tough 18 months for the family with the loss of their loved ones. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.
- **Bishop Rubin Phillip** of the Diocese of Natal has been awarded the Bremen International Peace Award. The award will be presented on the 30th October at the City Hall in Bremen, Germany. We extend our warmest congratulations to Bishop Rubin on this wonderful accolade. Please keep Bishop Rubin and Rose in your prayers as they travel to Germany.

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Family News

- **Rob and Marion Hofmeyr** have moved into a retirement village in Johannesburg. We welcome them back into the Diocese and hope that they will be very happy back here.
- It is with great sadness that I advise you that **Mike Fourie** will, for personal reasons, be taking a leave of absence from full-time parish ministry. We hope that at some stage in the future he will be able to resume ministry within the Dioceses. Please keep Mike and Anna in your prayers.
- **Joyce Ntsoelengoe** has been in hospital recently. Please would you keep her and David in your prayers.
- **Mary Jean Silk's** husband Edward died yesterday after a long illness. Mary Jean has been a key figure in the life of the Diocese for many years and has represented us at Provincial Synod and Provincial Standing Committee. Please keep her and their three children in your prayers.
- **Zecharia Thale**, formerly a priest of this Diocese, passed away on the 15th of July after a long illness. Our prayers go out to his wife Goithoma and the rest of the family.

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Moves, Appointments and Vacancies

- **Greg Longbottom** has been appointed as rector of the Parish of the Church of the Ascension, Rangeview. He will take up his position there on the 1st of September.
- **Luke Pato** has been appointed as the new Rector of St Martins-in-the-Veld, Rosebank. Luke will take office on 1 January 2010.
- **Jill Lee** has been appointed as the Chaplain of St Mary's School. Jill has been a teacher and head of department at the school for many years and I think the move from teacher to full-time chaplain will be an exciting expansion of her ministry.
- **Errol Dengler** has been made a Canon of the Cathedral. I apologise for the slight delay in making this announcement.
- It is with sadness that I have to announce that **Desiree Snyman** has accepted an invitation to minister in the Province of Australia and will be leaving our Diocese at the end of the year.
- Letters of Permission have been granted to **Elleazer Alagbaoso** and **John Hodson** to work in the Parish of St Thomas, Linden.
- A Letter of Permission has been granted to **Brighton Mankhaka** to work in the Parish of St Andrew, Pimville.

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Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

Please remember the following persons in your prayers as they celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this month:

AUGUST

1 st	Jos Mncube
2 nd	Stewart Basson
2 nd	Dan Nggumeya
2 nd	Michelle Pilet
4 th	Philip Dixie
4 th	Marius + Désirée Snyman (W/A)
4 th	Trevor + Gwyn Slade (W/A)
4 th	Gerald + Margaret Steward (W/A)
5 th	Mandisa Nxumalo
7 th	Brian Smith
7 th	Ian Stevens
8 th	Archie Motaung
8 th	Emma Lekoko
9 th	Kirstie & Tim Long (WA)
10 th	Alinah Mohomane
10 th	Reuben Ndlovu
11 th	Gavin Smith

11 th	Geoff + Christine Lowick (W/A)
12 th	Neo Modise
12 th	Koto Moloji
14 th	Peter Beart
15 th	Nombuyiselo + Meshack Nhlapo (W/A)
15 th	Kim & Enos Mhlongo (WA)
15 th	Venessa & Doug Michael (WA)
17 th	Tshepo + Mamosebetsi Maloka (W/A)
17 th	Bradley Moloji
19 th	George Boyce
19 th	Lynette Wessels
19 th	Abegail Tserere
22 nd	Wouter Uitzinger
23 rd	Gerald Steward
23 rd	Ian + Wendy Macintosh (W/A)
23 rd	Mike Fourie
24 th	Jeremy Jacobs
25 th	Zanele Mtshali
26 th	Molebe Mosima
27 th	Roy + Barbara Collins (W/A)
29 th	Lorraine Tulleken
31 st	Motshabi Motlabane

SEPTEMBER

1 st	Michelle Louw
2 nd	Barry & Margaret Beckley (W/A)
2 nd	Gerald & Audrey Hick (W/A)
3 rd	Lynda Shimmin
4 th	Winnie Dixie
4 th	John & Irma Warren (W/A)
6 th	Irma Warren
9 th	Lankiri Thaba
11 th	Olga Raphoto
11 th	Chris Viljoen
11 th	Susan Germond
11 th	Mlungisi & Shwane Ntsele (WA)
12 th	Monica Xinwa
14 th	Ian Thorburn
14 th	Buyile Montjane
14 th	Priscilla Everson
16 th	Priscilla Everson
16 th	Michael Arnold
18 th	Patricia Lane
18 th	Elizabeth Thomas
18 th	Koto & Tinny Moloji (WA)
21 st	Phyllis Mgguba
22 nd	Barbara Collins
23 rd	Ray Bewsher
23 rd	Philip & Winnie Dixie (W/A)
23 rd	Chris Uitzinger
23 rd	Mothusimang & Boitumelo Makata (W/A)
24 th	Ian & Diana Thorburn (W/A)
26 th	Monica Ngombane
26 th	Amy Herbert
27 th	Greg & Bev Longbottom (W/A)

Although we endeavour to keep our records up-to-date, experience tells us that we often miss out on special dates. If you are celebrating a special occasion in the coming month that is not on the list please email Zodwa so that we can update our lists.

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Dates for Diary

AUGUST		Diocese	+ Brian
Saturday	1	Youth Leadership Training / Self-Supporting Clergy Meeting / FOV	Youth Leadership weekend
Sunday	2		Pastoral Visit: Randfontein Youth Leadership weekend
Tuesday	4	Clergy Day	Clergy Day
Saturday	8	Diaconal Training / STILIM Lay Training / Diocesan AIDS Quarterly Meeting / Spiritual Direction Training: 08th – 10th	
Sunday	9	NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AWF National Prayer Day	Pastoral Visit: Kagiso: St Bartholomew
Monday	10	PUBLIC HOLIDAY	
Tuesday	11	St Benedict's Spiritual Formation Group	St Benedict's Spiritual Formation Group
Wednesday	12	Archdeacons meeting	Archdeacons Meeting
Saturday	15	Diaconal Training / Meeting of Wardens + Parish Financial Portfolios / St Mary's & St Agnes Festival	St Mary's & St Agnes Festival @ St Mathews Emdeni
Sunday	16		Pastoral Visit: Mohlakeng
Tuesday	18	Bishop's House Quiet Day	Bishop's House Quiet Day
Wednesday	19	Parish Finance Portfolio	
Saturday	22	Anglicare	
Sunday	23		Pastoral Visit: Bekkersdal 60th Anniversary
Monday	24		Retreat
Tuesday	25		Retreat
Wednesday	26	Trustees + DFB	Retreat
Thursday	27	Discernment Panel Meeting	Retreat
Friday	28		Retreat
Saturday	29	SfM Training	
Sunday	30	SfM Training Weekend: Moroka	Pastoral Visit: Toekomsrus
Monday	31	Clergy Retreat	Clergy Retreat

SEPTEMBER		Diocese	+ Brian
Tuesday	1	Clergy Retreat <i>Independent Schools Open</i>	Clergy Retreat

Wednesday	2	Clergy Retreat	Clergy Retreat
Thursday	3	Clergy Retreat	Clergy Retreat
Friday	4	Clergy Retreat	Clergy Retreat
Saturday	5	Discernment Conference / Youth Leadership Training	
Sunday	6	Discernment Panel Meeting	Godfrey Institution @ Bryanston
Monday	7	Diocesan Welfare Committee	Episcopal Synod
Tuesday	8		Episcopal Synod
Wednesday	9	Pastoral Care Meeting Provincial Standing Committee	Episcopal Synod / Provincial Standing Committee
Thursday	10	Provincial Standing Committee	Provincial Standing Committee
Friday	11	Provincial Standing Committee	Provincial Standing Committee
Saturday	12	Diaconal Training / STILIM Lay Training	
Sunday	13	Discernment Conference	
Monday	14		LEAVE
Tuesday	15		LEAVE
Wednesday	16		LEAVE
Thursday	17		LEAVE
Friday	18	MU Conference: 18 th -20 th	LEAVE
Saturday	19	POST	LEAVE
Sunday	20		LEAVE
Monday	21		LEAVE
Tuesday	22		LEAVE
Wednesday	23	<i>Government Schools Close</i>	LEAVE
Thursday	24	HERITAGE DAY	LEAVE
Friday	25		LEAVE
Saturday	26	SfM Weekend	LEAVE
Sunday	27	FOV / SfM Weekend: Alexandra	LEAVE
Monday	28		LEAVE
Tuesday	29		LEAVE
Wednesday	30		LEAVE

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General Notices

- The Parish of St Luke Bosmont (68 Langerberg Avenue, Bosmont) will be hosting a **Healing Seminar** from Monday 24 August to Sunday 30 August. The conductor will be The Reverend David Hutt, the Director of the Christ Healing Fellowship and a Presbyterian minister. All are welcome.
- The next **Quarterly Diocesan HIV and AIDS Meeting** will be held on 08th August at 10h00 s at St. Paul, Jabavu (Ipelegeng).
- Canon Godfrey Henwood will be giving a presentation on **The Theology of the Eucharist** at St Luke's Church, Orchards on Saturday 29 August. Please advertise this to your congregation – everyone interested will be most welcome.
- The Diocesan office is expecting new stock of **lay minister's medals** sometime in the 2nd week of August. The price of the Bronze Oval Medallions with red ribbons will be R35.00 each. If you would like to place an order please contact Saras.
- Siyafundisa thanks all parishes and NGO communities who participated in the recent series of youth camps at Stoney Ridge. The camps were great fun as well as an occasion for learning life skills.
- All Parishes using the **Siyafunda** programme are now required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Siyafundisa. Please would all rectors and churchwardens make themselves available to sign the Memorandum when Siyafunda next visit the parish.
- A **Siyafunda Parents Workshop** will be held at Sefika Primary School, Molapo on Saturday 22nd August. RSVP to Lesego Seoka 0833699345 before 05 August.
- A **Siyafunda Clergy Workshop** will be held from 26 – 28 August at Valverde, Muldersdrift. RSVP to Jabulani 0823239948 before 10 August 2009!

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Letter from the St Aidan's Resthouse, Wilderness, Garden Route

We have been blessed this year with visitors from all over South Africa and overseas, and we depend on visiting priests for our Sunday Eucharist service. We have recently had several cancellations due to illness and other factors. Please would any clergy who may wish to apply to make a booking for one of our vacancies:

Saturday 1st August to Tuesday 11th August
 Tuesday 8th to Wednesday 23rd September
 Wednesday 21st to Tuesday 27th October
 Tuesday 24th to Monday 30th November (Advent Sunday 29th Nov)

The Rates for the resthouse are as follows :

The Priest and his dependant family R50 per day for a minimum of 5 days including a Sunday, on which the priest in residence celebrates the 8 am Eucharist service with the congregation.

Non-dependant visitors	R60 per day each
Deposit and booking Fee	R150 (Booking fee R50, Refundable Deposit R100)
Maintenance Fee	R120

Our cottage is also available on the following dates next year :

Wednesday 17th February (Ash Wednesday) to Friday 12th March 2010

Tuesday 30th March to Friday 9th April (Easter on 4th April) 2010

Friday 30th April to Friday 7th May, 2010

Friday 21st May to Tuesday 25th May (Pentacost)

Thursday 3rd June to Monday 14th June, possibly to 18th June, 2010

Monday 19th July to Monday 16th August, 2010

Tuesday 31st August to Friday 24th September, 2010

Saturday 2nd October to Tuesday 9th November, 2010

Tuesday 7th December to Thursday 23rd December 2010

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