

## Maristcare – A St. Joseph’s Uitenhage Outreach to the poor

In spite of the work opportunities provided by the motor industry there are many poor people in Uitenhage. The following story describes how some parishioners of St. Joseph’s began to reach out to these people.

It is about a little boy who was helping his father on the farm. The father was ploughing and the boy was carrying stones from the field but there was one stone he failed to move.

The father came to him and asked: “Did you use all your strength?” “Yes I did,” replied the son. “No you didn’t,” said the father, “you did not ask me to help you.” Together they removed the stone.

The Blikkiesdorp Soup Kitchen is like that stone. In 2001 a group of parishioners, encouraged by Fr. Paul Fahy decided to start an outreach to the poor. They began with a soup kitchen for the outpatients at the local Provincial Hospital but soon decided that it was not the right outreach. They came to the Marist Brothers and together we spoke to Sr. Kathleen O.P. who suggested a soup kitchen in Blikkiesdorp. She suggested a few people there to contact.

That’s how we came to meet Lizzie who offered to cook the soup and to let her house be used as the distribution point. Lizzie has since passed away. Other people willing to run soup kitchens from their houses were identified, resulting in the stone once more getting too big. Uitenhage Round Table, Shoprite, and Community Chest were approached for help. Lay people, Religious, and people of several religious denominations all contributed to moving the stone again!

MARISTCARE, the name given to this outreach, runs five soup kitchens at Blikkiesdorp, Joe Slovo (twice a week), Greenfields, Mandelaville and Daku Street. It also helps the Women of St. Anne at Holy Family Church in Kwanobuhle to provide meals for 40 needy children three times a week. Over six hundred children are fed each week. The name was chosen because of the involvement of the Marist Brothers through Maristcare. Maristcare is also involved in other outreach projects.

Besides organising and supporting the soup kitchens, Maristcare helps children from several very needy families to go to school by providing school fees, clothing and books; it also supports several very poor families that have been affected by HIV/AIDS

All the people involved in Maristcare are volunteers. The people who prepare the soup in the townships are provided with a stove, cooking utensils, money for gas or electricity and ingredients (soup powder, vegetables, salt, samp, beans) to make the soup but they do not receive a salary. Besides what is required to make the soup the only expenses are airtime for phoning and fuel for the bakkie that is used to collect and deliver goods to the soup kitchens. This Bakkie is provided by the Diocese.

Funding for the project comes from generous people in St. Joseph’s and other parishes in Port Elizabeth, from the Community Chest, from Marist Schools in South Africa and well-wishers from many different places, religions and backgrounds. Shoprite, Spiros QuickSpar and KV BP Service Station are very generous in giving bread and vegetables. Seeking help is an ongoing task but God provides and we are never short.

A group of parishioners from St. Joseph’s and Marymount are involved in the outreach. They do fund raising, collect and deliver the soup ingredients and help with distribution on “soup kitchen days”. The Marist Brothers help with the organisation and provide a faith dimension to the project, lest we forget Jesus, the most important Person helping and inspiring us to keep moving that “stone”.

He is the Landowner; we are the vineyard, hopefully bearing fruit of compassion and justice. Mother Teresa said: “God is in love with us and keeps giving himself to the world - through you - through me. May you continue to be the sunshine of his love to your people and thus make your life something beautiful for God.”

Maristcare also works with the Sisters of Mercy in Addo to support teachers, learners and parents to improve the learning environment at three farm schools owned by the Diocese of Port Elizabeth and one owned by the Dominican Sisters in the Kirkwood Addo area.



Through Mercy Care the Sisters also have a big outreach to poor communities in the area.

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## Donal Cashman – Requiem Mass Died 4.7.11

### One’s roots:

It is important to go back to one’s roots, back to the land, back to the soil which breathed life into you; back to the home, back to parents who gave birth to you and nurtured you, back to the family, back to the Parish Church community where you were baptised, the village or farm you grew up in, the school and the sports field which shaped you and moulded you into the person you are today. It is only then that you can understand in some small way as to how God has been at work and is still working in your life. Donal Cashman was born in a tiny village of Feakle of the Eastern part of County Clare, a beautiful county surrounded by the unpredictable rough, wild and sometimes calm Atlantic Ocean and the River Shannon. This tiny village of Feakle has one street, one school, one church, one shop, one pub and one post office. What makes this village special is its small population of less than 200 people. They live a simple lifestyle, people of great faith who make you welcome and feel at home; they are humble people whose hearts overflow with love. It is into that tiny village of Feakle that Donal Cashman was born on February 29<sup>th</sup> 1932, a moment no doubt of indescribable joy for Donal’s parents William and Kathleen, their firstborn to be followed by Carmel, Mona, Preadar, Val and Pdraig. How wonderful that 2 of them Carmel and Val are here today. They have travelled the long painful journey from home to Port Elizabeth: a journey that Donal himself travelled again and again and again – it was never easy as it is always painful to leave home and family. Carmel and Val your very presence lifts up our hearts and makes this final celebration of Donal’s life, a family celebration, a healing celebration for you and for all of us. It is just the kind of celebration that Donal loved as it brings together so many different faces, cultures and language all of which were part of Donal’s life here in South Africa; this is a celebration for all of us, of deep gratitude because the almighty has done great things for Donal and for people through him.

### Small Villages:

I remember so well an evening in September 1956, 55 years ago, 3 of us, Bill Buckley, Paddy Quirke, myself meeting Donal Cashman for the first time at All Hallows College, Dublin – Donal was setting out on his first journey to Port Elizabeth, South Africa as a newly ordained Priest and the 3 of us were beginning our journey towards Priesthood. Even then the 3 of us as students were so impressed by this tall, gentle, soft spoken, serene, graceful young Priest, Donal Cashman. He certainly made a lasting impression on us. As we stood in front of All Hallows building 1 I will always remember the words carved into the beautiful stone above the main door of O’Donnell House November 1842: Euntes Docete omnes Gentes – Go and teach all nations. Those words were engraved not only into stone, they were engraved into our hearts. After 6 years of formation most of us left All Hallows with very few pastoral skills, no local language to work in the township and rural areas of South Africa but we did leave All Hallows with a burning fire in our hearts, a fire that sometimes dimmed, a fire that never burnt out, a fire that brought the Gospel of Christ to all who longed for it. For 55 years that burning fire in Donal’s heart was the flame of love, of faith, of hope, of gentleness, of compassion, of hospitality, of welcome, of listening to people’s pain and brokenness. That fire of love warmed the hearts of people that Donal ministered to at Izeli, Woodlands St Thomas School for the Deaf, Mdantsane, Grahamstown, Port Alfred and small little villages such as Gubevu, Mbaxa, Nezinyoka and others. It was there that Donal came into contact with simple, humble and yet often forgotten and discarded people – these Donal loved and carried in his arms and in his heart. Through his love and compassion these people were restored their dignity and their value which was taken from them in the years of apartheid.

### Compassion:

The flame of his love also touched the hearts of Priests and sisters. If Donal

heard that a Priest was going through a hard time and his spirit was down, he would get into his car immediately, travel for hours to visit him and spend some time with him. He had a great sense of loyalty to Bishop, Priests, sisters and people. I was one of those who felt very supported by his love and care. I spent 6 years at Keiskammahoek – a very isolate Parish with mountains and forest keeping us miles apart – even so I travelled 30 miles every Sunday evening just to be with him. The welcome was always warm. Donal was wonderful – he was my Saviour, my anim cara, my soul friend during those years and it was there that a deep friendship developed between us and his family. We all know that Donal was the architect and builder of beautiful buildings at St Thomas School for the Deaf, a home of compassion and love and welcome to children who are so labelled as a burden and a problem but for Donal these children were a joy to behold. He was also the architect and builder of beautiful churches at Gwengewe, Joza, Port Alfred. This was exceptionally hard work but he sacrificed everything in order to lift up people who were forgotten and downtrodden, oppressed and exceptionally poor – these were the people that Donal loved and gave his entire life to. We have to go beyond that and be able to see the greatest tribute that we can pay to Donal is that he was a man of great faith and great love. Like all of us Donal’s faith and love was tested again and again but he remained faithful to the end. The greatest test to his faith was the brutal murder of Fr Hugh Magorrian on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1990. Donal shares with Hugh their house, their meals, their mission work, their lives as brother Priests. It is any wonder that Hugh’s death left Donal shattered? Even so Donal silently carried that awful pain.

### Christ

We can go on talking about the life of Donal Cashman but what was really central to his life and what moulded and shaped him and inspired him was the faith he had in Christ and in His Resurrection.

Donal’s entire life was held together and empowered by Christ – his Priesthood was central – his Priesthood was not power, position, recognition; Priesthood for Donal was the laying down of his life for people; Priesthood for Donal was his love for people and humble service of people; his Priesthood was rooted on Jesus final ritual before He died – He took a basin of water, washed the feet of His disciples and gently wiped them with a towel; he even washed the feet of Judas who was about to betray Him. That was Priesthood for Donal Cashman, the man I knew and was loved by and inspired by. This is my body given up for you; this is my life poured out for you. He made these words his own – they became his life. That is the Donal Cashman that touched thousands of people by the warmth of his love, his compassion, his welcome. Donal’s life speaks the very same words that St Paul spoke “Life to me is Christ” Death will not have the final say in Donal’s life, nor does death have the final say in our life – Christ and his resurrection have the final say; Donal is with the Risen Lord. Val, in coming here and spending 2 weeks with Donal before his death, you were the family, bringing him strength to face death with peace, contentment, freedom, faith and love. In coming here now Carmel and Val you bring a beautiful closure to his life and you lay him to rest in the land he loved and among the people he loved and the people who loved him – that is Africa. You will go back home to tell the beautiful story of Donal’s life from Feakle to South Africa – a story of love.

Bantu baseMdantsane, Bantu baseQonce, Bantu baseWoodlands, Bantu baseRhini, Bantu baseCawa nilahlekelwe ngunyawontle okhethekileyo, umcebisi onobulumko, umalusi olungileyo nomhlobo osenyongweni. Kodwa nixuze iziqhamo ezihle kuba uThixo unisikelele Ngaye.

Xolani, Bantu bakuthi, kuba akuhluga lunghliyo. Thuthuzelekani, thuthuzelakani bahlobo bam, ninyekelele apumle ngoxolo, ugqatso ulufezile.

**St. Augustine's Parish**

**KAYE HENRICK**

It is not often that the events of our parish life bring us the experience of great joy and also the experience of great sadness, but this does happen in our lives and is exactly where we are in St Augustine's parish right now.

The celebration of Bishop Coleman's Silver Jubilee of his ordination as Bishop of Port Elizabeth, with us, his parishioners on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July was an occasion of such joy. The Mass demonstrated this, with the liturgy so well coordinated and the choir so wonderful.

We rejoiced with Bishop Coleman and expressed our gratitude and joy in the celebration of the mass and the tea afterwards. It was awesome to be part of the celebration with the priests of the diocese, the colleague bishops and the apostolic nuncio on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July.

*Shortly afterwards we are faced with our sadness at our Bishop's state of health and resignation. Bishop Coleman is our parish priest as well as our bishop so we are deeply moved by this news. All we can offer is our prayerful support for him for healing, comfort and the consolation of the loving presence of God with him in this time. Our prayers go also to his sisters who have very recently experienced the death of their mother and have to now cope with the serious condition of their beloved brother.*

Prior to these events that are now so prominent we had our usual annual multi-national celebration of Pentecost with representatives of 23 different nationalities praying the prayers of the congregation in their language. It is so wonderful to be part of this and watch the expressions on the faces of the congregation as they listen to a prayer in their language. This is a real experience of Pentecost-to-day.

We also had the First Communicant Sunday when the team of catechists and liturgy orchestrated so a lovely celebration.

The CWL continue to do their service to the parish with teas for the celebrations and for the funerals and so link us into the cycle of life in the parish.

**News from St. Francis Xavier/ St Martin De Porres in East London**

**NEILL ERASMUS**

**CATECHISM:**

With renewed vigour and enthusiasm the catechism pupils returned to class after the Winter holidays. Classes are back in full swing and the foundation for the faith formation of our youngsters is being laid. Catechists are still eager to present these lessons and it is a joy to witness how appreciative the youngsters are for these lessons. A very big thank you goes out to all the catechists for your contribution that you are making towards the faith formation of our children.

**MASS:**

The faithful parishioners of our parish are still attending the three weekend masses in droves. Father Slater and Deacons August, Fritz, Rensburg and Wood certainly help to keep parishioners interested in coming to mass with the beautiful homilies they deliver every weekend. It is a real marvel to sit in church listening to the Word of God. We are certainly blessed to have these men as our spiritual leaders.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

On Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> June, during the Feast of Corpus Christi, 43 Faith Level 5 children were introduced to the Body and Blood of Christ. What a beautiful celebration we all had. The Mass started with the 10 children presenting the different symbols to the congregation and the children explaining why these symbols are used in our faith.

This was followed by the proclamation of the Word and here about 10 children proclaimed the Word to the congregation. They appeared to be full of confidence and it augurs well for the future of our parish to have these confident youngsters who are proclaimers in training.

During the Homily of Father Slater it was emphasized why the Eucharist is such an important part of

our Catholic tradition. All of us were reminded to pray and fast before we come to Mass so that we can have a hunger for the Body and Blood of Christ.

Father Slater, assisted by Deacons Rensburg and Fritz administered the Holy Communion to our Communicants. After receiving the Blessed Sacrament, they all knelt and prayed, giving thanks to God.

The beauty of this day, which included the participation of the youngsters, has now resulted in our parish deciding to have 1 Children's Service per term where the focus will be on the children. Something new and exciting to look forward to.

**CARNIVAL:**

On Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> July, East Londoners came in their numbers to support our parish at our Annual Carnival. Wards had their stalls set up early and by 08h30 Father Slater opened the festivities with a prayer. It was then braaing, buying, eating, socializing that took place.

Kids and youngsters were entertained with activities like jumping castle and games. The day turned out to be a huge social and financial success, especially for our "New Zealanders" when "their" team beat OUR team. Watch this space when the Boks win their 3<sup>rd</sup> World Cup.

The day was concluded with the dance at the same venue and again a wonderful turnout by members of the community. We were lovely entertained by Graduation, the local band.

**PARISH CENTRE:**

Funds generated through our special parish fundraiser are being used to complete our Parish Centre.

Donors who feel generous with their money may make a donation to St Francis Xavier/ St Martin de Porres. You may phone our office on 043 7226243 for enquiries.

**GRATITUDE:**

A very big thank you goes out to every parishioner for your contribution that you make. Whenever the Biblical Call (Give of yourself) is made, you are there to heed that call. The growth in our parish is due to your generosity. Please accept my sincere gratitude.

God bless you all.

**News from St. Martin De Porres Parish, Gelvandale , Port Elizabeth**

**URSULA GHANSAR**

Our Parish Bingo Drive held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011 in the Gelvandale Community Centre was a financial and social success.



The hall was packed to capacity and all who attended the Bingo Drive thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. Our sincere thanks to Fr. Davis who always lends a helping hand and is very supportive of all the fundraising functions. He also attends all preparation meetings and gives guidance where necessary.

The awesome prizes for all the bingo games were generously donated by the Wards in the Parish. The fundraising Committee wishes to express their sincere thanks to all who contributed in any way. The main prize, a Colour Television was won by an elderly parishioner who warmed the hearts of many and when receiving her prize she said "now I have a television of my own and I can watch the programmes I like most". This comment made all the preparation for the Bingo Drive a real joy.

The Bingo drive would not have been such a success if it was not for the support received from Parishioners and the wonderful way the Fundraising Committee work together in peace and harmony.

Due to the success of the fundraising and the co-operation of parishioners we have successfully erected a much needed boundary wall which will help protect the church property against vandalism. The parish would like to thank most sincerely the donors for their donations towards the erection of the boundary wall.

Our next exciting event is the Debutante Ball which takes place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2011 in the Malabar Community Centre. Fundraising is taking place at a good pace.

Why Catholic? The Small Christian Community leaders are very busy preparing for the Parish Mission which takes place on the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2011. The Why Catholic Co-ordinator, Angeline Oakes was very pleased with number of parishioners who attended the workshop for the Why Catholic programme.

An invitation has been extended to all parishioners. Our prayer is that many will attend the Mission and join in the groups and so deepen their faith.

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**The Cathedral Bookshop has moved**

**NORAH BEUKES**

The Cathedral Bookshop, which is now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year of existence, has relocated to St Luke's Centre. It is situated next to the Library and is very well advertised. It is a quaint little shop, with lots of character and sense of old.

If you haven't been to the Bookshop in a while, now would be the time to pay us a visit. We have a good selection of books and repository goods at very reasonable prices.

Some interesting books we have on the shelves are:-

**The Breath of the Soul** by *Joan Chittister*, a reflection on prayer, it makes great spiritual reading for every person who longs for prayer to be the very breath of his or her soul

**The Catholic Way to Pray**, an essential guide for adults, by *Kathleen Glavicj*. Highly recommended for all Catholic adults, including catechists, parish ministers and RCIA teams,

**Lord have Mercy, the healing power of confession**, by *Scott Hahn*, Scott Hahn's books are very deep and in great demand, this is just one of this best sellers.

**Water, Wind, earth and Fire**, the Christian practice of praying with the elements, by *Christine Valters Paintner*, for many centuries, we have been taught that a deep reverence for the beauty of nature is incompatible with sincere faith.



**"Any excuse for a party!"**  
Miss A. Beckers, Mr. Frank Wightman, Bishop M.G. Coleman, Mr M. De Vos, Mrs Inez Harper, Mrs Sandra Wait, Mrs Denis Steenkamp, Mrs Norah Beukes (manager), Msgr. B. Deenihan (VG), Laura Peo.



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**Endorsement of Bible Sunday 2011**

"I express my hope that the Word will be ever more fully at the heart of every ecclesial activity." With these words Pope Benedict XVI commences Verbum Domini. (September 2010)

Our bishops were surely similarly motivated when they established the Celebration of National Bible Sunday in January 2005.

Pope Benedict continues, "I encourage the Church's pastors and all engaged in pastoral work to see that all the faithful learn to savour the deep meaning of the Word of God which unfolds each year in the liturgy. The synod fathers encouraged all pastors to promote times devoted to the celebration of the word in communities entrusted to their care." (52, 65)

In the light of "Verbum Domini", the Catholic Bishops' Conference supports and encourages the faithful to celebrate Bible Sunday as a further step in making Scripture an essential part of their spirituality.

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**News from Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Cambridge, East London**

On Pentecost Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2011, the parish of Eucharistic Heart of Jesus celebrated the Birthday of the Church in style.

It started out after Mass with a get-together in which we bonded, in groups lead by Sr. Aloysia OP, young and old joined to share in the celebrations of activities. The mothers were indirectly given a day off from the cooking. All the parishioners were then treated to a motivational speech and ending with traditional dancing before sharing lunch together as one BIG Christian Family.

The celebrations also highlighted all the ministries and sodalities which had a chance to show case their work and recruit more members. Justice and Peace had 11 members signing up from being interested to hear more and some committing to join the group. The members all agreed to have it as an annual event with a different flavour each year.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> July the parish celebrated Baptism in welcoming 7 new members to the parish community, ranging from new born babies to teenagers all receiving the Holy Spirit.

On Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2011 the Emmaus Convent will be celebrating the Jubilees of the following mile stones in the final profession:  
**Sr. Xavier Nxumalo 60 years Sr. Wilma Schiplage 50 years**  
**Sr. Josetta Schmalzl 50 years Sr. Ceslaus Mecking 50 years**  
**Sr. Aloysia Zellmann 50 years**

*Submitted by Rev. Fr. Varghese Kananaickal cmi Parish Priest of Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Parish Cambridge*



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Right: San Francisco CWL Vice-President, Mary-Ann Greisiger with one of the children from MTR Smit Haven looking so cute in one of several outfits knitted by a parishioner and donated to the local Haven in Circular Drive. The CWL thanks all these generous ladies of San Francisco Parish for their continued support.

**OUR PRIESTS**

**ORDINATIONS:**  
 20th August Fr Gabriel Muyenga  
 10th October Fr Vales Dania

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS:**  
 10th August Fr Peter Whitehead  
 10th September Fr Gabriel Muyenga  
 17th September Fr G Griego  
 18th September Fr Luvuyo Madikane  
 11th October Fr Trevor Button

**Diamonds are Forever**  
**SHEILA WALSH**  
 Colwyn and Maire Holshausen (nee Coleman) were married by Nuptial Mass in the Roman Catholic Cathedral Salisbury by Rev. J. Seed S.J. The mass was sung by the convent sisters where she attended school. They recently celebrated their 60th anniversary at Settlers Village retirement home in Port Alfred. I congratulate them, theirs is a perfect love all human thought transcending, which knows no ending.



**Bishop Mike receiving a cheque for R65322,77 from the Catholic Women's League for the Seminary Fund."**

**DEACONS - ORDINATION**

**4th October**  
 Sydney Marinus  
 Lawrence Augustine  
 Phindile Banjwa  
 Neville Damons  
 John Forster  
 Vernon Walters  
 Neville Smith

**11th October**  
 Allen Gayi  
 Helmut Muller  
 Martin Ncitha  
 Anthony Venter  
 Gerry Masers

**DEACONS – BIRTHDAYS**

**10th August** Neville Smith  
**19th September** John Slim  
**6th November** Sydney Marinus

**JUST 4 KIDS**

Hi Boys & Girls,

I am going to go straight into the story of Moses because he was such a wonderful man and his story is very interesting.

Moses grew up in Pharaoh's palace where he learned all the wisdom of Egypt and did powerful deeds, but he loved his own people, Israel, who were still slaves. Moses so wanted to help Israel but he could do nothing and, besides, Israel did not want his help. Pharaoh, in the meantime was angry with Moses for trying to help Israel, so Moses ran away from Egypt to Midian in Arabia.

One day he was resting by a well. Young women were trying to water their flocks when rough men stopped them. Moses helped the women who were the daughters of Jethro, priest of Midian, and so Jethro invited him to stay in his house. Moses eventually married Jethro's daughter, Zipporah, and herded Jethro's flocks.

For forty years Moses had lived in Egypt where he was a wise and powerful prince and, now, here he was shepherding another man's sheep. How his life had changed. "I am a stranger living in a strange land" Moses said. Meanwhile Israel cried and groaned in slavery and God heard them. He remembered His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and understood their troubles.

Until next time, God bless you all and take care.  
 Granny Undene

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