

Catholic Church of the Presentation - Montana

Parish Priest : Fr Sam Madza SMA - Cell: 063 157 5421 (Emergencies only please) **Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday 09:00 -12:00 **Office Telephone :** 012 543 2771

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True solace is only found in God

In his famous Christian classic 'the Confessions', St. Augustine writes: "To praise Thee is his joy. For Thou hast made us for Thyself and our hearts are restless till they rest in Thee." The profound truth of these words is unpacked by our daily experiences that mark our return to God like homing pigeons after the days toil. The further we are from God's Word, the more difficult it becomes to answer the three questions that ancient philosophers believed sum up the human condition: What should I do; What can I know; What can I hope for?

The answer to these life bruising questions is Jesus himself, who shares with us the spirit and wisdom to discern in the 'here and now' what we need. The lockdown period, is eloquent enough about what we should do (...it is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table).

We become charitable when our hearts burn with the peace of God for people in need. In other words, our hearts are restless until we know Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life. Jesus is the answer leading us home.

The great Christian philosopher of our time, Peter Kreeft, says that without God we are homeless; with God we have a home. Not necessarily referring to a physical structure but faith in the words "in my Father's house there are many dwelling places".

Let us imagine having a conversation with God who wants to know what we would like to know. The real Christian challenge is knowing who we are and knowing God. What is life all about? This question continues to bubble behind our minds, no matter how hard we try to numb it. The truth is, if God did not already find us we would not have the desire to seek Him at all.

Like the community of believers kept growing, the church of Christ never stops growing physically and spiritually. It grows through thick and thin. Our parish community is in the process of its spiritual-growth, which is life-long.

My dear friends, God does not punish us for asking questions. Rather He shows us mercy that we may place our trust in Him. Do we still trust in God?

Have a blessed Sunday.

Fr. Sam Madza, SMA

Participating in Holy Mass during Lock down

- **On Radio** 576AM and on DSTV Audio Channel 870 Live Streaming: www.radioveritas.co.za
- **Jesuit Institute** Live Video Streaming www.jesuitinstitute.org.za/masses
- **The Vatican – Pope Francis** : You Tube : Shalom World www.shalomtvlive/vatican or www.vaticannews.va/en.htm
- Daily Mass Crusade is a **parish whatsapp group**. Contact Richard : 076 539 8365

Growing our faith in the time through supplementary reading and reflection

- Please read **God is always at work** that is extracted from the **Southern Cross** our weekly Catholic Newspaper.. We strongly encourage parishioners to subscribe to the weekly. Go to subscriptions@southerncross.co.za for details.
- Free download copies of the **Living Faith** are temporarily available during the lockdown. Go to www.livingfaith.com to register.
- A pdf format of the **Upper room** booklet for April/ May is also temporarily available free of charge. Please contact Richard on 0765398365 to arrange for this to be sent to you.

Assistance to parishioners in need

Please read today's urgent letter from our "Caring Committee"

World day of prayer, fasting and works of charity – 14th May

Pope Francis has made the following statement on Vatican News

"Since prayer is a universal value I welcome the proposal of the Higher Community of Human Fraternity that believers of all religions should unite spiritually on 14th May for a day of prayer and fasting and works of charity to implore God to help humanity overcome the Coronavirus pandemic.

Remember: on 14th May. All believers together, believers of different traditions, to pray, fast and perform works of charity"

It is up to us to figure out how we heed this call, and embrace this global initiative.

Pastoral Letter

Parishioners attention is drawn to the Pastoral Letter dated 5th May 2020 from our Archbishop that was sent to all earlier this week from our own Archbishop Dabula Mpako. His Grace informs us how this is impacting upon our Church, provides guidance and reassurance to us all and encourages us to do all that we can to protect life.

Parish Bank Account for regular pledges and EFT : Bank: Standard Bank, Montana Kolonnade Beneficiary: THE CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION
Account number: 013157108 Reference : Allocated Pledge number or anonymous if preferred.

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