

Dean's Letter, 2 July 2017

Dear Cathedral family

So here we are, gathered together in worship, in the context of the National Arts Festival 2017. If you are a visitor here amongst us, welcome! We hope that your time here with us will be a happy one. Thank you to our wonderful Spiritfest committee, ably led by Maggy Clarke, for the creative and thoughtful programme that has been planned for this time. The Festival, and Spiritfest, is a time to celebrate, to enjoy the rich variety of art, music and creativity, and to think! In particular, I draw your attention to the various talks on offer in the context of Spiritfest. From the Spiritfest programme:

Spiritfest 2017 picks up the Festival theme of #mustfall, looking at aspects of the struggle for freedom and justice from the perspective of Christian faith.

11:00 (1 hour) **The Cathedral Coffee Shop, inside the Cathedral**

Mon 3 July: 'The Ethics of Protest': Fr Anthony Egan SJ. When is it right to protest? What kind of protest is legitimate? Is it sometimes better not to protest even in the face of injustice? Drawing on historical examples, moral philosophy and theology, an attempt to develop a coherent moral theory of protest.

Tue 4 July: 'Sister Aidan lives on'. Zuko Blauw and Sister Aloysia Zellman describe how a youth centre has been set up to commemorate Sister Aidan Quinlan, a Dominican nun and medical doctor murdered during the 1952 riots in Duncan Village, East London.

Thurs 6 July: 'Recovering from Rape together': Dr Lindsay Kelland. The talk will cover aspects of rape such as rape having both direct and indirect harms—that is, harms to the victim/survivor of the rape and harms to our community more broadly. Victims' relationship with themselves are harmed, and their relationships with others, as well as their sense of being at home in the world. Dr Kelland works for the Allan Gray Centre for Leadership, Ethics and Philosophy at Rhodes University.

Fri 7 July: Book launch: 'The Road to Emmaus' by Chris Mann. How can we strengthen the resilience of our spiritual life in an era of increasing turbulence? Grounded in the Gospel and ordinary experience, Chris Mann's new book presents moments of insight that will stimulate readers to centre and invigorate their faith. Chris is Emeritus Professor of Poetry at Rhodes University, and convenor of Wordfest South Africa.

Sat 8 July: Panel Discussion, 'Faith and #mustfall': Christian students and student leaders at Rhodes/ UCKAR make sense of recent campus protests.

Enjoy!

My love to you all

