

## Dean's Letter, 25 March 2018, Palm Sunday

Dear Cathedral family

Today, Palm Sunday, marks the start of Holy Week. We spend a fair amount of time telling and reading the story of these central days in the life of Jesus Christ. Today the long Gospel reading is the story of the Passion, this year according to St Mark. We are led through the unfolding events as the tension builds and the journey to the cross becomes inevitable. But what was for the disciples a disaster, a tragedy, a loss beyond words, becomes in God's economy and plan a gift of life and hope, forgiveness, resurrection, redemption. We look back to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ with new eyes: for our sake he suffered under Pontius Pilate; while we were still sinners Christ died for us; God so loved the world that he gave his Son. How can it be that something as dreadful as torture and abuse and violence and cruelty should become a source of life and healing? That is the wonder and the mystery and the gift of the cross of Christ.

Last week, we welcomed Carlos Respeito, from Mozambique, to the Cathedral, for his parish placement as part of his BTh degree. We asked him to write a short introduction about himself, for us all. Carlos writes:

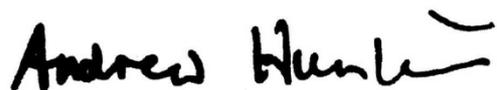
"Greetings to all the Cathedral family. My name is Carlos Respeito. I turned 27 years old on the 10th of January. I was born and raised in Maputo, the capital city of Mozambique. I live with my parents and two young sisters. My father teaches philosophy at high school and my mother is a social worker, my sister is 24 and works at KPMG and the younger one is 16 and she is doing grade 11.

"I was influenced to go to Church by my sister who wanted to attend confirmation classes. After 3 years of catechesis and volunteering as altar server I was confirmed by Bishop Dinis Sengulane and joined the youth. I was elected youth president for two terms of two years each. I was also elected to work at the spiritual department of the Youth of Maputo Archdeaconry for 2 years. I then become Parish Council Member and assistant treasurer of my parish and afterwards Parish Administrator.

"I wanted to join the Diocesan Seminary when I finished grade 12, but because of my age the dean advised me to go to university first, where I got my Honours in Geography, Environment and Population Studies, and only then I was allowed to join the seminary. Currently, I am doing my 4th year of Bachelor of Theology in the College of Transfiguration and as part of the curriculum for the next 7 weeks I will be doing my placement in the cathedral to take part of the Cathedral life and ministry. I enjoy contemplation and retreats. In my free time, I like to read spiritual books, to walk, listen to music or watch movies. Through my time here I hope to learn a lot from everyone and also to share my experiences and knowledge when possible."

We welcome Carlos very warmly indeed, and we thank God for him.

My love to you all

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.