

Dean's Letter, 22 July 2018

Dear Cathedral family

I was over-hasty, last week, to change the name of our city on our pew leaflet. The name change process is still under way, with the period for any appeals running until the end of this month, and possible legal challenges beyond that. As noted in my pew leaflet letter of July 8th, the debate and discussion around the name of our city continues to evoke strong feelings and debate on all sides, much of it on social media. That discussion will continue as the 30-day period for objections runs its course, and as the final decision is made. Due process must be followed, and the final choice of name one that unites us all. For some, having a functioning town and municipality, good governance, and addressing poverty, is the priority, and changing the name is a side-track. For others, a change of name is an essential step in letting go of a colonial past and embracing a new identity. Can we hold both of these concerns together?

We are immensely proud of the Kwantu Community Choir, led by Kutlwano Kepadisa (Kepa), our acting director of music. The choir was awarded a silver in the Open section of the World Choir Games held in Pretoria and came 5th in that category. Very well done! An outstanding achievement. We look forward to the celebration concert! And thank you to all who have supported the choir and made it possible for them to get to Pretoria.

Canon John Suggit has given to the Cathedral a painting of our Lady Chapel, which has been in his possession for some years. He writes:

"The Cathedral Lady Chapel was dedicated shortly after Dean Beaufort's sudden death in 1952. Bishop Cullen appointed me as Acting Rector, when Herbert Barnes was a churchwarden who commissioned the painting from Star King, a daughter of Mrs King who lived next-door to St Paul's College. She was also the painter of Bishop Archibald Cullen whose portrait used to hang in Cullen House when I was Warden of St Paul's (1965-1975). When Herbert Barnes down-graded to a smaller house, he kindly gave me the painting of the Lady Chapel when I was then in Newton Park. I am glad that it has come back to its home. JOHN"

Thank you, Canon Suggit. The picture is now hanging in the Cory Room, together with a number of historic pictures and items. Do take a moment to look at them.

We are facing something of a crisis with the toilets in the Muniments Room. Poor water pressure, we are told, is the cause of the outside sewerage pipes blocking badly whenever we have large services and resultant high usage of the Cathedral toilets. The result is that raw sewerage runs out onto High Street. Big funerals and ordination services are a particular challenge. It is not feasible to restrict numbers of people attending acts of worship. We have thus far been unable to source local and affordable porta-loos, currently found only in PE or Port Alfred. We hope that we can solve this one. We have engaged on several occasions with the municipality about this. Any suggestions?

My love to you all

