



FEBRUARY 2022

Dear Prayer Partners



Much has happened in the first month of 2022. On the 15th, which is St Basil's day, we welcomed a new calf on Volmoed. Daisy's son was born and so we would like you to meet Basil the calf. He is going from strength to strength, exploring the world around him under the watchful eye of his mother.

On Thursday the 6th we held a special service commemorating the life of Desmond Mpilo Tutu who was a patron of Volmoed.

We have been working to the sound of chain saws as we continue to remove aliens and the blue gums around the office, which unfortunately due to their age are no longer safe. The team of fellers have done an excellent job, but it doesn't mean that we haven't been saying extra prayers for their and our safety.

Deon and his team have been working across the river clearing the Camphill border and dead spider-gums.

The 'Hackers,' a group of Volunteers, have also joined in to help us in our effort to clear aliens along the river bank. We see their friendly faces every Wednesday.

Looking back a bit, the Christmas Carol Picnic fundraiser in December went off very well with Volmoed being exposed to lots of people who have never been here before. The predicted wind died down and only picked up again at the end of the evening. This meant that every one had a good time and we could say emphatically that it was a success.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Warm greetings, literally!

The temperatures soared over the weekend, so I went and bought a fan.

Soon I will celebrate two years at Volmoed and I am enormously grateful for all the plentiful gifts of grace, joys and challenges of Volmoed, Covid-19 and more.

December and January were eventful. The band from the Anglican Church of Reconciliation, Manenberg, led us in song at the Christmas Carol Picnic, which they combined with a successful weekend retreat led by myself and Edwin Joshua. The Picnic raised R10500 which was shared equally between Volmoed and the band, who will use it to buy some much needed music equipment. Thank you to everyone!

Thankfully I was able to fit in my annual eight day silent retreat during the last days of advent.

Archbishop Tutu's death just a few days later, took me to Cape Town to help lead a support team for the Cathedral with logistics and media. I continue to reflect on his impact on my life and ministry, and how we at Volmoed can live out his incredible legacy, values, contemplative prayer and action.

I had the privilege of leading someone on a four day silent retreat. A change from weekend or day retreats. I am grateful for the opportunity and look forward to growing in this ministry.



PRIORY NEWS



The rhythm of priory life continues with a

few changes for our long summer retreat. We continue serve the community when asked. Br Scott and Br Luc helped facilitate at the Volmoed Youth Leadership Training Program planning weekend. Alex looked after the Well-spring cats, Sarel and Felix, over Christmas for which Anton & Esther were very grateful.

Excerpt from :- Homily For Second Sunday After Epiphany Year C, Jan 16, 2022 by Br Luc

My favourite niece, daughter to my cousin, is a cheeky and witty little girl but equally intelligent. She is very keen especially when she goes to Sunday school, and the stories that the Sunday school teachers tell them are always readily re-told to any ear willing to listen, and some times acted even to an unwilling audience. I visited them one Sunday and asked her what they learnt at Sunday school that morning and she replied that the lesson was about when Jesus went to a wedding and turned water into wine. I inquired what she learnt from the story and after some thoughtful moment, she answered. "Uncle brother, If you're planning on having a wedding, make sure Jesus is there!" and she bolted out to play with her peers.

That to me was a very profound spiritual and theological advice from a kid who was barely five at the time! It is a good thing to have Jesus at our wedding ceremonies if they are to last; indeed it is good to have Jesus everywhere and in everything that is of significance in our lives!



Esther

The first lucky draw for our Volmoed 50 Fund was held after the Thursday Eucharist on 23 December, 2021.

The lucky winners were:

Free weekend at Volmoed: Gill Whitfield

R2000: Lyndall and Andrew Murray

R1000: Nicky Krikorian

Huge thanks to all who have contributed in this way.

If you would like to support Volmoed and have a chance to win any of the above prizes, or for more information about the fund, please contact Wilma, safri-cawilma@gmail.com for an application form. **The next lucky draw will be in June.**

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Continued prayers for the safety of our staff.
- The guests who will be on Volmoed.
- YWAM will be here for the 1st weekend in February
- Louise Theron and the Helderberg Uitryk will be here 7&8 February
- There are various individual people coming. We look forward to the familiar faces of Oban Gilmour, Denver Sedgwick, the Olivers