



**CHRISTIAN  
LIFE COMMUNITY  
SOUTH AFRICA**

February 2020

# MASITHETHE

## You have to go to the desert to see the stars

Last weekend, the last before we entered into Lent, I found myself on a journey into the desert. I was joining a trip to Sutherland, a “Star Quest” as we called it. Despite some initial disappointing clouds, we were surprised by sudden moments of clear skies and stars upon stars upon stars. The next morning, I spent a few quiet moments outside, absorbing the landscape and the silence, and the eery slow creaking of the windmills. I found myself reflecting on the relationship between the desert and the stars. It was dry and isolated; we had seen very little of the usual bustle of life around us. But it was here, when looking in the right direction, that we had seen the true layered depths of stars, pulling us up out of ourselves in wonder and delight.



It was such a literal instantiation of the spiritual theme of withdrawing to the desert that I was surprised it had taken me so long to realise it. I reflected on how this might relate to the parts of my life and call that feel desert-like, and I was struck that while we had journeyed far into the desert, we had done so together, in a little community of star-gazers. It was my friends who, gasping loudly, encouraged me to pull over the car to take in the newly visible Milky Way. The desert was dry and isolated, but there were windmills slowly creaking up water from below and companions to point and say, “It is the Lord!”

As Lent begins, we all start on our own journey into the spiritual desert, withdrawing in ways that we hope will draw us closer to God. This Lent I hope to pay a little more attention to how we do this together, as community; to listen and be present to others and the surprising riches of the desert.

I also encourage you, as St Ignatius did, to find consolation in gazing at our constant companion, the sky and stars.



*“The great consolation that he received at this time was from gazing at the sky and stars, and this he did often, and for quite a long time.”*

## The National Exco wishes you all a very graced Lenten period

We ask too that you please keep us in your prayers as we prepare for our annual face-to-face meeting held over the weekend of the 20th - 22nd March in Cape Town.

On the 22nd February 2020, **CLC Gauteng** had a joint celebration with Bertin Zinzou who is a member of the 11:00 Sunday group and also a member of St.Vincent de Paul. We held a morning of reflection led by Fr David Rowan SJ where we reflected on beauty. Our reflections were based largely on Laudat Si'. The reflective readings reminded us of what we have been gifted with which we needed to appreciate and value.



After the reflection we had mass, which included a blessing of Bertin's new house. It all worked very well together. We ended the day over our usual bring and share style lunch. Congratulations to Bertin on his new home and welcome CLC Gauteng to 2020. We will announce the next day of reflection soon.



— Malesabe

### CLC W Cape Retreat at Capuchin Convent Swellendam 2- 8 Feb 2020.

Heat and mosquitoes but also rain and green fields! Our director Fr Jim McGloin (for many years CLC EA in Zambia) was a gentle, sensitive director and also said Masses for us and the Sisters. Our thanks to Jane who organised it, to Fr Jim, the Sisters and CLC! Also we are so grateful for a sense of unity: Colleen, Jane and Jill came from CLC; Angie and Sheila from our Days of Reflection; and Yolande from the Ignatian Family.



Most of us go back many years, bonded by strong desires for a deeper prayer experience & relationship with Jesus, found in Ignatian spirituality.

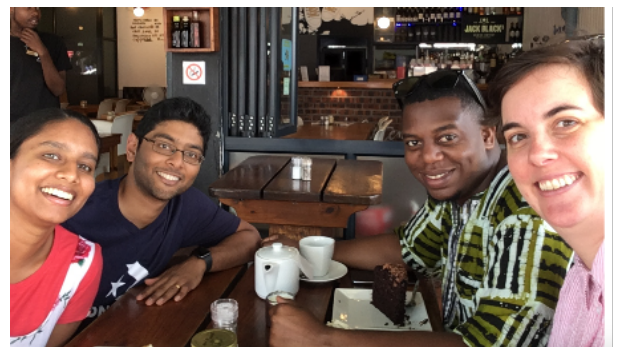
— Jill



Jill, Gertrude, Yolande, & Sheila

CLC 'catch ups'! Christine recently visited Cape Town and enjoyed some excellent cake and chat with some of the Western Cape community.

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## Community Banking Details

### National Account

CLC National Secretaries  
Standard Bank, Newton Park.  
Branch Code: 050017  
Acc No: 004874625

### Education Project Account

CLC National Secretaries  
Standard Bank, Newton Park.  
Branch Code: 050017  
Acc No: 044323921

### Eastern Cape

Christian Life Community EC  
Nedbank, Savings Account  
Acc No: 2447009798

### Gauteng

Christian Life Communities  
ABSA, Savings Account  
Acc No: 630465901

### Western Cape

CLC Western Cape  
Nedbank, Savings Account  
Acc No: 2250025088