

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu MEMORIAL WALK 2023

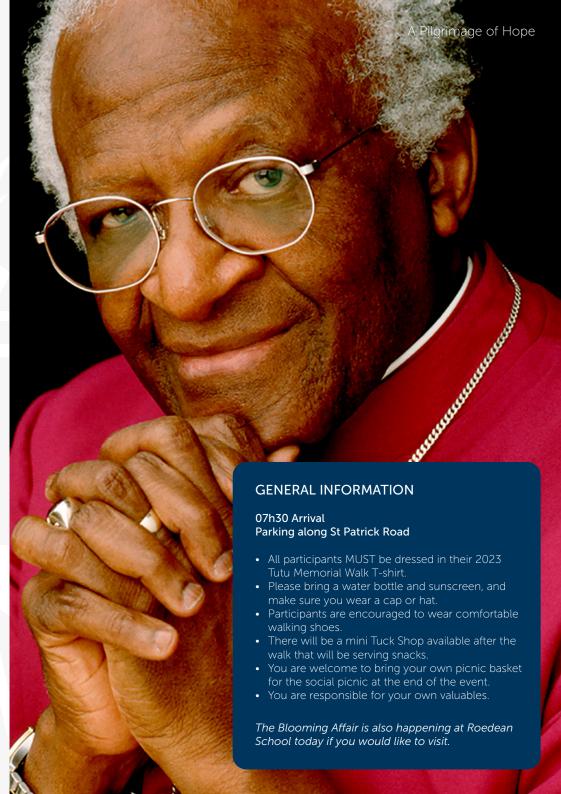


A PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE | 7 October 2023

PROGRAMME

Arrival at D Field, St John's College 07h30 08h00 Welcome **08h15** First Station: St John's College. The Tutu Memorial Walk Commences 08h30 Second Station: Roedean School Third Station: Asteri Primary School 09h00 09h45 Fourth Station: Barnato Park High School Fifth Station: St Aidan's Anglican Church 10h30 11h15 Sixth Station: King Edward VII School Seventh Station: Tutu Quad, St John's College 11h45 Social Picnic on D Field, St John's College 12h00





GATHERING

In the Name of the Creator, and of the Redeemer, and of the Sustainer Amen

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, for ever With my mouth, I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne Steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

Dear friends, we gather today on this pilgrimage of hope in honour of the legacy of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and in honour of his blessed memory. In this pilgrimage, we will reflect on some of the key themes of his teachings on matters of justice and peace and the building up of healthy communities. We will hear some of his words and the words of others inspired by him. We will take moments to reflect prayerfully on these words and on the words of scripture, and we will discern together what the will of God is for us as we discern matters of our own agency in response to the inspiration we will find from the Arch's words, and the words of scripture on which we will reflect.

We know that Jesus' greatest longing, like that of the prophet Micah, was for the coming of God's reign on the earth—that day in which God's justice and love would permeate this earth as it does heaven. The ethical teaching that he gave us intended to help bring this reign about. He also taught us to pray for God's Kingdom to come. As we begin this Pilgrimage of hope, in memory of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and in honour of his legacy, let us pray as Christ has taught us; pray for the coming of God's reign on earth, His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, and for our own strengthening in the ways of justice and peace.

Our Father, who art in Heaven...

Almighty God, source of life, and giver of all good thoughts and deeds, We praise you for the life of Mpilo Desmond, Bishop, Priest, Prophet, Mystic for his concern for others and for his many acts of kindness.

We commend him to your love and mercy and we ask that you strengthen us by your Spirit, to follow his example, as we seek to love you more dearly by loving and serving you in serving our neighbours. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Let us go forth in peace In the Name of Christ

First Station: St John's College - Building Bridges

"In a time of flood, the wise build bridges and the foolish build walls... what you do for or against another you are really doing for yourself."

- Nontombi Tutu

Ralph Ellison, an African American writer, stated that 'education is all a matter of building bridges'. whether that be connections between ideas in the mind, bringing teacher and learner together in communion with knowledge, or putting unfamiliar people with different perspectives in the same space.

Hear the words of St Paul; 'For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might gain all the more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to gain Jews. To those under the law I became one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might gain those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not outside God's law but am within Christ's law) so that I might gain those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I might become a partner in it' (1st Letter to the Corinthians 9:19- 23).

Time for reflection

Come, all you people! Come from east and west, north and south! Come across bridges, come along streets, come by car, bike, or foot! Let us pray:-

God of another throne,

We are grateful that you refuse to identify with the greedy and oppressive powers of the world. That you are grounded in another kind of authority - one that doesn't require you to diminish the power of another in order for you to walk in yours. We admit that calling you 'king' or ruler' can evoke both joy and dissonance as we have little imagination for a king who isn't violently grabbing at power for their own sake. Thank you for not being concerned with our labels of power and significance. Restore our hope in a God that can be trusted. A God who kneels. A God who decenters privilege. The one with the power to swallow up death forever, and yet close enough to wipe away every tear.

Second Station: Roedean School - Our Gendered Society

"If we are going to see real development in the world, then our best investment is WOMEN!"

- Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

According to the World Bank, in lower-income countries, only 63% of girls complete their primary school education, compared to 67% of boys. In countries deemed fragile, conflict-ridden or violent by the United Nations, girls are 2.5 times more likely to be out of school than boys.

On the other hand, in South Africa, there are only 85 males in Matric for every 100 females. This is despite the unique challenges that young women face: 83% of high school girls do not have regular access to sanitary products; girls frequently drop out because of family commitments or teenage pregnancy — a third never return to school

Hear the words of St Paul: 'so in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.' (Philippians 2:1-4)

Time for reflection

Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come; He will come and save you.

Let us pray:God of all people,
you bend over backwards to meet us in our frailty
and to transform us:
Inspire us to compassionately reach out to all your children,
especially those seen as different to what society celebrates.
May we in recognising their humanity
also come to celebrate your image in them,
and by serving them come to venerate you in them.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Third Station: Asteri Primary School - Education

"Inclusive, good quality education is a foundation for dynamic and equitable societies... Proper education is the most potent agent of empowerment."

- Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

In a study published this year, 82% of Grade 4 students in South Africa cannot read for meaning.

Of the children enrolled in Grade 1 in 2010 in South Africa, approximately 40% dropped did not complete matric (Grade 12)

Hear the words of St Paul; 'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will' (Romans 12:2)

Time for reflection

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

Then shall the lame leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

Let us pray:Eternal God, worthy of all worship
your Son sat among scholars, asking them questions:
bless all schools that they may be lively centres
for sound learning, new discovery
and pursuit of wisdom;
and grant that those who teach and those who learn
may praise you as the source of all truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Fourth Station: Barnato Park - Xenophobia

"The diocese of Johannesburg called together people and said we need to repent, and so this is a service of repentance in which we confess our sins of xenophobia. We were welcomed as exiles, as freedom fighters in those African lands. Could we really have forgotten so soon?"

- Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

A person with **ubuntu** is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished when others are tortured or oppressed, or treated as if they were less than who they are."

- Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

In 2008, at least 60 foreigners were killed in xenophobic violence in South Africa. In 2019, there were at least 19 killed in Johannesburg in bouts of violence. These numbers are most probably grossly underreported.

Hear the words of the Prophet Isaiah: 'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.(Isaiah 41:1)

Time for reflection

The one who discriminates against the other rejects God We must turn from wickedness, towards the love of God for All

Let us pray:God who mends.

You demand of us not merely justice, but repair. We have reduced reconciliation to niceties and "friendship" out of fear of what it might actually cost a person. Expose this, God. So we can be people of true repair - people who demand an accounting for the rubble left by our histories and possess a sacred imagination for how we might bring reparations in our country, cities, and neighbourhoods.

Amen

Fifth Station: St Aidan's Anglican Church - Systemic Racism

"Racism dehumanises, disempowers, marginalises and impoverishes human beings. Its systematic and institutional forms have resulted in the death of many peoples, the plunder of resources, and the decimation of communities and nations. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance all work, singularly and collectively, to diminish our common humanity. They thrive within the intersections of race, caste, colour, age, gender, sexual orientation, class, landlessness, ethnicity, nationality, language and disability. The dismantling and eradication of racism requires that we address all its manifestations and historical expressions, especially slavery and colonialism. As people of faith, we call on all peoples, non-governmental organisations and governments to earnestly strive to break the cycles of racism and assist communities without violating the rights of others."

- Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

Institutional engagements and programmes about transformation are often attended by black students and staff only, making invisible and distorting the face of the perpetrators of racism in the institution. Instead of a deep, meaningful confrontation of the problem, universities choose to brush over history and host artificial celebrations of diversity.

Hear the words of St Paul: 'Do not lie to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here, there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or free, but Christ is all and is in all.' (Colossians 3:9-11)

Time for reflection

The one who discriminates against the other rejects God We must turn from wickedness towards the love of God for All

Let us pray:Lord God our Father
free us from the tyranny of racial injustice.
Help us to organise our communities in ways that
celebrate and venerate your image in all people.
Liberate us from the blindness of privilege,
and from the desire to associate ourselves
with powers that discriminate.
Amen

Sixth Station: King Edward VII School - Equality

"Instead of separation and division, all distinctions make for a rich diversity to be celebrated for the sake of the unity that underlies them. We are different so that we can know our need for one another."

- Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

According to the International Centre for Transnational Justice, South Africa is the most unequal country in the world. 10% of the population owns 80% of its wealth.

The average yearly income in Houghton is R204 000. The median yearly income in Yeoville is R29 400.

Almost three decades after the end of apartheid, "race remains a key driver of high inequality in South Africa due to its impact on education and the labour market," it said.

Hear the words of St Paul; 'If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.' (Philippians 2:1-4)

Time for reflection

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity

Let us pray

God who creates all, whole and free the ground of our being, we give you thanks for all of the blessings of this life, especially for the gift of each other and our work. Every person is a treasure, every life a sacred gift.

May the work we do diminish the chasm of disparity and bring about greater justice and equity.

We ask your blessings, in the name of Jesus, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Seventh Station: St John's College, Tutu Quad - Reconciliation & Reckoning

"True reconciliation is never cheap, for it is based on forgiveness, which is costly. Forgiveness, in turn, depends on repentance, which has to be based on an acknowledgement of what was done wrong and, therefore, on disclosure of the truth. You cannot forgive what you do not know."

- Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

Tutu is in the heritage of African peoples whose concepts and rituals provide the notion of reconciliation with profound meaning. Concepts like Ubuntu help African peoples transcend the violent mechanisms of denial and retaliation that are so typical for Western cultures. It is a misunderstanding of Tutu to think his forgiveness rests in itself.

Hear the words of St James: 'Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed.' (James 5:13-16)

Time for reflection

Create in me a clean heart, oh God And renew a right Spirit within me

CONCLUSION

Lord God of the Journey,

From Houghton to Yeoville,

From way down in the Cape of Good Hope to the Umgeni River,

From the Sandton to the hills of Mpumalanga,

From the Door of No Return to the New World,

You have journeyed with your people.

You have ordered and guided all our steps.

You have strengthened us when weary

and refreshed us when dry.

You have kept us from stumbling

and carried us when faint.

Gracious God as we complete our pilgrimage of hope,

Keep our feet on the path of justice, peace and equality.

May we never tire of this arduous journey,

for ultimately it is the way of Jesus.

Jesus who is our brother, our Saviour,

our companion and our destination.

With grateful and expectant hearts we pray. Amen

May the soul of Desmond Tutu, Bishop, and all others who have given their lives in the service of humankind, ever through the mercy of God, rest in peace

And rise in glory.

Grant us, Lord, the wisdom and grace to use aright the time that is left to us here on earth. Lead us to repent of our sins, both the evil we have done and the good we have not done; and strengthen us to follow in the steps of your Son, in the way that leads to the fulness of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Let us bless the Lord Thanks be to God

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The walk continues to end on D Field for a community picnic.

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