

If you cannot see the pictures, use the right-hand mouse click and select 'Download pictures'. If you are still having problems, [email us](#)

You are receiving this information about the Denis Hurley Centre because you have shown an interest in the work done by us or one of our partners. We hope that you will enjoy receiving this monthly update. If you have any comments please [email us](#).

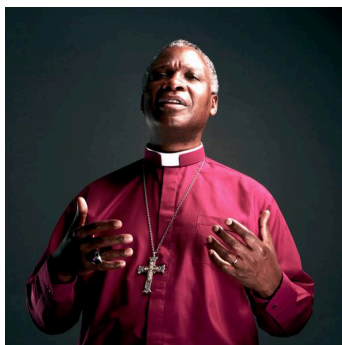
If you do not want to receive emails from us, scroll to the end for information about unsubscribing and also our obligations under the POPI Act. If you would like to recommend us to anyone you know please [send us their](#) email address if they consent.



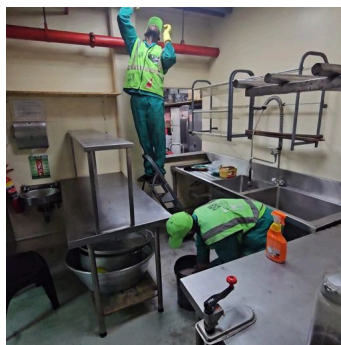
September 2025

***Wishing blessings to Jewish and Hindu friends
celebrating special festivals at this time***

Psalms of Suffering and Hope
Update on Healthcare for Foreign Nationals
Providing Work and Dignity for Homeless men
Celebrating our different Heritages



**Archbishop
speaks out
strongly**



**Cleaning our
Kitchen and our
Street**



**Tasting
delicacies from
round the world**

**THE LORD WILL DEFEND YOU FROM ALL EVIL—IT IS HE
WHO WILL GUARD YOUR LIFE (Ps 121:7)**

A moving service commemorated the 40th anniversary of Paddy Kearney being detained by the Apartheid police in August/ September 1985. He spent 17 days in solitary confinement, without charge and without trial, until Archbishop Hurley succeeded in winning a legal case against the Minister of Police. This resulted not just in the immediate release of Paddy but also the setting of a precedent that protected others from detention without cause.

While in prison, Paddy was allowed a Bible and he drew great comfort from the Psalms; later he commented that he felt that he was actually only reading them properly for the first time. With this in mind, we organised an anniversary ecumenical service called 'Psalms of Suffering and Hope' which was held at St James Anglican Church in Morningside.

The presider was Rev Ian Darby from St James and he was joined by Congregational minister Rev Ian Booth, formerly of Diakonia Council of Churches, who read the Gospel (Matthew 16: 21-26a). Before this, Alana Pugh-Baranov, the recently-elected President of the KZN Jewish Board of Deputies, read a passage from Isaiah (53: 1-12) in the original Hebrew. Later, an upcoming star from the Centre for Creative Arts, 'Steel the poet', recited one of his own works in Zulu as a modern-day psalm. The service began with Ursula de Haas, Paddy's niece, reading a passage which described Paddy's experience in detention. (The extract was from 'Paddy Kearney: a Prophet for our Times' copies of which can be [bought directly from the DHC](#)).

The highlight of the service was the music organised by Melvin Peters and John Ward. An *ad hoc* choir chanted Psalms 91 and 121, led the congregation in the hymns, and sang a brand new *Alleluia Chorus* that had been written for the service by Melvin. In addition, Maggie Deppe played the haunting *Gabriel's Oboe* from 'The Mission', one of Paddy's favourite films.

In his sermon, our Director Dr Raymond Perrier, said that all the elements of the service had been chosen to symbolise resilience in the face of adversity, which was also the message of Paddy's life. (*The full text is attached*). Whilst embarrassed that we were celebrating him, Paddy would have been pleased – added Raymond – that we were remembering others who are suffering today: we were showing solidarity with those who are forgotten, such as homeless people being harassed by the police, or foreign residents being barred from accessing healthcare. For Paddy, the cross was the ultimate symbol of solidarity. So, after prayers written and led by Prof Betty Govinden, Dr Nondumiso Shangase (a DHC Trustee) led the congregation in the Litany of the Cross of Nails from Coventry Cathedral.

All those who attended – many of them family members, friends and colleagues of Paddy – were deeply moved by the service and the chance to reflect on the message of Paddy's witness for our fight for justice today.

A full video recording of the service, courtesy of Anton Herrington of Tekweni Media, [can be viewed here](#).

Photo: Many thanks to the different people who knew Paddy who contributed to our moving ecumenical service.



It would be wonderful if, 14 weeks after the protests started, we could report good news. But sadly not: the vigilantes are still continuing their completely illegal blockade of hospitals. Meanwhile police and Government officials stand at the sides failing to intervene and increasingly medical staff seem to be complicit in the actions.

The impact of this on ordinary families is seen daily at the DHC clinic since many of the rejected patients are coming to us in search of life-saving healthcare. Now that people's supplies are running out, we are seeing more and more patients needing insulin for diabetes and anti-hypertension drugs which they would have usually collected from Addington Hospital. Without these, patients will quickly become sick and their lives will be at risk which is why we have been buying these medicines and dispensing them to those in need.

We are very grateful that so many of you have supported our appeal for extra funds for our clinic so that we can buy these medicines. We have received help from Aspen Pharmacare, the Batho Batho Trust and the Islamic Medical Association among others. But we are still in need of funds and would appreciate financial donations, large and small, [if you can assist](#).

We have also been requesting messages of solidarity from religious leaders – and we mentioned before the statements from the Catholic Bishops' Conference and from +Mandla Jwara, the Archbishop of Durban. We were honoured to receive a very strongly worded message from Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, very much in the spirit of his predecessor, +Desmond Tutu. He stated:

South Africans who are trying to prevent migrants seeking healthcare are not only defying our constitution, they are defying a biblical injunction. ...Section 27 of the Constitution reads, 'Everyone has the right to access healthcare including reproductive healthcare'; in the New Testament, we are told: 'Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.' (Hebrews 13:2).

The police ought to enforce the constitutional rights of all who live in South Africa, and make it clear they will not allow vigilantes to rule our streets and our health facilities. Not to do so is to act in dereliction of their duties. We are not a banana republic.

Some parts of Government have been trying to help. The KZN Department of Health has promised that they will find ways of distributing chronic medication to those who are reliant on them, though this initiative has still to actually begin. And the Office of the Premier responded to a request to intervene, though the meeting mainly seemed to prove that most departments felt unable or unwilling to do their duty.

Government officials are bound by an oath that they take to 'respect, protect and fulfil' the rights promised by the Constitution. We pray that they will do this and not descend to the populist politics that we see happening in so many other places around the world.

Meanwhile, the problem is spreading to other healthcare sites. Patients whom we have referred to other Government facilities for much-needed treatment have been sent back to us having been refused admission by the hospital's own staff. One comment made was how much quieter the hospitals are now – which of course was also true when the hospitals only treated people who were white! The role of a hospital is not to be quiet - it is to serve those it is mandated to assist.

A legal case supported by the DHC and a number of other stakeholders is edging forwards. But, in the meantime, we are pleased that, with your help, we are able to address at least some of the harm that is being caused to innocent residents of our city.

Photo: A group from the Islamic Medical Association have been among many who have assisted us with the extra medicines we need to respond during this crisis.



***I WANNA BE THERE WHEN THE PEOPLE START TO TURN IT AROUND,
WHEN THEY TRIUMPH OVER POVERTY.
I WANNA LEND A HAND.
SEND ME.***

As we never tire of explaining, most people who are homeless in Durban are in this situation because they cannot find work. But they stay in the city centre, even if it means living rough, in the hope that something will come up. That is one of the many reasons why the Municipality's ill-conceived plan to move homeless people to accommodation, but in a place far away where there is no work, will not actually help them.

So we need programmes that address homelessness at its roots by tackling one of its primary causes – the lack of steady income. Street Lit, our bookselling project is one of the ways that we have enabled people to transform their lives. Another model we have tried is a project called 'Send Me' – named after the famous Hugh Masekela song *Thuma Mina*, part of which is quoted in the title above. In fact, this was invoked by President Ramaphosa a few years ago as a clarion call for transforming our country.

The idea of Send Me is that we can provide small teams of keen and selected homeless men and women who are paid to work together on a project for half a day, a full day or longer. People have employed our Send Me teams to help with house moves, to clean up gardens, to sort through piles of clothes, to act as parking attendants for events, and to be guides for tourists. We welcome further ideas but, meantime, we have been putting our money where our mouth is and employing people ourselves to do useful jobs for us and some of our partners.

We mentioned before about [a team with green thumbs](#) helping tidy up the garden at the Gandhi Settlement in Phoenix under the watchful eye of Asha Ramgobin, Gandhi's great-grand-daughter and a human rights lawyer. This month we had a [team carrying out a deep clean](#) of our own Nkosinathi kitchen to ensure that it complies with food safety standards.

And we had a [team working along Cathedral Road](#) to clear away some of the accumulated debris. People often blame homeless people for creating squalor on our streets. But, since they spend more time on them than most, a lot of homeless people take pride in the state of our streets and will help keep them clean if given the opportunity. We are delighted that the acting Administrator at the Cathedral supported us in this initiative; we hope that, now we have shown the neighbours what is possible, they will be willing to make a small financial contribution towards keeping the team active.

A big thank you to Sinclair Austin, a volunteer originally from Atlanta in the USA, who has been working with Stuart Talbot and the empowerment team and who produced these wonderful short videos.

The hands-on work may seem ordinary but, for our participants, it represents the pathway out of homelessness. It is the start of a steady income that can transform a person from a recipient of services into a contributor to the economy. These projects certainly gave pride to eight people – Boyce, Patrick, Sepo, Neelan, Jerrold, Lotz, Zibulele and Lulama – who had been written off by the world but had not given up on themselves. When faced with pushback, when progress seemed impossible, they refused to give up on the belief that everyone deserves a chance to earn their dignity through work.

The success of these Send Me projects shows their incredible potential, but we want to expand this programme and create more opportunities for dignified work. We need partners who share our vision. So we are very keen to hear from you, whether you are a business owner looking for reliable workers, someone who can connect us with property managers, or a supporter ready to help fund this initiative. Let us know if you need a team of people and are prepared to pay them a decent wage for doing good work. We are, for example, actively pursuing landscaping opportunities, recognising that outdoor work aligns with many supporters' efforts to enhance their local spaces.

Together, we can transform how society responds to homelessness – one job, one person, one restored life at a time. [Contact us to learn](#) how you can be part of the Send Me movement.

Empowerment projects like this are just one of the many subjects that will be discussed at the 9th annual National Homeless Conversation which will be taking place in Cape Town from 3-6 Nov. All are welcome. [Click here for more information](#).

Photo: Some of the Send Me team proudly cleaning up Cathedral Road.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Throughout September, South Africans focus on celebrating our various cultural heritages, through clothing, music and food.

For this year's Heritage event with our staff and interns, we decided to focus on the significance and heritage of our names: first names, surnames or family names, and nicknames. When so many of the people we serve are 'nameless', knowing people's

names and honouring their names is one of the ways in which we can make sure that everyone is included.

The discussion began by learning about Archbishop Hurley's first names: Denis Eugene. They were names drawn from male members from both his father's and his mother's families – a similar custom is found within the Afrikaans community. One funny thing we learned is that on his grave in the Cathedral, since all the writing is in Latin, Denis is shown as 'Dionysius'. This is also the name of the Greek god of wine, women and song which we think would have amused our sometimes worldly former Archbishop!

We then moved on to the DHC's founder. He was always known as 'Paddy' but in fact that was from his middle name. He was christened 'Gerald Patrick' but since 'Gerry' was a nickname for Germans during WW2 and he was born in 1942, 'Paddy' was regarded as more appropriate.

The family heritage of people who work at the DHC lies mostly in KwaZulu Natal, but we also have people who hail from the Eastern Cape, Eswatini, Central Africa, the UK and Europe. In pairs, staff and interns then talked about their own names and shared back with the larger group some interesting things they had learned. While sharing the heritage of their family names, two staff members discovered they originated from the same village and knew each other's extended families! We also learned that Mkhize (the surname of one of our Community Healthcare Workers) is the most common surname in South Africa; while Banks (the surname of our COO, Leanne) ranks 5,830th!

It was particularly interesting to hear that in Burundi, 95% of children are not given a shared family name but instead their own unique surname which reflects cultural significance, their family's hopes for them or the circumstances of their birth. So Marie-Goreth in our clinic has the surname Nduwimana which means 'God's child' since her parents believed that she would be protected by God after two older siblings had passed away at early ages. But now that she has settled in South Africa, both her children have their father's surname, a reminder that traditions can adapt to changed circumstances.

Several people explained that they had been given first names that expressed their parents' or grandparents' desires for them, or for what the family had experienced during the mother's pregnancy. For example, Nonhlanhla (the name of both our cook and our senior social worker) means 'luck' or 'good fortune', and Makhosi means 'queen' expressing the family's wishes for their child. Lindani means 'wait' which conveys the anticipation that the family experienced before the mother's pregnancy – ironic since part of Lindani's job is as a driver so he does a lot of waiting!

We learned that names were sometimes passed down in families with people being named after their ancestors; but in other cases, they were named after no one in particular but rather because their parents just liked the name!

As a way of celebrating Heritage, several members of staff came beautifully dressed in clothing that reflected their ethnicity. Others brought food items distinctive to their heritage so that we could share in a meal that included *imiqala* (chicken necks), *amadumbe* (taro), *mandazi* (Swahili fried bread), cassava, *isigwaqane* (maize meal and sugar beans), shortbread, sausage rolls and *amahewu* to drink.

In a city where sadly some people try to exclude others because of their race or their nationality, it is wonderful to be a place which celebrates the diversity of our people – staff, interns and service users – while also recognising the unity that we share by being committed to the common cause of justice. For more on heritage, see Raymond's [op ed piece from The Post](#).

Photo: Four of our staff in traditional costumes (left to right): Zama Mthimkhulu, Thobile Mthembu, Nonhlanhla Nhlangulela and Marie-Goreth Nduwimana.



Director: Raymond Perrier (raymond@denishurleycentre.org)

Bookings: Leanne Banks (leanne@denishurleycentre.org)

If you wish to support our work, you can donate by EFT:

First National Bank Durban Main branch 221426

Account: Denis Hurley Centre Trust A/C No. 622 0426 1002

For more information, and to donate from outside South Africa, see:

www.denishurleycentre.org

In accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (4 of 2013) please be aware:

- you can remove yourself from this list at any time by clicking unsubscribe below
- you can request to see what information we are holding about you by contacting Leanne Banks (leanne@denishurleycentre.org)
- by responding to this communication, you are consenting to us processing and using any personal information provided

Sent by
{{ contact.SendinBlue }}

You received this email because you are registered with DenisHurleyCentre

[Unsubscribe here](#)

© 2016 DenisHurleyCentre