

Email Messages

Carey and I were so shocked and saddened to hear of Paddy's sudden passing. Such a gentle, loving, clear, bright, and hopeful man. A brother, father, friend and the people's leader in the light of God. God Bless Paddy. We know how close you both were to Paddy and how much you loved and admired him. We offer our love and condolences to you, and wish you strength in the faith that Paddy lives on in your hearts, and how much you were a part of his extraordinary and meaningful life.

God Bless, love

Brendan and Carey Moran

(Brendan Moran knew Paddy from the End Conscription Movement)

I thank God for countless precious memories of my warm ecumenical friendship with Paddy -- a complete, authentic and whole human being, tireless champion of the poorest and most vulnerable.

Who will have the courage to follow your matchless example of humble service to the Master?

Paddy, you are reunited with your loved ones -- and, of course, with our beloved Archbishop Denis Hurley! God grant you the reward given to all His faithful servants, and may your family and many associates -- along with the innumerable whose lives you have touched -- know His consolation.

Rest in peace, dear friend, and thank you for everything. You will live on in the Denis Hurley Centre -- and in our hearts.

Rev. Anthony M (Tony) and Beryl Gamley

(Tony is the author of the book 'Denis Hurley - by his friends')

I am shocked to hear about the sudden death of Mr Paddy Kearney. Mr Kearney had a long friendship with my dad (late. I.S. Maharaj) and the Clairwood people in the 80's for the area. Please pass my deepest sympathy to Mr Kearney's family.

Please God may he rest in peace.

Kind Regards

Devesh Maharaj

(Sound Engineer, Playhouse)

I am heart-sore when I think of the quick exit our dear Paddy made. But I am also happy that after years of generous and kindly service he will be rewarded with life eternal. The Arch also did a quick take off heavenwards. We can only guess about their reunion!

I don't know if Paddy told you. He loved Cathedral music and choirs. I invited him to come to Rosary Priory when the days get longer and brighter. I managed to get a donor who would get Paddy a ticket on his flying miles and already a member of the DHA offered me 100 pounds sterling towards pocket money. Plans were already underway for visits to five local Cathedrals, then to Durham and Edinburgh and finally a trip to Ireland. But it was not to be. All this was to take place when the Letters were launched with a tentative date of April/May 2019.

This morning at 11.45 Mass was offered in this chapel for Paddy. Fr. Simon Chinery celebrated with us on behalf of the DHA.

God bless, Fondly and with sisterly sympathy

Marie-Henry Keane OP

(Newcastle Dominican sister who worked closely with Archbishop Hurley and Paddy and is also a trustee of the Denis Hurley Association, the DHC's UK-based fundraising arm)

Paddy Kearney was our first link with organised ecumenical and inter-faith endeavours towards social, racial, economic, environmental and gender justice in Durban.

We lived in Pinetown - and Kevin served in the Pinetown Methodist Church - in the early 1980s and so we were blessed with useful resources through the Diakonia Council of Churches. When living in the Durban area, we seldom, if ever, missed the annual ecumenical early morning Good Friday Services.

Later, in the early years of the 21st Century, Jenny was seconded by the Methodist Church of Southern Africa to serve at the Diakonia Council of Churches as their Social Justice Coordinator. By then Paddy had 'retired' and Nomabelu Mvambo-Dandala had been appointed as Director. Paddy's legacy remained visible and we endeavoured to aspire to the goals he and the late Archbishop Denis Hurley had set for this organisation.

It is with deep respect and a true sense of loss that we write to pay this tribute and express our sincere condolences to Paddy's family, his countless many friends, the Diakonia Council of Churches, the Roman Catholic Community, the Inter-Faith Associations and the wider Ecumenical Community of Durban. It was truly a privilege to know Paddy and be associated with this great man of God. Paddy, you will most certainly be missed.

Many blessings to all who are in mourning.

Kevin and Jenny Sprong

(Methodist ministers in Southern Africa and now serving in the United Church of Canada)

Sincere condolences from the DMI team on the passing and sad loss of Paddy Kearney. His life well lived leaves its own legacy.

Kindest regards

Jenni McLeod

(Downes Murray International – fundraiser for the Archdiocese of Durban)

Paddy will always hold a special place in my heart and that of my family. He conducted the funeral service for my dad four years ago and was kind and sensitive with us in planning the service and extremely respectful of our wishes. He was able to strike the balance of a celebration of life and mourning of a life lost too early. Since then has offered endless support and companionship to my mom, which has been a great source of comfort to me. Though my interaction with him was short, he knew my family well and I will always remember his kindness and support he offered. This is a great loss to Durban but his memory will live on.

Lesley de Sylva (Connolly)

(Graduate School of Arts and Science, New York University)

Thank you for all the update, which as sad it is, has to accepted as true.

On behalf of the Community Outreach Centre, St Mary's in Mariannahill, we wish to express our heartfelt condolences to the family of the late Paddy. He has been the "man of God" whom He has just called to be closer to Him.

To the DHC, our prayers are with you all. The DHC family will prosper, it was built on the solid rock.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE!

Regards

Thandeka Ngcobo

(Community Outreach Centre, St Mary's)

Warm Ecumenical Greetings

TAMCC as part of Ecumenical movement in KZN wish to take this opportunity and convey the message of sadness & our condolences on the passing of our stalwart Dr Paddy Kearney.

To his family, extended family, friends and everyone in the ecumenical family – may we all be comforted and continue to trust to our God.

May he rest in eternal peace.

Regards

SNM Thusi

(TAMCC Director)

Please accept my sincere condolences to all who worked with and loved Paddy.

I met Paddy back in the early 80's, as a new convert to the Catholic Church. Exciting times, Renew was being planned. Christian Social Action and Young Christian Workers were working together. We were called to help the elections as Ecumenical Peace Monitors. There was so much happening and Paddy was there. Guiding, advising, leading the way.

At our various meetings Paddy was a master of the flip chart, pen in hand. We would be throwing out suggestions, answering his searching questions on the subject at hand, challenging us, deepening our thoughts. His hand would be flying over the paper, writing, not very clearly, flipping to new pages. Then at the end of the meeting, he would gather all those thoughts together into a whole. How clever we sometimes thought we were. But it was the master who held it together and wove our thoughts and suggestions into something meaningful and workable.

Dear Paddy thank you for showing me the best of what it means to be Catholic.

May you rest in peace.

Leanne Denderfield

Paddy you have been a gentle giant. You have taught us how to work hard without seeming so.

Enjoy all the gifts that God have bestowed on us by becoming humble servants. You have taught us that we can indeed look across; beyond our comfort zone for the sake of humanity. You have taught us that we can be all we can be for the sake of justice.

Our life journey here on earth is not about ourselves but about what God is predestined us to do.

You taught us that we are not who we are for our sake but for the Kingdom of God.

Your life is a well written book that all of us need to take a chapter and try to live it.

You are a white man that I called Baba and really feel that you were uBaba to all the people of Durban. Your gentleness and wisdom was beyond measure. You worked tirelessly but not showing any signs of being tired.

That is why we are still reeling from shock.

Went to church last Sunday—was still expecting to see you.

You are now with God and He is pleased with what you have done

You truly saw Christ in every living soul

Our country and the Church will be poorer without your presence.

Lala kahle Qhawe lamaqhawe uyibekile induku ebandla.

May your soul rest in eternal peace ;you have run a good race and won

All is left for you is your crown.”

Nomusa Mkhize

(Emmanuel Cathedral - Formation Co-ordinator; Stewardship; CNG and PPC member)

I write on behalf of the Trustees of the Bai Jerbai Rustomjee Trust (custodians of the M.K. Gandhi Library in Denis Hurley Street). Please accept our sincere condolences and also convey these to the family of Paddy Kearney. I would also like to extend condolences from my mother, Khorshed Ginwala, who worked more closely with Paddy. She is unwell and unable to convey these personally.

Kindest Regards

Zavareh Rustomjee

Chair: Bai Jerbai Rustomjee Trust

Paddy you are the Giant of Justice and Peace. Your actions really spoke louder than words. Your calmness and bravery inspired me.

Your attitude towards the poor, marginalized communities changed my mindset. We saw you risking your life during apartheid era when people were scared to tell the truth. Halala Paddy Soldier of Justice and Peace.

Long Live the Spirit of Paddy !

Rest in Peace, Hero of Heroes!

Awulalanga uguqe ngamadolo!

Nozipo Lembede

(a Cathedral parishioner who worked with Paddy on the ground on peace-making between the UDF/ANC and IFP in the 1970s and 1980s)

On behalf of the Active Citizens' Movement, our heartfelt condolences and greetings of solidarity with you on the tragic passing of Paddy.

As you know, Paddy was both a patron, as well as an active and much-loved member of the ACM. We would like an opportunity to present a message at his Requiem Mass and Funeral on Saturday. Please let us know if this is possible. We will advise you of the name of our representative if so.

We are also considering other activities to honour Paddy's immense contribution to South Africa, and will consult with you in due course, but for the moment are concentrating on mobilising our membership for the funeral. Please also let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

Warm regards,

Professor Yousuf A Vawda

(School of Law, University of KwaZulu-Natal, on behalf of the Active Citizens Movement)

My condolence to you and all involved in the DHC on the sudden return of Paddy to his Heavenly Home RIP. A Mass will be offered for his happy repose.

A giant of a man working for Humanity and equal rights throughout his life. However a quiet and simpatico man in reality.

He must have been so happy that his book was a success in Johannesburg and perhaps His Maker then wanted him Home to relax and be with his friend Archbishop Denis Hurley RIP

Regards & Blessings

Cathy Mocke

After the Good Friday Ecumenical Service 2018 at the City Hall in Durban I met Paddy again after 25 years which I had spent back home in Germany.

But before 1982 I had been in Durban for the Evangelical Lutheran Church while Paddy intensively worked on the establishment of DIAKONIA and in this wonderful project we met. When we now came together again at the Durban City Hall it was a great joy remembering the exciting progress in ecumenical cooperation and for justice and reconciliation through his initiatives and untiring service. He helped us who came from other countries and societies to understand the immense challenges of South Africa at that time.

When we now met at the end of March this year we planned that we should meet with more time during my next visit planned for the end of 2019. But now we received the sad news that Paddy's time of earthly planning has ended. Now it remains for us to entrust him into the saving hands of our God and Father to whom we express our thanks for letting us have time together with the gifted and friendly Paddy as his 'instrument of peace'.

With our cordial greetings we send you our condolences,

Yours in Christ,

Ernst-August Lüdemann

(Hermannsburg in Germany)

Thank you for sending along the fine emailed materials re your friend and colleague, Paddy. For those of us who never knew him, or even knew of him here in the US, his life appears to have been a most remarkable witness. We need such people here.

Blessings as you navigate the days ahead.

Tom Cashman

I was very sorry to read Paddy Kearney had died. I gather it was sudden, unexpected.

Paddy epitomised much of what is good in people in South Africa. A quiet man but of strength from his faith, values and putting these into action. He will be missed because he gave and achieved so much. I am glad I met and knew him.

We saw him last year when visiting you and the Denis Hurley centre.

I am sure the people of Durban and beyond will pay tribute to Paddy. Inspired by his example we commit to working for a much fairer, more just world in which we celebrate our diversity and common humanity. Please accept and convey condolences to his family and friends. Paddy's work and achievements will continue to contribute to democratic South Africa which he made an important and valued contribution to bringing about.

Best wishes

Tony Dykes

Director of Action for South Africa, 2007-2018 (formerly the Anti-Apartheid Movement)

Head of Southern Africa, Christian Aid 1993-2007.

I was shocked and saddened to hear the news of Paddy's sudden death. It must have been an enormous shock for you!

What impressed me most about him was his humility, even after so many accolades and worthy achievements....

My sincere condolences

Patricia Proctor

(Get Reel Productions who made the SABC programme 'The Light' featuring Paddy in 2017)

Deepest sympathy on the death of Paddy

Have spoken to him many times on the phone reminiscing about Archbishop Hurley ' and his early visits to my Mom

Now they will be together again may his soul rest in peace

God bless

Lorraine Holloway

I have just switched on my Lap top and read of the sudden passing of dear Paddy.

On behalf Jackie and myself may I express to you and all at the DHC our deepest sympathy on the passing of one of the GIANTS of the DHC. I believe that we can be sure that he is today reunited with his dear Friend, Denis Hurley.

May he Rest in Peace.

Mervyn Pollitt

It is with great sorrow that we have just learned of the sudden and unexpected death of Paddy Kearney.

The Denis Hurley Centre, which will miss his input enormously, has circulated the following message which we resend but without illustrations.

Sincerely

Angie St George – Chairperson 2018

SA National Society

This is devastating news.... So very sad and what a wonderful person.... He will be deeply missed.

*When I am dead,
Cry for me a little,
Think of me sometimes
But not too much.
Think of me now and again
As I was in life at some moment
That is pleasant to recall -
But not too long.
Leave me in peace
And I shall leave you in peace.
And whilst you live
Let your thoughts be with the living.
(Indian Prayer)*

Elizabeth Gaywood

(Tibet Society of South Africa)

This is indeed heartbreaking news. I am so sorry for you, for Paddy's family and his many friends. Molly and I feel so lucky to have met Paddy and were able to spend some time with him. In fact, one of Molly's favorite treasures of our visit was a black and white photo she took of him and she sent it to him.

All love,

Mary Rawlinson

(DHC supporter in the USA)

It was with great shock that I opened the newspaper this morning and saw the very sad news of Paddy Kearney's passing. Well done thou good and faithful servant.

My deepest sympathy to you and all at DHC.

God Bless you all and guide you.

Verna Lessing

(DHC supporter in the Howick)

A great soul passed on today and will be greatly missed.

Paddy dedicated his entire, selfless life to the service of the poor, needy, marginalized and downtrodden members of our community and country.

He was a quiet, humble person, who sought no recognition, reward or praise. Although, those accolades bestowed on him were fully deserved, he remained a humble, down to earth, approachable and caring person.

His passing will definitely be a great loss to many.

My sincere condolences and sympathy to his family, the staff, management, trustees and all those who sought refuge and assistance at the Denis Hurley Centre.

May his soul rest in peace.

Yunus Fredericks.

(Cathedral Parishioner)

Thank you for the news of Paddy Kearney R.I.P. I shall remember him and his family and friends in Mass tomorrow morning. I met him a few times and of course have heard SO much about him - a wonderful and quite exceptional man, for which we thank and praise God.

I share your great feeling of loss.

God bless you all and united in prayer.

Fr. Gerald Gostling

(Priest of the Diocese of Dundee)

This is tragic news for Durban. I have come to know Paddy on my one year sabbatical from the Belgian catholic Church (1996-97) in the Durban diocese and was very much inspired by his life achievement. Would anybody have some time to write and publish his memoires?

Fr Jan Van Eycken

Brussel