

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.



**UPDATE**

Care • Education • Community  
Tel: 031 301 2240 [www.denishurleycentre.org](http://www.denishurleycentre.org)



ETHEKWINI  
**Living Legends**

Ukunakekela • Imfundo • Umphakathi  
[admin@denishurleycentre.org](mailto:admin@denishurleycentre.org)

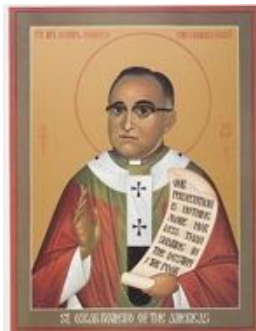


## January 2024

### A quick review of 2023 The DHC goes Green! UK speaker events to share with your friends Inspiring young people



**Why are these men climbing on our roof?**



**2 Archbishops - one already a saint**



**St Joseph's young people sleeping rough**

### REPORTING BACK ON 2023

We will soon be hosting our annual Hurley Weekend which is held every year close to the anniversary of Archbishop Hurley's death (on 13 Feb 2004). And since this year marks 20 years since his passing, it is a very special occasion.

Part of the celebration will be a chance to feed back on the DHC's financial performance over the past year. So, we thought we would tempt you with some snippets of data in advance. Knowing how difficult the economic situation is for everyone, and in particular the impact on Durban, we braced ourselves for a tough year - in fact we had expected a small deficit which we planned to fund from savings from prior years.

In fact, with thanks to God, we did much better than expected. We managed to raise R6,060,000 in income from a wide range of sources. This was 6% *higher* than we expected and we are immensely grateful to all those who support us: individuals, faith groups and corporate donors in Durban, other parts of South Africa and round the world; plus the tenants who use our building and help us cover our costs.

What is more, our expenses for the year, at R5,744,000 were 8% *lower* than expected, despite inflation, thanks to the excellent cost management of our team. Our budget for 2024 requires us to raise almost R16,000 per day (for

365 days) so we hope that we can continue to rely on our supporters. As part of our own 10th anniversary as an organisation, we are inviting our regular donors to look at increasing the amount that they pledge, if they are able.

The finances should be seen alongside another year of increases in activity as the problems of poverty in central Durban get worse and worse. Top-line numbers are that we served 169,000 meals (an increase of 4% on an already record number) and had over 17,000 consultations with patients in our clinic. It is bad news that the need is there – but good news that we can meet the need. Some more good news is that our booksellers made over R1/2 million selling second-hand books (a 28% increase over 2022)!

More data will be shared at the Annual Stakeholders Meeting which will be at the DHC at 2.30pm on Sat 10 Feb. Do join us in person if you can; if you cannot, a fuller report will be attached to next month's update. This meeting will be followed by special Memorial Masses at Emmanuel Cathedral at 5pm on Saturday 10 Feb and then at 8am and 10.30am on Sunday 11 Feb. All are welcome.

Also on Saturday 10 Feb we will be presenting this year's Barry Wood Awards for outstanding service by a staff member and by a volunteer. The photo below shows some of last year's winners and runners-up, with Justice Navi Pillay who presented the awards. As a supporter or partner of the DHC you can send your own nominations for this year in the next few days – see the attached for more details.

*(Photo by Niamh Walsh-Vorster).*



## **GOING GREEN 10 YEARS ON**

Our foundation stone (laid on 13 February 2014) quotes Jn 10:10 "I have come to give you life, life to the full". 10 years on, thanks to the judicious management of our reserves, means we have been able to make an investment that will deliver even more 'fullness of life' to all who use the DHC. We will save money and also protect our operations – because we have finally gone solar!

Paddy Kearney's archives show that it had always been his hope to install solar panels on the roof – and it was angled ready for that purpose. But the rising costs for the building and the urgency to complete the project meant that this got shelved. But we have now finally made good on Paddy's vision with the installation of 72 solar panels on the east-facing and north-facing sides of our roof.

Despite being very prudent in our use of electricity, our monthly power bill from the Municipality averaged R13,000 last year: so that means R160,000 per year just to keep the lights on – at least when Eskom co-operates! What is more, the cost increases from the electricity monopoly are regularly higher than inflation so that amount was just going to keep going up. Investing in solar gives us the prospect of saving half of each month's electricity bill which will be a substantially better return than keeping those reserves in the bank.

On top of that, the solar will give us some relief from the daily headache of load shedding which has meant a loss of power for two, sometimes four, hours each day. Solar power will mean we can bridge across the power gap and keep most things running. We will even be able to make sure the lift is operating – a relief for wheelchair users who have been worried about getting stuck upstairs.

The return on investment is especially good because we have benefited from a dramatic drop in the price of solar panels and were also given an excellent deal by HPS who installed the system. The photo at the top shows Phil Smit (far right, the co-owner) with two members of his team Bradley Lambooy and Nkosi Mchunu. We strongly recommend HPS to any organisation that is considering how to save money and also how to liberate themselves (at least in part) from Eskom.



## **TAKING THE HURLEY MESSAGE AROUND THE UK**

We hope that readers who have friends and family in the UK will share with them the news of a series of events in March which will enable us to share our message further afield. We especially look forward to connecting with expat South Africans who want to hear some good news from their country of origin.

First of all, on Saturday 2 March at Newman University in **Birmingham** we are co-hosting a conference called 'Meeting at the Crossroads'. This is a chance to learn from the practical experience that faith groups have had in working together to serve those in need: the homeless, refugees, children and the elderly. It was inspired by Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham who visited Durban 10 years ago and, as a UK Patron, has stayed abreast of what we have been doing at the DHC.

The Durban presentation will be made by Raymond and also Dr AV Mahomed, the Chair of the Jumma Musjid who are both travelling at their personal expense to attend and share the positive experience that we have had as an interfaith organisation. Also participating is Rev Rodgers Govender, originally from Durban and now Anglican Dean of Manchester. For more information about the conference [click here](#).

Then, in collaboration with the UK's Romero Trust, Raymond will embark on a lecture tour around the UK. He will be drawing parallels between the now canonised Archbishop, St Oscar Romero of El Salvador, and his exact contemporary Archbishop Denis Hurley of Durban. This is a kind of 'return match' since Julian Filochowski from the Romero Trust gave the annual Hurley lecture in Durban in 2011.

The talks will be as follows; [click here for more information](#):

- Fri 8 March - Blessed Sacrament Church, **Exeter** at 7pm
- Weds 13 March - St Aloysius College, **Glasgow** at 7pm (the first of three 'Gonzaga Lectures')
- Thurs 14 March - central **Leeds** (venue and time to be confirmed)
- Sat 16 March - St Martin-in-the-Fields, **London** at 11am

This last venue is especially significant. It is the parish church of the UK monarch and has itself a great history of serving the homeless of central London. It is located right next door to the SA High Commission - the sight of anti-Apartheid demonstrations during the Struggle and then a place that welcomed President Mandela after 1994. With such a weight of history on his shoulders, we hope that Raymond rises to the challenge!

*Photo: Archbishop Desmond Tutu stands in a typically wet Trafalgar Square in 2004 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Liberation - against the background of the spire of St Martin-in-the-Fields and the colonnade of South Africa House.*





## INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE

It is not just that we at the DHC get invited to inspire young people, but we also get the chance to meet some inspiring young people.

We started the school year with our now traditional half-day retreats for some of the young ladies of Fatima Dominican Convent School in Durban North. It is always a special joy to visit a school that +Hurley himself founded 70 years ago, after he was so appreciative of the experience he had had as a child at the Dominican school in Newcastle.

Across three days, we are with the full year groups from Grades 8, 10 and 12, giving them a chance to step out of their busy lives and pause. In total over 200 girls spend time meditating on scripture, reflecting on their deepest values and placing their hopes and desires in the hands of God. Given that the girls come from a range of Christian and other faith traditions, the retreat material is designed to help the participants connect with their own experience of spirituality, whatever it is, and also learn the value of reflection and silence.

The retreats draw on elements of Ignatian spirituality and, this year as in other years, we were assisted by the presence of a visiting Jesuit. Fr Thomas Idergard is from Sweden and is on placement with the DHC for six weeks as part of a formation course based up the coast at Zinkwazi Beach.

Fr Thomas will also this weekend be helping lead a group of young people preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation from St Joseph's Catholic parish Morningside. This is also a regular fixture as each year's group, under the watchful gaze of our dear friend Rose Morrow, comes to spend 18 hours at the DHC. The photo at the top shows this year's candidates with Fr Brett Williams, before his recent move to Chicago where he will be helping develop fundraising for the Archdiocese.

The group will celebrate Mass in our kitchen where they will also prepare food for themselves on Friday and for the homeless on Saturday - thus linking symbolically their acts of charity with the meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. They will be able to meet and share life stories with some homeless people and also spend time in candlelit prayer in Emmanuel Cathedral. They then have to sleep on the floor or the hard benches of the DHC (with only a piece of cardboard and a blanket) before waking to serve the homeless on Saturday morning, feeling in their own bones the aches and pains that our homeless guests feel every morning.

It is wonderful that young people are so willing to give themselves wholeheartedly to these kinds of activities and be open to hear God speaking to them through reflection and action. If you would like us to work with your school or parish groups to tailor something that suits your needs please do get in touch.

*Photo: Grade 12 girls from Fatima sharing in small groups about their hopes for life after Matric.*



Director: Raymond Perrier ([raymond@denishurleycentre.org](mailto:raymond@denishurleycentre.org) )  
Bookings: Jean-Marie Ntamubano ([jean-marie@denishurleycentre.org](mailto:jean-marie@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](http://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](mailto:leanne@denishurleycentre.org))
- by responding to this communication, you are consenting to us processing and using any personal information provided

Sent by  
[SendinBlue]

You received this email because you are registered with DenisHurleyCentre

[Unsubscribe here](#)

Sent by



© 2016 DenisHurleyCentre