

Invitation to Lent Retreat

The retreat is organised under the auspices of the Pretoria Christian Retreat Ministry and is open to all who are keen to draw closer to God.

Date: Saturday 5 April 2025, DV

08:30 (registration and tea) for 09:00 to 15:00

Leader: Rev Andrew Els, Eastview Methodist Church

Venue: Eastview Methodist church, Atterbury Road, Pretoria East (see directions below)

Suggested donation: R150.

Coffee, tea and light refreshments will be served.

Please bring: Bible, pen, notebook, YOUR OWN PACKED LUNCH, suggested donation R150.

Bookings: Please RSVP to Janie Fourie at janiefourie@outlook.com, or send an SMS or WHATSAPP to Janie Fourie at 082 467 4500 no later than 3 April 2025

***Directions to Eastview Methodist Church**

From Menlyn Shopping Mall travel East on Atterbury Road, cross Solomon Mahlangu (M10), cross DeVillebois Mareuil Drive (pass Plantland on the left). Continue 2 km (pass Mooikloof Estate on the right). Turn LEFT at the sign “EASTVIEW METHODIST CHURCH”. Enter THIRD gate on your RIGHT.

Preparing for a Lent Retreat

The 40 days of Lent is a reminder to believers that Jesus is the One we need. He resisted the temptation of the devil all the way to the cross of Good Friday so we could be forgiven, and He rose again from the dead on Easter Sunday to open death and the grave for us so we can live with our Creator and Savior eternally.

We want to suggest that you spend the days up to the retreat in reading and reflecting on **one** of the **four** Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. Each of these Gospels offers unique perspectives on Jesus' life and teachings, making them valuable for different aspects of Lenten reflection.

The gospel of Matthew emphasizes **Jesus as the Messiah and a new, authoritative teacher, highlighting his role in fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies and leading God's people** (Mat1:1-4:22; 4:23-9:35). Other passages in Matthew, such as the Sermon on the Mount

(Matthew 5-7), the instructions for the twelve disciples (Matthew 10), and the Parables of the Kingdom (Matthew 13), can provide further insights into **the Lenten themes of repentance, service, and discipleship**.

The gospel of Mark is unique because **it emphasizes Jesus' actions more than His teaching**. It is simply written, moving quickly from one episode in the life of Christ to another. After the introduction of Jesus at His baptism, Jesus began His public ministry in Galilee and called the first four of His twelve disciples. What follows is the record of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Mark's account is not just a collection of stories, but **a narrative written to reveal that Jesus is the Messiah, not only for the Jews, but for the Gentiles as well**. In a dynamic profession, **the disciples, led by Peter, acknowledged their faith in Him** (Mark 8:29-30), even though they failed to understand fully His Messiahship until after His resurrection.

The Gospel of Luke highlights Jesus's glory and power, offering hope and encouragement during the Lenten journey (**Luke 9:28-36**); **God's compassion and concern for the marginalized** (Luke 16:19-31), themes **of repentance and forgiveness** (Luke 13:1-9; Luke 15:1-7, 11-32); the **importance of prayer and the Holy Spirit** (Luke 4:1-13); being **merciful as your Father is merciful** (Luke 6:36-38); **the Lord's Prayer** (Luke 11:1-13) and the Last Supper (Luke 22:24-53).

The Gospel of John emphasizes Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God, highlighting his divinity and the importance of belief in him for eternal life (1:1-51; 20:31); the importance of the **Trinity** (14:1-31); **encounters with Jesus** (e.g. John 3:1-21; 4:5-42; 9:1-41; 11:1-45).