

Wednesday 4 September 2024

## 2024 LOG Newsletter

It has been quite a turbulent year since the 2023 LOG Reunion. As noted back in April, Mrs Frances (Swacina) Olver, LOG of 1951, passed away on 18 April of this year. It was fitting that the Requiem Mass of Frances was held in the School Chapel, given her long and affectionate relationship with Loreto Convent Skinner Street. In the last section of the LOG News below, please find a copy of the memorial read at the Requiem Mass.

Frances had been involved with the LOGS ever since leaving school but more specifically since 2011 as part of the organising of the LOG Reunion and handling LOG enquiries and updating the LOG Database and generally keeping all LOGS in contact, alongside Margaret (Wickham) Collins, also a 1951 LOG. We wish to thank them both for the dedication and loyalty to the Loreto Old Girls.

Margaret has decided to step back from direct involvement with organising the LOG Reunion, but we look forward to Margaret still joining us at the LOG Reunion and providing her invaluable input for many more years to come.

Unfortunately with the deteriorating health and subsequent passing of Frances, the 2023 Newsletter and Report from the 2023 Reunion could not be completed and sent out. A decision was made instead to put together a combined 2023 and 2024 LOG Newsletter and also to include the 2023 LOG Reunion Report in a combined mailing.

The Report of the 2024 LOG Reunion will be included with the 2025 LOG Newsletter when it is sent out next year. Please don't forget to send us your contributions for inclusion in the 2025 LOG Newsletter.

Please be assured that the annual LOG Newsletter and the physical annual LOG Reunion will continue. The LOG email address used now and previously to send out LOG correspondence will also remain valid and emails received will be responded to asap. DV.

A reminder; the 2025 LOG Reunion will be held on Saturday 4 October 2025. DV. Please diarise this now already for next year.

**NEWS OF LORETO SISTERS**

1. As previously noted, Sister Bernadette Wilczkiewicz passed away on 20 July 2024. Her Requiem Mass was held at 10am on Friday 26 July 2024 in the Nazareth House Chapel. Here follows a copy of the eulogy presented on the day by the Loreto Sisters. Our sincere condolences to the Loreto Sisters and her family on the passing of Sister Bernie.

**Eulogy for Sister Bernadette Wilczkiewicz IBVM**

Sister Bernie was a colourful character!

And perhaps she has been behind the choreography of today, as it is her feast day, and the anniversary of both her first and final vows.

Bernadette, as we all knew her, was actually her religious name. She was known as Hanka to her family (Polish for Anna) and Anna was indeed her baptismal name - Anna Ludwika.

She was born in Poland in 1935, one of three siblings. Her brother and sister were much older than her. War broke out in Europe when she was only four years old and she found herself deported with her family to Siberia in Russia. There began her life as a refugee under very harsh and difficult conditions. Her father was a medical doctor and found himself much needed during the war in various military situations. This meant separation from the family and any small salary that he received was used to smuggle his family to him in various places in Russia and eventually Tehran in Persia. These circumstances were harsh for Bernie; absence from her father, and constantly on the move with her mother, grand-mother and sister, often hungry and sleeping in the open without shelter, or crushed into overcrowded trains, or smuggled inside infirmary carriages with the sick and dying - a traumatic experience for any young child.

Eventually in 1944 her father was needed as a medical worker in South Africa. And then started another frightening journey for them through Persia to Karachi in present day Pakistan, from which they could get a very over-crowded boat to Mombasa in Kenya. During the last part of this journey they remained in a camp in Mombasa for about six months before her family set off once again following her father to South Africa. This time they travelled with about 500 Polish orphans by ship and train through what seemed to her like the whole of Africa; Lake Victoria, Tanganyika, Northern and Southern Rhodesia (now Zambia and Zimbabwe respectively) and finally South Africa.

Throughout these harsh journeys from the time of their first deportation from her native Poland, the steadfast faith of her family certainly kept them going. At the age of seven in a camp of 10,000 people in Tehran she recalls making her first Holy Communion, and as we know this remained important to Bernie throughout her life.

But another memory, this time from her Mombasa days remained with her for the rest of her life. She recalls earning pennies while in camp by selling wild tomatoes with a Swahili boy whom she had made friends with. When she had collected sufficient to buy something she asked her mother to come to the shop with her, a big mistake it turned out at that time. Bernie so wanted to buy sweets and suckers with her fortune, but her mother had other ideas. She had to buy a big ball of crotchet cotton so her mother could teach her how to crochet. While she claims to have hated her mother that day for what she did (remember Bernie was only about 7 or 8 years old at this stage), she came to appreciate it as her mother had used the occasion to teach her life-long skills of crocheting, knitting and embroidery. And all of us know that Bernie held onto these skills and used them profusely right up to the last months of her life. And we have been amazed that she still had the perfect eyesight and nimbleness of fingers to continue doing such intricate beautiful works, even in the early months of this year.

When she finally reached Outdshoorn in South Africa, Bernie attended the Holy Cross Convent School in George. When her father moved yet again to assist at a Mission in Swaziland it was difficult to find a suitable school for Bernie. It was then that friends in Swaziland told Bernie's mother about their daughter being at Loreto Convent in Lydenburg. And so began Bernie's long association with Loreto. She went there as a boarder in 1950 aged 15 years.

After a number of years finishing her schooling in Lydenburg where she was very happy, some post school studies and a short time away from home, she entered the novitiate on the 21st January 1955.

Bernie, being Bernie, the first adjustment she realised she would have to make was learning to adjust the volume of her laughter, to a slightly subdued giggle. But as most of us know, she could never subdue her laughter, and we have all enjoyed it over the years. After first profession she trained to be a teacher and taught at Skinner Street (now Nana Sita) in Pretoria. At that time South Africa and Kenya was part of one African Province and she was asked to go to Eldoret in Kenya. While she loved it there, she was constantly plagued with bad malaria and so had to leave the tropics after just two years. She was moved to Strand in the Western Cape (the furthest point from the tropics) and taught there for just over a year before going back to Lydenburg as a teacher. It felt like a homecoming for Bernie and she happily taught there for about four years until the school closed in 1968.

She describes that she felt like a real missionary going to teach in Sekhukuniland at the Loreto School in Glen Cowie immediately after Lydenburg, where she happily remained for the next 17 years. It seems that it was there, with the open space and the dogs and cats around that Bernie's great affinity with nature and animals was nurtured. Her next appointment to Queenswood was a big change for Bernie, but she only remained there for about a year before having a sabbatical and her own formative time at St Anselm's in England for one year.

On return from England Bernie became engaged with Spiritual Direction at St John Vianny Seminary in Pretoria. She continued with Spiritual Direction when she became a staff member in St Peter's seminary, and later St Francis Xavier seminary in Cape Town. All in all, Bernie spent around 15 years engaged with seminarians in these places, and many priests around the country have passed through her hands.

In the year 2000 Bernie was given sabbatical time and chose to spend three months in India. She had a great respect for eastern spirituality and was delighted to immerse herself in this as well as visiting many of our houses and schools in India during this time. She continued in the seminaries on her return and also contributed to female religious formation.

In more recent years she has continued with individual spiritual direction and reflexology, bringing much peace and wholeness in body, mind and spirit to many individuals. While these activities had petered out in the last couple of years only, her creativity remained until the end. Her needlework has been phenomenal, both in colour and detail, and many have received items of beauty through her great generosity.

I can't believe I have got this far without mentioning her great love of animals, and two dogs in particular come to mind; Patsy who I know was with her at St Peter's seminary and Tootsie, who lived with her in Luttig Street and even managed to come and stay with her and Sister Eileen in Nazareth House! Cats too were a real favourite for her. Part of our Ignatian spirituality is that we can find God in all things; and nature, animals and plants, as well as colour, and the great variety of people that Bernie engaged with over her lifetime, were all surely sources of, or a manifestation of God's love in her life.

It seems Bernie became very free in her vocation when she experienced and believed, as in her own words she described 'you have only one love that you possess, and one lover who possesses you, and then you love everybody as you want'.

I think we can all testify to Bernie's great love for everyone and indeed everything, indeed life itself! And while we experience her great loss, may she herself now experience the true fullness of life in the presence of her risen Lord.

And please do share your own experience of her colourful character with each other over a cup of tea after Mass - she would love it!

2. Mid-way through 2023, Sister Emer went on holiday to Ireland, part of the time visiting fellow Loreto Sisters and part of the time visiting her family. Here follows her summary of the visit.

### Home Holiday 2023

I was greeted in Ireland by a big shower of rain, the first for me in many months! That was a special joy! Ireland was displaying 40 shades of green! In Loreto Abbey House, I was delighted to meet so many sisters whom I knew and had met over the years. As we gathered each morning for Mass I experienced a great sense of peace, being among sisters who had lived long lives of service and now were giving their time to the ministry of prayer. A special highlight of my time in the Abbey was the conversations I had with a school companion who had entered the same year as me. We shared many memories from school life and stories from our journeys as sisters. Sister Brid was a good correspondent who kept me up to date over the years. Although Sister Brid had not had an opportunity to visit South Africa, she was interested in all our ministries and people in my life.

My next visit was to Loreto Convent Navan which holds a special place in the history of Loreto in South Africa. The first sisters who came to South Africa had been students at Navan. Sister Margaret Mary Jolivet with her companions came at the request of her uncle Bishop Jolivet OMI and began the first Loreto School at Skinner Street in 1878. Many of us remember some of those sisters who followed afterwards from Navan viz Sisters Teresita, Scholastica, Ursula and Josephine. Sister Marie Brady was missioned to South Africa with me in 1960 and now lives in Navan. After a lifetime in Education, Marie spent 21 years in Prison Ministry in Cape Town and returned to Ireland in 2018. We had much to share.

While I was in Navan I had an opportunity to visit Loreto Balbriggan where Sisters Monica and Rosaleen now live. Some may remember Sister Germaine who taught here before being missioned to East Africa and who is now in Balbriggan. It was a good catch up time for all of us, where we fulfilled a long time in a short space!! We remembered our dear sisters who spent the last chapter of their lives in Balbriggan viz Sisters Columbanus, Shirley and Immacula and are buried in the convent cemetery. When I returned to Nazareth House where Sisters Bernadette, Deirdre and I now live, I met Mrs Margie Brown (Reynolds) who was delighted to hear about Sister Germaine, her favourite teacher at school.

It was great to meet my younger sister and brother, their children and grandchildren, I think it will take the rest of my life to process and savour all the meetings, conversations, celebrations and special times together! Back in South Africa I am filled with gratitude for the gift of this holiday and that all kept well during it. Blessings. Emer

3. Otherwise, at Nazareth House, Pretoria, the other Sisters are hale and hearty and keeping busy with their various activities.

4. Go to [www.ibvm.org](http://www.ibvm.org) for further information on the activities of Loreto Sisters.

## **SCHOOL NEWS**

A. It was in March this year that we learnt of the sudden passing of Mrs Renée d'Oliveira. Renée d'Oliveira was a past Teacher and past Principal at Loreto Convent School, and loving wife to Jan d'Oliveira (a Loreto Old Boy). Our sincere condolences to Jan, their children and extended family, and all who knew her. Renée had such a positive impact on so many lives.

Here follows a copy of the synopsis of her life as presented by her children at her Requiem Mass held on 7 March 2024 in Pretoria.

## **SYNOPSIS OF THE LIFE OF RENEE D'OLIVEIRA**

- Renee d'Oliveira was born Renee Valerie Ann Roux on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 1946 at the Moedersbond in Pretoria.
- Her father was the director of the Pretoria Mint, and her mother an accomplished musician and a university lecturer.
- She lived together with them and her two brothers, Jack and Paul, at Mint house in Pretoria, before moving to Marais Street, Brooklyn.
- Renee attended Andries Pretorius Primary school and then Afrikaans Meisies Hoerskool where she matriculated in 1964
- In this, the first part of her life, Renee spent weekends and holidays camping and fishing with her family. This is where her deep love of nature and the outdoors had its roots.
- On leaving school, Renee wanted to be a nurse but because her father disapproved of this vocation, she enrolled at Pretoria University in 1965 where she would eventually complete a BA and a BA honours degree, with a view to teaching English and French.
- At university she joined the student hiking group and played guitar for the Anglican student group.
- In 1967, at an ecumenical student leadership weekend in Magoebaskloof, she met a young (and rather handsome) law student named Jan d'Oliveira
- Despite stiff competition, amongst others from the son of a dominee, Jan won Renee's affections and a lifelong romance began.

## **GISELA**

- Renee's first teaching posts were at the Milner School in Klerksdorp and at Kempton Park High between 1967 and 1970
- During this period, Jan would travel from Pretoria to visit Renee on weekends. (In those days it cost a whole 25c to fill the car's tank with petrol.)
- Renee and Jan were married on 16 December 1970 at St Pius the Tenth in Waterkloof.
- In the first years of her marriage, Renee taught French and English at CBC.
- On 16 July 1974, Renee gave birth to their first child, Valerie.
- Soon after the birth, the couple moved to Heidelberg in Germany where Jan conducted research for a doctorate degree.

- It was there that on 1 November 1975, Renee gave birth to their second daughter, Gisela. (Apparently the German midwives were impressed by the fortitude with which my Mom endured labour and childbirth: “Ja, these women from Africa are very strong!”.)
- After their return to South Africa, Jan and Renee settled back down in their home in Doringkloof
- On 1 March 1977, Renee’s mother Valerie, to whom Renee was very close, died suddenly of a heart attack. Renee was comforted in her sorrow by the hymn “I am the Bread of Life”. It is for this reason that this was chosen as today’s recessional hymn
- Also during 1977, and after several years of prayer and enquiry, Renee decided to become a Catholic. She was received into the Church and confirmed in the private chapel of Archbishop George Daniel in October 1977.
- In February 1978, Renee gave birth to their first son, Adrian.
- In 1979, the Loreto Sisters at the Convent in Skinner Street requested Renee to help out by being an ad hoc relief teacher, which she did while the nuns looked after her three children
- This was Renee’s first contact with Sr Mary Ward and the Loreto school tradition
  
- In March 1981, Renee gave birth to Renee and Jan’s fourth child, Francis
- At this stage, Renee and Jan had moved to Irene, where they lived together with their four children and Jan’s mother, Louise.
- From 1981 to 1986, Renee enjoyed happy years in Irene as the full-time mother of four, still serving every now and then as a relief teacher at Loreto Convent and at Lyttelton High School

## FRANCIS

- In 1986, Renee moved with Jan and the family to Grahamstown, after Jan was appointed Attorney General of the Eastern Cape
- It was there that in September 1986, Renee gave birth to their fifth child, Edward.
- Between 1986 and 1990, and in addition to being a mother of five, Renee
  - o worked part time as a student assistant at Rhodes University
  - o ministered to the mentally infirm at the local mental hospital, Fort Hare;
  - o served as the District Commissioner of Girl Guides; and
  - o founded a company of Brownies in a poor community in the township of Sunnyside, where she taught young girls basic hygiene and arranged for the distribution of hygiene packs
  
- In January 1990, Renee and Jan suffered the tragic death of their 3 year old son, Edward
- Following this tragedy, they formed a local bereavement group for parents whose children had died. The trees planted by the group in memory of their deceased children still grow on the hill outside Grahamstown today
- In 1992, Jan was promoted to the position of Attorney General of the Transvaal with the result that the family moved back to Pretoria
- After settling the family in their new home in Lynnwood Glen, Renee took up a teaching post at Loreto Convent, teaching English, Religious studies and later, French
- In 1996, Renee became the principal of Loreto Convent, Skinner Street, a position she held for 10 years

- Seeing the wider need for Catholic education she further equipped herself by studying an Advanced Certificate in Education with Specialisation in Education Management at Pretoria University in 2005
- After retiring as principal, Renee worked for the Catholic Schools Office, which supported 13 schools in the greater Pretoria area
- While still employed by the Catholic Schools Office, Renee studied part time at the University of St Augustine, where she obtained a Masters in Religious Education and Pastoral Theology in 2008
- She would return to St Augustine's some years later, where she obtained a Higher Certificate in Biblical Studies in 2016

## VALERIE

- On 28 October 2014, Renee was awarded a Papal Bene Merenti Medal in recognition of her services to Christian education
- Renee was then asked by the Archbishop of Pretoria, to train teachers in religious education
- Renee ran the course, known as "Echoing the Word", for many years until 2020
- In 2020, Renee retired from Catholic education
  
- Between 2020 and December 2023, Renee enjoyed retired life together with Jan in their home in Blenheim Mews, which they nicknamed Dolly's Cottage
- During this period
  - o she travelled with Jan to different countries with a group of Jan's friends from university known as the "SpeelGroupie"
  - o she regularly visited the family in Perth, and helped out there whenever there was a need
  - o she knitted blankets for the poor as part of a knitting group
  - o she continued her lifelong enjoyment of reading with her bookclub
  - o she learned to play her father's Mandolin; and
  - o she enjoyed being a grandmother to her 9 grandchildren
  
- On 16 December 2023, Renee and Jan celebrated the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of their marriage
- On 17 December 2023, and without warning, Renee felt a sharp pain in the middle of her back
- She was admitted to hospital in early January 2024 where she underwent tests and following that, surgery
- While in hospital recovering from surgery, Renee contracted a series of infections that would cause her much suffering and eventually end her life

Renee died shortly after midday on 2 March 2024 at the Life Hospital in Groenkloof, surrounded by family and with Jan by her side.

B. On 19 July 2022, Heinz Büttner, beloved husband of Mrs Linda Büttner, passed away in Pretoria. Linda Büttner is a much loved past Teacher and past Deputy Principal at Loreto School. Our sincere condolences to Linda, their two sons and the extended family.

C. For news on the Schools, please refer to the following websites for information:

1. Loreto Convent School, Nana Sita Road (previously Skinner Street) Pretoria at [www.loreto.co.za](http://www.loreto.co.za)
2. Loreto School Queenswood at [www.loreto.schoolqueenswood.com](http://www.loreto.schoolqueenswood.com)
3. Loreto Primary School, Strand, Cape, at [www.loreto.co.za](http://www.loreto.co.za)

## **LORETO OLD GIRLS NEWS**

### **LOG News**

1. Report from the 2023 LOG Reunion.

We had a fair turnout of LOGS coming together at the Reunion; with a mixture of LOGS covering a wide range of years out of school. There were about 35 people in total, including some of the current and past staff members from the School.

Thank you to everyone who came and made the day so enjoyable. We hope to see you joining us again at future Reunions and bringing along some of your class mates.

We would like to thank the following, without whom we would not have been able to have such a successful Reunion: in no particular order, and should we have omitted someone it was not intentional: Father Reynolds for saying Mass and joining us afterwards for the celebrations; Mrs Suzette Truter and the school community for their generous hosting of and assistance with the reunion; Mrs Suzette Truter and Mrs Sherilyn Haupt for joining us on the day; Mrs Maria Correia for all the various times for your invaluable assistance and joining us on the day; Mr Jabu and Mrs Karen Nkosi for support staff and kindness; Mrs Natache Stoman for assistance with the website; Boitumelo at reception; Violet Nyirenda for arrangements in the Chapel; Amy Van Der Colff and Kimberly Nkosi our two altar servers on the day; Motlatsi Morolo and Margaret Collins our readers on the day; Elsa Bastos and Alida Cosani who did the offertory procession on the day; Jaksa and Ursula Jadrijevic for the music and singing accompaniment on the day; Margaret Collins and her team of helpers who set up everything in the Staffroom; Beverley Terry and team for extraordinarily and magically putting together the amazing flower arrangements for the altar and the Staffroom; Beverley Terry for leading the proceedings in the Staffroom; Thomas and Jeanne-Marie for helping with various tasks; and to each and every LOG who joined us and brought along the delicious eats.

Our sincere apologies to Alida Cosani for omitting to include the passing of her brother, Mario, as part of the Mass of the 2023 Reunion. It was a regrettable oversight on our behalf, please accept our apologies.

We are sorry that the Loreto Sisters were unable to join us but we hope to see them at the next Reunion.

The Golden Girls celebrated are as follows. We have now caught up on everyone who had missed previously because of Covid. Going forward it will be only those in attendance at the LOG Reunion of their anniversary year as a Golden Girl who will be celebrated.

<b>Golden Girls</b>	<b>50 years out of school</b>				
<b>Maiden Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Year left</b>	<b>School</b>
(Lawrence)	Jenny	Bornman	Mrs	1970	Skinner
(Nusca)	Lucia	Madonna	Mrs	1970	Skinner
(Brown)	Virginia	Schoombie	Mrs	1970	Skinner
	Elsa	Bastos	Ms	1971	Skinner



Photo of the Golden Girls

2. We note with sadness the passing of Pamela (Parsons) Alves (Lydenburg 1968). Our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Herewith is a copy of the message received in June 2023 from her son David.

Pamela Rosemary Alves sadly passed away suddenly on 08.05.2023. She is survived by her sons, David and Matthew Alves. She was recently laid to rest in Espinho, Portugal with her late husband Tony Cardoso Alves on 06.05.2023.

3. We note too with sadness the passing of Pamela's sister, Beryl (Parsons) Christi (also from Lydenburg). Our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Shannon (Khun) Abdo (Skinner 1969) let us know of Beryl's passing in July of 2023. Shannon spent part of her schooling at Lydenburg before it closed and she completed at Skinner Street, but the Lydenburg group still to this day have a special bond.

4. We note with sadness the passing of Derek Odendaal, beloved father of Natasha Odendaal (Skinner 1987), on 24 June 2023. Our sincere condolences to Natasha, her brothers and extended family.

5. At the end of June 2023 we learnt of the passing of past teacher, Mrs Muriel Stewart, who taught at Loreto Convent in the mid to late 1970s. Thomas Olver (Skinner Loreto Old Boy, with the 1987 Skinner LOGS, matriculated CBC 1987) wrote the following memorial at the time of her passing for her family who now live in the United Kingdom.

In memory of Muriel Stewart

Pretoria, 2023-07-14

I would like to offer our deepest condolences to Mervyn, Sarah, Helen and Richard on the loss of Muriel Stewart.

It was a strange but lucky coincidence that Muriel Stewart ended up being my teacher at Loreto Convent Skinner Street, where I started school in grade 1 in 1976. I still can't fathom the stars that had to align for this wonderful, exuberant lady from the other side of the world to land in a classroom in Pretoria, but they were doubtlessly my lucky stars. It was my very good fortune and an absolute privilege to be in her class that year, because Muriel was the most fantastic teacher anybody could hope for, especially to kick off a life-long adventure of learning.

Muriel had a way of making every lesson an exciting adventure, and fun was guaranteed at each step of the way in her class. It was like that right from day one. I was terribly overwhelmed by this new world of school but Muriel gently comforted me and dried my tears, and shepherded me to my desk. Within minutes I had forgotten how scared I was, and the day flew by. Before I knew it, the bell rang and it was time to go home. From then the pattern was clear: each day I looked forward to going to school to be in Mrs Stewart's classroom again for the next exhilarating chapter in our journey of learning.

It was Muriel who taught me to read, and she helped me overcome my shyness without drawing attention to it or making a fuss. Each child in her class felt special and she facilitated a warm, welcoming environment where learning was easy. Muriel created a foundation in each of us for the future and inculcated not only a love of reading but also a love of learning and knowledge. Thanks to her, my first year of school lives as a blissfully happy memory.

My mom Frances Olver and Muriel became firm friends in that year, and in later years when Muriel had stopped teaching to have her own beautiful children, the Stewarts were good family friends, and I have many happy memories of visiting at their house in Vorna Valley, where Muriel always made us feel like part of the family. There was a smile on her face constantly, and she had a very smart sense of humour and an absolutely infectious laugh; she enjoyed good conversation and always had intelligent, witty and stimulating insights on any topic of discussion. Her command and love of the English language still inspires me. It was a sad day for us when the Stewarts left for the UK, and over the years since then it has meant a lot to us staying in touch despite the great physical distance.

There is a part of me that still cannot accept Muriel's passing, and I continue to think of her as she was that summer day in early 1976, welcoming me with kindness and exuberance into her class. She lives on in the learning that she so generously gave me and many other children who were lucky to be taught by her.

6. Jeanne-Marie (Fouché) Murray (Skinner 1988) is keeping up her various crochet projects for family and friends. Her daughter, Maxine Murray, is successfully continuing with her photography studies in Stellenbosch.

7. Father Mike Van Heerden (Strand Loreto Old Boy) from Durbanville Cape Town gives upliftment:

Dear Parishioner

We know from the creed that we say each Sunday that when we talk about the Trinity, we are professing our belief that there is only one God who exists in three co-equal Persons. How this mystery of faith has been reflected upon over the centuries shows that there are two ways in which the Church has approached this truth of faith. The first approach is to contemplate the mystery from the perspective of the **unity** of the three Persons in the one substance of God and then move to an understanding of the three diverse Persons; or, one can, inversely, contemplate the **diversity** of the three Persons and then move towards an understanding of their unity.

**Understanding the Trinity from the perspective of unity can be done by looking first at our experience of what unity is.** When you study cosmology or the being of the universe, a fundamental law emerges. This is called in science the **holon principle**: everything that exists is a unity of parts - but is also, at the same time, part of a greater unity. Even at the most basic levels of being, the atomic and subatomic levels we see this principle apply. Atoms we know are comprised of a unity among more elemental particles and, in turn, join together in molecules to form higher levels of unity. Similarly, we as human beings, created in the image of God, are a unity of parts, but in turn we are also part of the greater unities of Church and society. A story is told about a patient who was suffering from depression and went to see the famous psychologist Abernathy. After careful examination, Abernathy said to the gentleman: “You need amusement, go and witness the performance of the comedian Grimaldi in the circus running now in the city. He will make you laugh and that will be better for you than any drug”. The patient threw his hands in despair and said: “But Doctor, I am Grimaldi”.

We as people need each other to be more fully human – more fully who we are. Similarly, as God is pure Spirit – God is a spiritual unity of three persons that makes God complete and perfect as the Supreme Being – this is the highest unity of all. In one analogy, St Augustine explains God’s unity as God the Father knows Himself in His Son who as the Truth of God and the Son knows Himself in the Father who begets the Truth – as They are both perfect They cannot but love the perfection of the Other and this Love exchanged between them is the Holy Spirit. This unity is complete in itself which means that God lacks nothing and in no way is compelled to create the universe in order to know Himself - as some authors have said.

God creates the seen and unseen creation not because God lacks something; but, in order to freely share His being of Love and Truth with other beings (the angels and the saints) as God draws them into the unity of His life. Because unity is the very nature of God - means that it is reflected at every level of God’s creation. God revealed Himself to Moses in the burning bush as: “I Am who I Am” – the living source of all that exists. And, if God the source of everything is a Unity, then we can say that “to be - is to be a unity”. Death is the breakdown of that unity – its dissolution into its separate parts. So when our physical unity disintegrates in death - our own spiritual unity is maintained by the indissoluble unity of the Trinity – as

what is mortal puts on what is immortal That is why God is God of the living and not the dead (Mk 12:27).

Christ tells us in today's gospel that if we have faith then we are the adopted children of God and it is that relationship that ensures that we do "not perish but have eternal life". It is good to be reminded of that hope at this time of pandemic. Probably the first pandemic the Church lived through was in 240 AD and it had very similar symptoms to those of the corona virus today. St Cyprian of Carthage wrote quite extensively about the pandemic, but he also wrote the following reminder to the survivors:

*Our brethren who are freed from this world by the Lord's summons are not to be lamented, since we know that they are not lost, but sent before; that, departing from us, they precede us as travellers, as navigators are accustomed to do; that they should be desired, but not bewailed; that the black garments should not be taken upon us here, when they have already taken upon them the white raiment there.*

–St. Cyprian of Carthage

**We can also approach the mystery of the Trinity from the diversity among the three Persons of the Godhead.** The Father is the source of all that exists: He begets His Son from all eternity and that means that the Love between them – the Holy Spirit – is also coeternal with the Father and Son. We are accustomed to speak of God the Father as Creator, Christ the Son as Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit as the Sanctifier. God creates the whole universe through His Son.

In today's first reading, Moses encounters God in the cloud on Mount Sinai and God introduces Himself as a God who is "merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" – this steadfast love and faithfulness of God is shown in that fact that God always wants His people to strive after what is best for them - that which is life-giving.

Salvation history has proved, however, the words of Moses that people are "stiff-necked", stubborn in their ways of abusing their freedom. Nonetheless, God's mercy is shown in the fact that, as Jesus says in today's gospel reading: "God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him". This redeeming work of the Son is continued until the end of time by the Holy Spirit working through the Church to bring about the Kingdom of God.

A saint we do not hear much about these days is St Aelred of Rievaulx (1110 – 1167 AD) – a Cistercian monk in England and one of the most inspired writers of the Middle Ages. He grew up in the court of King David I of Scotland and rose very quickly to be one of the favourites of the King. After his mother died, however, St Aelred went through a period of deep depression and questioning. One night he remembered that he had not looked in the box sent from his mother's estate after her death – among other things he found a little pair of bronze shoes that were replicas of the ones he had worn at his First Holy Communion. Inside was a note from his mother. She reminded him of what had happened on that day of his First Communion. He called to her from the lounge to come quickly – putting down her cooking she went to the lounge to see him standing in the warm rays of the sun streaming in through the window. "Look Mom – God is smiling at me." This was the turning point in his life – he left the court of the king – to serve God and bring His light into the world.

Another analogy used by St Augustine for the Trinity is that of the sun: the large burning ball of fire is like the Father, the Son is like the light given off by the sun and the Holy Spirit is like the heat given off by the sun. To sit in the sun is really to sit in the light and heat given off by the sun – similarly to know God is to be in the light of the Truth of Christ and to be moved in our hearts by the Love of the Holy Spirit. Imagine, however, a human Father who is simultaneously Father to his children, spouse to his wife and work colleague to those at his workplace. While interacting with his wife he does not cease to be a Father and a work colleague. So too with God, while certain actions are appropriated to one of the Person of the Trinity – such as creation to the Father, Redemption to the Son and Sanctification to the Spirit – where one Person is active the other two are also active. So Christ can say that He and the Father will dwell in us if we allow the Holy Spirit into our lives. Notice how Paul greets the Corinthians in our second reading today: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all”.

Easter blessings – Fr Mike

8. In July 2023, we learnt of the passing of Pamela (Rudolph) Sinovich (Hillcrest 1963) from her sister Eileen (Rudolph) Toich (Hillcrest 1967). Our sincere condolences to Eileen and her extended family and friends.

RIP Pamela Sinovich (née Rudolph) - 02.08.1946 - 08.07.2023

It is with a very sad heart that I send you this news of my beloved sister's passing. She was diagnosed with Lymphoma Cancer in November 1922 and left us on 8th July 2023. She bore her illness with courage and grace and was at peace, always trusting in God's will for her life. She is sadly missed by her husband of fifty-three years, Vincent, her three children and four grandchildren.

Pam was a weekly boarder at Loreto Hillcrest, Pretoria, from grade one to matric (1952 - 1963).

With love, Eileen (Toich - née Rudolph)

9. Father Kevin Reynolds (Skinner and Hillcrest Loreto Old Boy) from Pretoria gives consolation:

**Great Love, Great Suffering**  
***Father Kevin Reynolds***

June 29, 2023, the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, marked my fifty-fifth anniversary of priestly ordination.

Certainly the last year of that period was the most challenging for me in my pastoral ministry. In a matter of twelve months I suffered the loss of more close relatives, friends and former parishioners than I had ever experienced in my life.

To sustain me in grieving the passing of so many loved ones I fortunately read again Father Richard Rohr's 2019 book, *The Universal Christ*. This work by the well known American Franciscan priest is the summit of his lifelong theological career.

Fr Rohr explains in his tome that the cross is the most easily identified symbol of Christianity. It basically comprises two intersecting beams that represent *great love* (healing) and *great suffering* (woundedness). He further explains that these were the transforming paths along which Jesus Himself walked humanity back to God. In fact, the point of the beams' intersection represents the reality of the resurrection.

In applying Fr Rohr's view of such love and suffering to my deceased loved ones, I can joyfully accept their passing is essentially their entry into the eternal glory of the resurrection, perfect relationship with the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

What a consolation this is for me!

In my sadness of losing so many loved ones I again read Paddy Kearney's 2009 definitive biography of Archbishop Denis Hurley OMI, *Guardian of the Light*. My favourite anecdote in it describes the Archbishop and his Vicar-General at the time, Fr Eric Boulle OMI, driving one Sunday morning to a confirmation Mass. Fr Boulle says, "I guess, Denis, you will again preach on the resurrection". Archbishop Hurley replies, "Eric, is there anything else?"

Indeed, our belief in the resurrection is everything.

10. Patricia (Pat) (Mc Vitty) Venning (Hillcrest 1966) lives in Australia. Pat sent us the following three photographs from the years she was in Standard 9 and 10. Pat would like to make contact with any of her fellow students from the time. Should you wish to, please contact us indicating as such and we will put you in touch with Pat.





Above, the Matric dance

11. The Hillcrest 1973 LOGS held a get-together for their group on 7 October 2023 as their celebration as Golden Girls, 50 years out of school. Elena Bielich and Barbara (Valenta) Burge sent us the following from the day. There is a copy of the report, a copy of Elena's speech, a group photograph from the day, and a copy of a selection of the "snippets" from letters that Barbara wrote to her mother during the time Barbara was a boarder at school.

#### The Report:

On Saturday 7 October 2023, a group of 14 of us were very privileged to meet for our 50th school reunion at Riboville Boutique Hotel in Waterfall Equestrian Estate. We were delighted to welcome Susan Pick (née Leggott) from the UK and Melanie Robertson (née Bartholomew) from the US. Teresa Botha, Elsa Geldenhuys (née Rall) and Susan van der Spek (née Taylor), who left at the end of 1970, travelled from Cape Town and Carol Cuthbert (née Taylor), who left in 1972, from KZN. Pam Ferreira, who left Hillcrest at the end of Std 5, joined us from Pretoria, as well as Elena Bielich, Beverley Pullin and Sharon Mitrie. Diana Gordon-Grant (née Hattingh), Carol Seady, Margaret Ballentine (née Craig) and Barbara Burge (née Valenta) represented the Johannesburg contingent.

Elena's welcome speech introduced us to the 400-year history of Loreto Convents worldwide, including South Africa. It was mentioned that Loreto Hillcrest opened its doors in 1923 – a 100 years ago! It was noted that as old girls we form an integral part of this history. Mention was made of the ethos and the impact that Loreto Convent had made on our lives.

Diana's prayer gave us a moment to reflect, and Carol's "Icebreaker" highlighted her literary talent, a poem humorously describing each person present and the time each spent at Loreto. During the course of our outstanding main course, Barbara read snippets from her Std 9 and Std 10 letters to her mother. There were some interesting and amusing details, which sparked a lot of impromptu chatter! Barbara was a boarder for 9 years! In this group, Elena, Sharon and Beverley were at Loreto from Grade 1 to Matric.

Sadly, 5 members have passed on and moving tributes were displayed with their photos in frames on our "memory table".

Teresa Botha very efficiently handled the administration and communication regarding the event.

The decor and flowers were inspired and displayed by Barbara, Sharon and Elena. The table decorations included gold, light blue and white serviettes. Glass bowls of yellow and white roses, tinged with gentle blue flowers, depicting our Loreto school colours, decorated the tables.

The time passed too quickly! It was a special day spent with very special people!

#### Elena's speech:

#### **Elena Welcome Speech 1973 50<sup>th</sup> School Reunion**

I'm delighted to welcome you all to the Class of 1973's 50th school reunion celebration.

Thank you so much to each one of you for coming to be part of this special occasion. A special welcome to our classmates who left us before we matriculated. We are so happy that you are happy to join us. No going away again please!

- Carol Cuthbert from Durban
- Susan van der Speck from Cape Town
- Pam Ferriera from Pretoria

A warm welcome to those who have travelled long distances to be here today:

- Susan Pick from the UK
- Melanie for USA
- Elsa and Teresa from Cape Town

You have all made an enormous effort. We are so grateful for this and so happy that we can spend time with you.

And to Barbi, Diana, Sharon, Beverley, Carol and Margie - a very warm welcome too. Margie, it is so good to see you.

Those of you who were at my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday may remember that I used the analogy of a tapestry. I was not going to but am using it again today. The history of Loreto Convent may not be the Bayeux Tapestry, but it certainly captures the essence of many, many scenes and stories through the history of the Loreto Convent School.

To put it in perspective - we are continuing a tradition that started over 400 years ago. The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM), whose members were known as the Loreto Sisters, was founded by Mary Ward in 1609 at St-Omer in Northern France.

- In 1688 the first convent school was founded in Bar in the UK.
- In 1821 the Irish branch of the Blessed Virgin Mary opened its doors. Mother Frances Teresa Ball, educated at Bar Convent in York, opened the first convent in Ireland. It became known as Loreto Abbey, Rathfarnham, Dublin.
- Loreto Convent School in Pretoria was founded on 7 June 1878 by Mother Margaret Mary Jolivet, Mother Joseph Colahan and Mother Teresa Colahan, at Loreto Convent, Skinner Street, with 20 pupils in the high school and 6 in the junior.
- 100 years ago, in 1923 Hillcrest Loreto was opened its doors.

For over 400 years, successive generations have contributed to the woven threads of the Loreto tapestry. So, one can only imagine how many 50<sup>th</sup> reunions have been held through 4 centuries?

And what a blessing and a rejoicing it is today to be part of such a huge tapestry of countless scenes and stories. The booklet captures some of the woven stories and threads that have come together as our contribution to the tapestry.

Does it seem possible that this time 50 years ago we had started studying for our Matric exams?

62 years ago, as baby boomers, some of us started in Grade 1 in the corner classroom in the junior quadrangle at Loreto Hillcrest. We were Sr Marie's first class and she taught us History in Matric 12 years later. Some of us had a farewell tea for her before she left to retire in Ireland. There is a picture in the booklet as well.

As a member of the Class of 1973, I am flooded with memories, as I am sure you all are. We are hoping you will share some of these memories as the day progresses.

I am also interested to hear what prompted our parents to choose Loreto Hillcrest for their daughter's education.

Before I ask Diana to say the Prayer, I wish to thank the committee that helped to get this occasion off the ground. Last year, we discussed how early in 2023 we would launch the idea of today's celebration. Teresa was amazing as she prompted us to get going and to reach out to all to announce the date.

She and Barbi then embarked on a mission of tracing as many of you as they could. It has been heart-warming to have our friends who left after Standard 5 and those with whom we had lost contact responding and joining us today.

Thank you, Teresa and Barbi, for all the time and effort you put into this quest. Barbi has been relentless in collecting photos and assisting with the booklet that we put together. She was also instrumental in the tributes to our friends who passed on. The framed tributes to Scarlet, Shawn, Stephanie, Olga and Lynne were collected and framed by her. They are very moving and worth reading.

Thank you also to Sharon who helped with the table decorations and the table of mementos. Carol and Diana, thank you for your contribution to the proceedings.

You will notice in the booklet that we have listed names of those who are not with us today. Besides others mentioned, Teresa's persistent searching resulted in her finding Joan Jennings in Fishhoek.

Maryanne Sinovich, who was a year below us at Hillcrest (as was her brother, George, co-owner of Riboville) has been extremely accommodating and kind to her older school friends. I thank her and her team as well.

It remains for me to wish you all a happy and memorable afternoon.

1973 Hillcrest Group photograph from October 2023:

**Group photo back row from left to right:**

Elena Bielich; Beverley Pullin; Susan Pick (née Leggott); Elsa Geldenhuys (née Rall); Melanie Robertson (née Bartholomew); Pam Ferreira (née Thompson); Susan van der Spek (née Taylor).

**Front row from left to right:** Carol Cuthbert (née Taylor); Carol Seady; Teresa Botha; Barbara Burge (née Valenta); Sharon Mitrie; Margaret Ballentine (née Craig); Diana Gordon-Grant (née Hattingh).



Here follows a selection of the “snippets” from letters that Barbara wrote to her mother during the time Barbara was a boarder at school:

Letters to my mother from a Loreto Convent Hillcrest Boarder

Feb 1972

Ballroom dancing is rather fun. The boys did not arrive last week so we learnt the basic steps of the waltz, cha-cha and quick-step and also all the turning. It was rather fun.

Our gala against Town Convent is on 9th March. We have made up a whole lot of new waltz cries and songs. I think we have beaten them for something like twenty years now. If we don't beat them this year!!

March 1972

Last night was extremely boring. We were promised that we would be going to see a film at C.B.C., but then sister changed her mind. We then decided to practise our ballroom dancing. I can do the slow waltz, quick waltz, rumba, palle glide, cha-cha and quick step with variations. I am most restless - is that the right word?  
I bought a new hockey stick yesterday.

Jan 1973

We went to see "Hello, Dolly" at C.B.C. last night. It was most enjoyable. The nurse said they do not mind how often we go to C.B.C. as long as we aren't bored during the weekends, they'll be happy.  
I am the Yennie Captain. I

unusually, I cannot wait.  
We all get up at 5.45 to do training for our gala, which is next Thursday. The water was beautiful this morning but

afternoon.  
Our early morning swimming sessions have been killing me. I gave the Captain a mouthful when she woke me up on Friday, but then I finally convinced myself that it was for my own good. If we don't beat Town Convent this Thursday, we'll never be forgiven by our Past pupils. It would be outrageous.

away ones runs.  
Last Monday night's drama lesson was a great deal of fun. Oh yes, I did tell you about it, didn't I? We learnt how to walk with high-heeled shoes last Wednesday. We also learnt how to bend down and pick up keys. I hope you'll see a change in my me.

March 1973

We learnt how to sit and sit down last Wednesday, and we practised picking up objects. We shall be doing wardrobe planning next week. That should be interesting.

May 1973

We are having a debate this Friday evening on Television and Elena, Carol (Seady) and I have to talk. Our C.B.C. rivals are excellent speakers, so there will be some fun.  
Margaret, Carol and I stayed with Elna. It was super fun. Foot Mrs Bielech.

12. A few weeks ago the 1974 Hillcrest LOGS held a get-together as their Golden Girls celebration of 50 years out of school, together with some of the Skinner LOGS. Felicity (Joseph) O'Donnell sent us a copy of the following two page report and photographs covering some of the activities of their group over the years.

**HILLCREST  
THE GOLDEN GIRLS OF 1974.**



This is truly a special group of girls, I mean, ladies!!! After matriculating in 1974 we all went our separate ways. After 20 years, in 1994, we decided to meet up and rekindle our friendships. The plan was to meet at a private home for a reunion. 20 from a class of 31 made it. It was a wonderful catchup. Some couldn't wait for another 20 years.

So in 2012 we decided to meet for a second time. Once again we met at a private home in Pretoria..



1994



In 2014 we decided to have a big celebration for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. After much planning the day arrived. Many travelled from all over the world. It was so exciting to see everyone. This was to be a two-day event. Some



Skinner street reunion, 2014

started off at Skinner Street for the general Loreto reunion, followed by a 'bring and share' supper. There was so much excitement as we met up with our friends. Scarves with the school logo and mugs with our badge and bandanas from Austria were given to each one. The few that couldn't make it were skyped.





After a wonderful evening we all went our separate ways, knowing we would see each other the next day at the Codfather. The chatting continued. Friendships picked up from where they left off in 1974. What a class!!!!

Over the next 10 years we met another 4 times.

And then in 2024 we began planning for our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. This was a very special weekend as girls travelled from all over the country and the world. We met over the weekend of 12/13& 14 July.

Over the three days we met up with 18 classmates for supper, lunch and breakfast.



The friendships were strong and this is:  
“A class full of kindness; a class full of understanding; a class full of beauty; a class full of enthusiasm; a class full of fun, a class full of sports girls; a class full of nerds. a class full of talent and most of all a class full of friendship and love....  
This was our class of '74!”

Unfortunately some left us early in life and with sadness we remember Claire Shaw (nee Rose), Susan Touzel (nee Wagner) and Fiona Fitzgerald (nee Falconer) . May they rest in peace.



13. News from Natasche (Uberbacher) Crundwell-Uberbacher (Skinner 1985).

Earlier this year Natasche and her family enjoyed a visit to Castle Combe in the UK. Recently they had a family holiday in Greece. Back in June Natasche visited her parents in Austria. She co-ordinated her visit to be with her parents to celebrate her father's 78 birthday. Natasche's son Anthony, both last year and this year, was a ball boy for the Wimbledon Tennis Championships. Natasche says she managed to watch some of the matches. Natasche's husband, Frank, was included as a member of the National Academy of Engineering in 2023. At the end of this last academic year, her son Anthony, did incredibly well with his results and was one of the top pupils in his group. Natasche is very proud. Congratulations!

14. If you had not ever thought of it before, why don't you take up a new hobby like gardening with roses? Speak to your local nursery or Ludwig's Roses to find out more and perhaps give it a try. Or, any other hobby or activity that you have been putting off – well, don't put off any longer, give it a go and you can say you have tried something new.

15. As indicated above, herewith a copy of the memorial read by Thomas Olver at the Requiem Mass for Frances Olver on 25 April 2024.

In memory of Frances Olver (nee Swacina)

Frances Monica Mary Olver was born in Upington on 7 July 1934. She was the first child of Franz Joseph Maximillian Wenceslaus Swacina and Jeanetta Catherina Shepherd. Franz was a boilermaker by trade and Jean was a schoolteacher. They met in Namaqualand and were married in 1933. They had five other children, Anthony (who was called Tony) and Maxie, who were also born in Upington, and Otto, Franz and Martin. Because there were no Catholic Schools in Upington, Franz moved the family to the Transvaal in 1942, and they settled on a farm outside Pretoria known as Seven Oaks Dairy Farm. That area is today a suburb of Pretoria and is now called Swacina Park. Franz ran a dairy and delivered milk to Pretoria United Dairies.

Here in Pretoria, Frances and her sister Maxie went to school at Loreto Convent Skinner Street, where she matriculated in 1951. Loreto Convent had a profound impact on Frances, and she remained close to the school community all her life and was also strongly involved in the Loreto Old Girls association.

After matric, Frances studied teaching at Pretoria University, where she majored in English and Latin. She held teaching positions at various schools and colleges in Pretoria, but she did her first two years of teaching in Alberton, and it was there in 1956 that she met our father Quinton, who was working at Scaw Metals in Germiston at the time. They were married at the Monastery in Pretoria.

In addition to a long teaching career, Frances was also the examiner for Matric English from 1966 to 1994. She set the exam papers and marked them with a team of teachers. For many years, Frances was also a member of the English Academy of Southern Africa, where she served on the English Academy Council and chaired a standing committee that dealt with language terms and punctuation. In addition, Frances compiled several school textbooks, which became standard teaching works and are still in use today.

If there is an image that sums up both our parents, it is the image of a library. In our house, there is hardly an area of wall that is not occupied by bookshelves. We grew up surrounded by books, and one of my earliest memories is our parents reading to us. But more than that, our parents were like libraries themselves, with their vast knowledge and their insatiable fascination with the world, and this spirit characterised our home and the love of knowledge was inculcated in us.

Frances was a strong and independent woman who came from a family of strong women. My memory of Frances is characterised by her profound love and generosity, and she was always there ready to help family and friends. We miss her every day.

16. We remember too Otto Swacina, brother of Frances (Swacina) Olver. He was a veterinary expert and died unexpectedly on 1 August 2023.

17. Recommended Books: these are obtainable from the Cape Town Catholic Bookshop at 021 465 5904.

- The Way of Forgiveness, readings for a Peaceful Life, editors Michael Leach, et al.
- The Way of Kindness, readings for a Graceful Life, editors Michael Leach, et al.
- The Way of Peace, readings for a Harmonious Life, editors Michael Leach, et al.

18. An author worthwhile reading is Françoise Malby-Anthony. Her most recent book is called The Elephants of Thula Thula, and her first book is An Elephant in My Kitchen. Obtainable at all good general bookshops.

19. Request to find Maureen Noonan (Skinner 1951). Please let us know by email if you know where she is living.

20. Susan (Jarrett) Smith (Hillcrest 1974) sent us her inspiring Loreto Memories, summing up her time at Loreto.

Dear Loreto Convent

Thank you for being the most wonderful educational experience as a child and young woman. You inspired in me a love for learning and made me feel like I could ask anything. The teachers always had patience for my questions and took the time to make sure I understood. My happy memories of my time in Loreto Convent, has lasted a lifetime. Thank you for being the best school to prepare me for my life.

I went on to take a degree and also qualify as an art teacher, which I did for many years. I have recently retired and was delighted to find your website.

God Bless With very best wishes  
Mrs Susan Smith

### **LOG To Do List**

Here is the LOG “to do” list: Send news, memories, events, adventures (funny or otherwise), festivities, achievements, anniversaries and bereavements for future LOG Newsletters.

Please let us know if your email address changes. Look on the website [www.loreto.co.za](http://www.loreto.co.za) for previous LOG newsletters. Also for Reports and photos of LOG Reunions.

Send all LOG correspondence to [loretooldgirls1950@gmail.com](mailto:loretooldgirls1950@gmail.com)

**We thank Mrs Suzette Truter (Executive Principal Loreto Convent School) (through her PA Maria Correia who is the LOG representative at the School) for kindly allowing us to use the facilities at Loreto Convent School for the LOG Reunion of 5 October 2024. We also thank Mrs Truter and her staff for all their support and their willingness to attend the Reunion when they can.**

**This year we are celebrating only the Golden Girls of 1974 but we invite and encourage all Loreto past Pupils, current and past Teachers and current and past Principals to attend the Annual LOG Reunion.**

**The LOG Reunion of 2024 will take place at Loreto Convent School (Nana Sita Street – previously Skinner Street) on Saturday 5 October 2024 starting at 11h00. There will be Mass in the Chapel at 11h30, followed by a gathering in the Staffroom which is in the same passage as the Chapel. After mass, there will be a reception in the Staffroom starting at approximately 12h15.**

**Parking is on the school grounds entering from the entrance in Visagie Street – this is the only entrance; please don't try to enter the School from any other gate.**

**The reception takes the form of Tea and whatever you bring for a “Bring and Share”, and any cash donation towards the costs involved. Thanks to those who have already let us know that they will be coming. DV.**