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### Women celebrate ...

*About 130 women from various parishes in the diocese joined the Anglican Women's Fellowship and MU Christian Family Life procession from the Feathermarket Hall to the Cathedral on Sunday afternoon 10 August for a service to mark Women's Day.*

Once inside, the provost, Shane Fraser, welcomed the women and read a letter from the dean, Dudley Greenshields, who was unable to attend because of prior parish commitments. Dudley wrote on the need to value women and he thanked them for keeping families together.

The service was led by Sharon Nell, the archdeacon of The Bay, and the lessons were read by various women. Lillian Daniels, a past Provincial President of the AWF, challenged all women to get involved in fighting for the underprivileged. She spoke of the courage shown by the women who marched to the Union buildings in Tshwane / Pretoria in 1956 and that women today need to display that courage too.



**Pic:** *The Women's Day procession enters St Mary's Terrace.*

### and are celebrated ...



*The morning service at Holy Trinity in Central on Sunday 10 August was dedicated to women and was led by the women of the parish. They did, however, make one concession and allowed self-supporting priest Brian Axcell to officiate at the Communion Table.*

Noluntu Dyubhele read a poem she had written about women and received enthusiastic applause from all the women present (see poem alongside). Lindy Stansbury preached and challenged the women to look at their spiritual life. Among the points she highlighted were their prayer life, quiet times, Bible reading, attending of cell group and their giving (tithing). It was Lindy's first sermon and she remarked – tongue-in-cheek – that she had waited until her husband, the rector, was on sabbatical before taking over!

**Pic:** Poet Noluntu Dyubhele and preacher Lindy Stansbury after the service at Holy Trinity.

### and challenged ...

On Saturday afternoon 2 August St Nicholas in Charlo saw the gathering of nearly 100 women for a 'Women of Valour' afternoon arranged by Ethel Schultz-Pittaway of the Gender Desk. This was no ordinary afternoon tea because 11 of the women shared part of their stories, challenging all those present with what they have accomplished.



The key-note speaker was Marlene van Wyk of Toast Masters who, 12 years ago, survived a motorcar crash in which her husband was killed. She shared about being drawn to a wonderful 'light' three times while on the brink of death (the specialist had written her off) and being turned back and having to endure many operations, and her terrible struggle facing life again. Her story is one to challenge any woman who has to face a terrible crisis in her life.

Some of the other ten 'Women of Valour' were Gale Cilliers whose guide-dog led her to the stage; Dr Mariekie van der Merwe who is involved with street children; Nicky Daniels who is the principal of the Bay World environmental education programme; Klekan Laule who leads the Women Ablaze intercessory group in Walmer Gqebera; and Roz Duthie who shared on her changed life after her husband had a stroke. All 11 speakers were impressive and deserved the title 'Women of Valour'.

During the afternoon the women were also entertained by Gospel Blues singer Anthony Keogh

**Pic:** Singer Anthony Keogh, Marlene van Wyk, Ethel Pittaway, Nosipho Williams and René Adams.



### and are succeeding!

**Pic:** At the Holy Trinity, Central, fête Joyce Shupinyaneng, Sylvia Jekwa, Zoliswa Mabuya and Kuku Plaatjies of Usindiso Clothing were selling the beautiful products they, and members of the project, had made. All the takings from their stall went to the project.

### Woman

You are an epitome of care,  
compassion and resilience  
You give us hope  
to fly like the wings of an aeroplane  
and faith like its engine  
We salute you!

Ndithetha  
untsengwanekaz'ayintyontyelwa  
Uvukayibambe gabula lutsha  
Umasindwezama engakhalazi



Imazi ebotshwa neenkabi

A dryer of tears in times of trouble  
A blower of sorrows  
You brighten our lives  
You are a blessing like showers of rain  
We honour you!

Put her in hot water, she becomes an egg  
Never a carrot or a jelly bean

Mfutshane ngesithombo, mde ngemisebenzi  
Uvala neembombo ezithimlisayo  
Ukuze singalambi isizwe  
Tatala hote Maz'akuthi!

*Noluntu Dyubhele*

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