



R . C . P A R I S H

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

“Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58

Message from Father Sjaak

2024 is here! With a new year ahead of us, we have plenty of new opportunities to make the most of our precious time. Of course, a lot of things may hold us back like a busy work agenda and the uncertainties about where the world is going because of wars and political unrest. We also worry about things like climate change or the cost of living, but has any other year been any different? Read [more](#).

Recent Highlights

Coronation Mass Concert and Christmas Market

A very successful Mozart’s Coronation Mass Concert was performed in our church on 25 November, under the baton of COS Morning Choir Director André Cruz. This was a great opportunity for our parishioners to participate as choir members in this beautiful piece of music, along with soloists from The Conservatory of Music. Our parish organist Misaki Kazama provided excellent organ accompaniment for rehearsals as well as the concert.

The Christmas Market offered Christmas specialties like mulled wine and mince pies, Christmas ornament sales, as well as whisky and wine tasting, which created an excellent festive atmosphere and was the forerunner to the parish feast of Christ the King the following day.

Pastoral Council Meeting

The annual Pastoral council meeting was held on 27 November and as you can see from the photograph below, it was extremely well attended by many of the Group Leaders and Coordinators. After Mass in the Atrium where the group reviewed the year that was from the posters placed on the floor, the meeting commenced. It was extremely heartwarming to hear the Group Leaders and Coordinators update the attendees of the events and activities they conducted in 2023 and their plans for 2024. One important recurring theme through the whole meeting was the need for more volunteers and this will be the theme of the COS Lenten Campaign 2024.



Sinterklaas Visit to the Refugee Children's Sinterklaas Party and Children's Liturgy

On 2 December, the Hand in Hand Team of the Justice and Peace Group organised Sinterklaas's visit to the refugee children, and it turned out to be a fun evening.

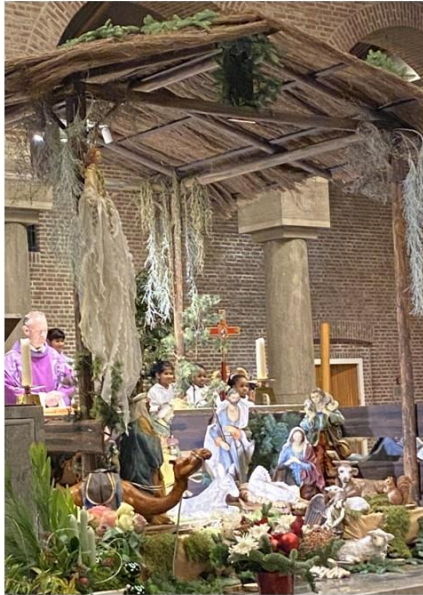
The children sang Sinterklaas songs as well as songs they had written and poems they had composed for the occasion. Sinterklaas lived up to his name by giving every child a lovely gift which was appreciated by one and all.

The next day Sinterklaas returned to meet the children in Children's Liturgy where he answered many interesting questions that the children asked him, including why he was wearing an Apple watch!!!!



Christmas Season 2023 review

An evening of Lessons and Carols held on 16 December set the mood for the Christmas season. The Family Mass and Midnight Mass on the 24th and Christmas Day's Mass attracted a total of over 1500 people, including many viewers who followed the masses via our livestream. New Year's Mass was well attended, which was also the case during the reception afterwards. The season ended on the Feast of the Epiphany/Three Kings.



50th Kerkbalans 2024

Kerkbalans is on its 50th year in 2024. This is the annual fundraising event for all churches in The Netherlands. Parishes appeal to their members for financial support towards church building maintenance, staff salaries, and other projects to keep the parish going.

Visit our website [here](#) to watch the video and read the letter to find out how you can participate in this year's Kerkbalans.



What's Coming Up

Here is an overview but please check the [website](#) for all timings.

February

03 - Confirmation Retreat Weekend

04 - Americas Lunchroom

14 - Ash Wednesday

27 - Parish Staff Workshop with the Luxembourg parish

March

03 - Irish Lunchroom

24 - Palm Sunday

28 - Holy Thursday

29- Good Friday

30 - Easter Vigil

31 - Easter Sunday

Volunteering at the Church of Our Saviour

At the Church of Our Saviour, we have various groups that organize different activities around various subjects. **The African Community Group** brings our African parishioners together with various activities throughout the year.

Fidelis Nthenge, the outgoing African Community Group coordinator, gives us an insight into the Group's activities.

By definition, the African Group of Church of Our Saviour, welcomes anyone with ties to the African continent by birth, marriage, or the mere desire to belong to it. The African Community Group Coordinator and the committee welcome African parishioners and encourage them to be active participants of the COS and the African Group.

Members are encouraged to collaborate and engage with the church activities and organize fund-raising activities as needed by the church. This could be through the annual food fair or any other social functions in the church aimed at raising funds for charity.

The African Community Group is involved in church cleaning, the refugee program, the Sunday lunchroom, and other social functions for the members to share, bond, and celebrate together. One of the events that everyone looks forward to is the African Group annual summer BBQ.

The group takes an active part in leading the liturgy at least once a year on one of the Sundays in the month of September, when the African group takes lead in the liturgy, ranging from leading the choir and singing African hymns in various African languages, as well as doing the readings, and organizing the offertory collection and procession.

The other outreach activities which the African Community group organizes include:

- Visiting our own members and supporting them when they have lost loved ones.

- Celebrating with our members when they celebrate major milestones in their lives like weddings, baptisms, birthdays, baby showers, etc.

For those of us who have moved around in different countries, we know that there is nothing better than feeling at home away from home. That's how we feel in The Hague because we have the African Community Group of the Church of Our Saviour, The Hague!

Udo Jude Ilo is the incoming African Community Group coordinator and can be contacted via the parish office.

As our parish website is updated regularly and the COS Communication team actively updates the Instagram and Facebook pages, there is a good flow of information to all our parishioners and alumni. The Monthly COS Newsletter which started in 2020 and provided an important source of information during the pandemic, is now published every quarter.

Please help support us!



[Please scan or click to donate via PayPal or Credit Card](#)



[Please scan or click to donate via Tikkie](#)