

ABISI | Bc

COMMUNITY OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

DIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

MTUTUZELA, SOPHIA TOWN

LOG-BOOK 1 VOL. 1952 - 1955

(27)

1952.
October.

St. Raphael
Archangel.

On October 24th 1952, Miss Elliot retired from "Mintyzele".

The Non-European Moral Welfare Society was founded in Nov: 1937, for the purpose of Rescue & Preventive work amongst Non-European girls. A small house in Sophiatown was rented: and the Home opened on the 21st February 1938.

September 30th, 1940, was a red-letter day in the life of Mintyzele - it moved from the small over-crowded house in Sophiatown to the delightful new building in Orlands. . . . "Extract from First Annual Report, April 1941"

Miss Elliot had been the founder & organising Secretary & Superintendent of the Home, & when she decided she must retire, C.S.M.V. had been asked to take on the management of the Home for the Non-European Moral Welfare Society.

Miss Elliot started off at 1 a.m. in the Home's Station Wagon, bound for Durban where she owns a house. She was accompanied by two young friends, members of the S.A. Police Force - who will bring the car back; - An African, & 3 cats.

Sister Monica Mary came down from Leseding where she had been staying, later in the morning, & went into residence. - M^{rs} Henderson called, in the morning, & some members of the Committee who busied themselves in putting up new curtains.

27th Reverend Mother Provincial came over in the van, bringing Sr. Deborah Mary who is to work here. Also a quantity of furniture from St. Mary's School, Waverley, for which we are most thankful - Mother had dinner at Leseding, & brought back Sr. Editha to live here. So now the household is complete.

The sitting-room was colour-washed 6-day, a great improvement. The girls were most energetic in cleaning & polishing.

28th Chapel colour-washed, & dossal (with curtains) washed - now quite a pretty pale blue!

30th A girl tried to abscond with her 3 month baby; but was soon brought

October

November

1952. 30th back by Matron Winnie. Took a girl to Bethany Home (Salvation Army) in White City. A. V. fine building. We hope to go & see over it when we have time. Picked 2 girls back from Bridgman Hospital - one with a baby, one not in labour.

31st M^{rs}: Henderson brought M^{rs}: Hough (the Secy: at Talitha Home) to help with Office work. They spent all the morning here.

November.

All Saints Sung Mass, with lots of servers!

Trinity XXI Sr: Marjorie Linn came for breakfast. Many visitors to see the girls.

All Souls Solemn Requiem in Church at 5.30 a.m. with full ceremonial - In the afternoon Sr: Monica Mary was Installed as Superior of the House by Sr: Huddleston C.R. who gave an address. All the Houses in the T'val were represented in Chapel - 17 Sisters in all - The Matrons & a few girls squeezed into Chapel, & others crowded round the door; but had to remain in the passage - Solemn Keepers followed the Installation, then tea for all in the sitting room. Many gifts came from the various Houses -

A baby - Wilson Bichi, had been critically ill during the day - seemed well enough to be moved after supper, so took him to the Coronation Hospital where he was admitted.

4th To Coronation with Matron Winnie & a sick baby, on to Bridgman with 6 girls to Ante Natal Clinic. Car serviced Picked up girls, then Matron & baby on return.

5th Very Wet - took a girl to Baragwanath O.P.D. Then started off to the Bridgman; but the drain was torrential, & the roof of the car was leaking like a sieve, so turned back. Members of the Committee coming to a meeting at 2.45 p.m. were late, as they had to go a long way round (by Baragwanath) owing to the flooded condition of the roads.

6th Arrival of Silicus - a fluffy fawn kitten, a present from J.S.G. Pretoria. He had spent two nights at Ek.

1952.

November

- 6th I was fetched from there. He loathed being in a basket in the car, & screamed loudly all the way.
- 7th M^{rs} Henderson & M^{rs} Hough came again to help with returns. Took a baby to the Coronation.
- 8th Mass in our Chapel at 6.30 a.m. Celebrant - Fr: Wardle C.R. He had breakfast here. In the afternoon went with Sr. Deborah Mary to fetch the belongings of a party from a house in Parktown. The gardens were looking lovely - the jacaranda trees at their best.

Trinity XXII Crowds of African visitors.

- 10th M^{rs} Henderson called, had tea. News of rioting at East London. An R. C. nun (a doctor) burnt to death in her car, another Dr: shot dead - several natives killed & injured.
- 12th Shopping with Sr. J. M. in Jo'burg. Not a good day - dull & drizzly - no where to park near shops. Took wrong direction coming home, & were v. late for dinner. M^{rs} Henderson called in afternoon. Very worried about our safety, if rioting should start here she wants us to leave the Home to the care of the Matrons pers tem. & to drive off in the car to Jo'burg till it dies down. Agreed not to go out after 5 p.m. unless of necessity.
- 13th Took a girl to clinic - & a baby & mother to Baragwanath. Then another girl & her baby to Baragwanath, & brought back the first two.
- 15 Mass in Chapel - Father

Fetched a baby back from Coronation, & left a girl transferred to Talitha Home. A baby & mother to Baragwanath - admitted - also another baby & mother.

Fetched a Mother & baby from Bridgman.

Trinity XXIII Visited girls & babies in Baragwanath. Took Beryl to see her baby, Joyce, who is improving.

- 17th Priscilla de Bon (aged almost 4yr:) died v. suddenly after dinner - just found dead in her cot, with ribbon of her

1952.

November.

- 17th Keelthing ring round her neck rather tight, - but no blueness of face - Artificial respiration no effect - Notified police, & police van came in evening & took body to Jos^e Mortuary for p.m. - Prudence, the mother, in a terrible state at first; but steadied up wonderfully.
- 18th M^{rs}: Henderson called in a.m. Went to Jos^e Mortuary at 2 p.m. to identify body of Priscilla Mary Le Bon - A baby who'd been in coronation before, very bad again, so took him back about 9.30 p.m. - He was re-admitted. A girl with 2 records arrived unexpectedly from Durham - The house is quite full; but it seems Miss Killist glad to admit her in October.
- 19th House Committee Meeting at 2.30 p.m. M^{rs}: Henderson, M^{rs}: Wilkinson & M^{rs}: Mullineux came. Sister Editha in retreat. About 8.45 p.m. Prudence's relations turned up to see her.
- 20th To Brixton for shopping. Report on P.M. of Priscilla "cause of death - broncho pneumonia" no mention of strangulation, D.G. In p.m. went with Matron Winnie to R.C. Church, where the priest promised to take the funeral tomorrow at 2 p.m. Two girls & babies back from hospital.
- 21st Funeral of baby Priscilla (her 1st birthday) from R.C. Church to Hanfield Cemetery.
- 22nd Marie a Nursery School Student, just completing her training, came to be interviewed as a possible Matron - Mass in Chapel - Father Maloi celebrant.
- 24th Cold, wet & misty. Fetched a small boy from Waterval Hospital, & a baby from Coronation - left a girl to be seen & called for her on second trip. Fighting in the house, so after dinner took the principal culprit to the Children's Court, & had her sent to "Place of Safety" at Benoni, as we are unable to manage her here - Up to bedded at 5 p.m. for family shrivings. Sr: Deborah Mary in Retreat - Sr: Superior practically voiceless.

1952.

November

25th St. Katherine. Mother Provincial's Installation Anniversary.

A mother baby back from Baragwanath, & another baby admitted with his mother.

M^{rs}: Boulflower here all day helping with office work.

Plumber at mid-day to deal with a blockage.

Father Jenkins called & had tea.

26th Annual General Meeting at 3 p.m.

Fr: Huddleston in chair, also special speaker. M^{rs}: Henderson spoke well, emphasising needs of Home. Mother P. came with Sisters from Irene, EK & deacons also well represented. Tea & biscuits served in sitting room. Girls & toddlers both sang.

One of the girls (Dora) married to Oscar the father of her baby, at St. Mary's Church in a.m.

28th Baby Leslie died in Baragwanath y'day. We had not been told, & his mother came back here by bus alone this a.m.

Asked police to contact his mother at Kdenvale which they did, & she came about 7.30 p.m.

Shopping in Brinxton, called at EK. & got Toys.

Fr: Jenkins C.R. came & took a service for the household at 7.15 p.m.

29th Mass in Chapel. Father Jenkins Celebrant.

Baby Leslie's funeral in afternoon. M^{rs}: Maubane took a service in Chapel & came to Cemetery (Nancefield) with us. Grave no:

Advent

Sunday.

In late afternoon, a very severe Tornado at Albertville - homes wrecked, corrugated roofs twisted like paper, & blown great distances. Animals blown up into the air. Many killed, some had limbs cut off by flying iron. Baragwanath Hospital full ++. Wireless appeal for helpers, & help in kind - which was forthcoming in abundance. Here, only severe rain & hail storm.

December

1st Latched Toys from Orange Grove Nursery School in a.m. with Sr: Deborah Mary.

In p.m. - Took a girl, with Matron Winnie to look for her

1952.

December.

relatives at Albertynsville - They were in a part that was untouched by the storm. The devastation of most of the location was profound.

2nd M^{no}: Henderson came in for a very hurried tea. Another storm in the afternoon. Tornado at Payville, Springs. Less severe than that on Sunday.

3rd To Parkhurst with Sr: Deb. Mary in p.m. to collect two cats. Only room in motor for one. Called at EK where we had tea, & came away with a parcel of groceries from M^{no}: Wellbeloved.

5th Sr: Deb. Mary shopping & to market in deading car - Took a girl to Children's Court. As she was an absconder from another institution, the Magistrate committed her to Mt. Ingle.

Constance was brought by her aunt, (whom I knew 25 yrs. ago as a probationer at Holy Cross) to apply for work here. Thought we might try her as a junior matron - to come on a month's trial on 8th.

R.C.'s were taken to Mass at 10 A.M.

To Turfontein in p.m. to collect a cat from M^{no}: Hough.

9th Spent morning at Children's Court - took 4 girls who seemed to have no prospect of making from here, & the Children's Magistrate sent them to Van Ryn Place of Safety at Benoni, as a step to wards their release.

M^{no}: Hanagan & M^{no}: ~~Anderson~~ Anderson came in a.m. with most wonderful gifts of materials etc: for the home.

M^{no}: Henderson came to lunch.

10th Board Meeting at 2.30 p.m.

11th Deputy Mayor & Deputy Mayress paid official Xmas visit at 10.45 a.m. They wore their chains of office, & took the part. A present of cakes & minerals had come the previous day. After a round of the Home, & a song or two from the girls & toddlers, they had tea in the sitting room. M^{no}: Mullineux representing the Board, was present, & several other ladies.

December 11th 12:30 p.m. a deputation from Roedean School came with scarves, bonnets, socks etc: they had knitted.

In afternoon went with Sr. Deborah Mary to Melrose to collect old linen etc: from the Misses Tracey. We were also given a huge bunch of lilies & other lovely flowers.

St. Lucy 13th Took some babies to be baptised at the R.C. Church. Very wet. Festival tea.

15th The Roman priest, Father Scheuber came at 6.30 a.m. for the R.C. girls. Heard their confessions, & gave them communion in our Chapel. Still heavy rain.

M^{rs}: Henderson & M^{rs}: Mullineux called for a hurried lunch. Sr: Monica Mary to Irene in the Jeseding Station Wagon, for the Advent Retreat which begins to-night.

17th Sr: M. M. back from Irene. Car battery flat. Fr: Jenkins towed her with Dodge to get her started, then left her at "Goodwill Garage" in the Wood.

18 Sr: Deborah Mary to Town by train, to meet M^{rs}: Mullineux & do some shopping for the Home - Then on to Waterley for her Retreat.

A girl went into labour in the evening - no ambulances or any transport available (car still at garage.) She had eclamptic fits later on, & at 1.50 AM. in a.m.

19 ambulance & 2 nurses turned up, & she was transferred to Baragwanath.

Car back - new battery.

20th Mass in Chapel - Father Wardle celebrant. Fr: Jenkins present & had breakfast.

Delivered a girl & her baby from Bridgman - 3 girls went for the drive.

St: Thomas (Transferred from Sunday) 3 girls to Bridgman A.N. Clinic, on to town for shopping. Car broke down in Brixton on return journey & had to be towed back to garage. 'EK' came to our rescue & lent their larger car to bring the girls home. Pat brought cheque of £20

from Mayor's Xmas fund for presents for inmates.
23 Returned borrowed car to KK & went into town by tram to spend Mayor's Xmas gift money. Returned by train, laden with bulky parcel. 100 girls met me at Inlambunkungi, with umbrellas etc. as it was pouring by then.

Xmas Eve. Girls busy putting up decorations - tree cut out of back hedge in corner of dining hall.

Got left to Brixton in Dodge to fetch car, which wasn't ready after all.

Christmas Day. Midnight Mass at St. Mary's. Torrents of rain, so very small congregation. They had carols in church from 7 p.m. onwards; some of our girls went, & looked very sleepy before the end! Procession & Blessing of Crib before Mass. On returning from church we found a girl had to go to the Bridgman. Got her off by ambulance at 3.45 a.m. & so to bed!

Sung Mass 8 A.M. Girls had Xmas dinner 12.30 p.m. Sisters all invited to pic-nic dinner at Seaside; but as we had no transport we thought we weren't going to get there. However, they realized our predicament & came & fetched us. Came back & got festival tea ready. Minerals for girls, jammed buns, iced cuts, & Xmas cake - & a packet of sweets for each girl & visitor. Tea for Europeans. Presents for everyone - given away by Fr. Maloyi (not Santa Claus) a happy time was had by all!

Boxing Day. Sisters invited to dinner & tea at KK. A very Xmas dinner, followed by games - not of skill - in which many gifts were won. Girls had continuation of Xmas meals here, plus ices.

Fr. Jenkins came & showed Holy Pictures at 7.15 p.m. A girl to the Bridgman by ambulance at 10 p.m. Mass in Chapel - Father Maloyi celebrant. The Crib is under the altar this year.

St. John.

29 Matron Winnie started her holiday - firstly at UmTata.

1952

December 30th: Rebecca Thema, a possible Mafron, came to be seen. She was trained at Dikonyaneng Nursery School. Went by afternoon train to Mayfair, met there by van, & fetched it back. A girl, supposed to be in labour, admitted to Orlando Clinic.

31st: 2.45 a.m. An ambulance arrived with the said girl - refused to stay at clinic, & they thoroughly fed up with her. Took her on to the Bridgman at 3 A.M. in the van. Fetched a variety pack from the Bridgman later in the day. A next girl from Pretoria Magistrate's Court.

1953.

January.

The Feast of the Circumcision All Johannesburg Sisters met at Leseding for festival dinner, followed by games & prizes. Dinner was on the sloop - buffet type - very good.

Girls here had festival dinner & tea; Turkey, Xmas cake, & cola.

In evening had message from Baragisanathi to say that Florence Stebe & her baby were discharged. So went & fetched Florence & Johnnie Christopher.

2nd: To Bridgman for a girl & baby - & some for A.H. Clinic.

5th: Car won't start except when pushed! Had to get help from local Garage. Girls to A.H. at Bridgman - brought another mother & baby back. Left car in front garden, because of slope -

6th: Girls pushed car this a.m. - & she started. Took her to the garage - the generator is out of action.

Sr. Beatrice Rose came & fetched me back from the garage, then spent the a.m. here & tried to learn the intricacies of returns etc: as she is to be Superior here when I go home. She stayed for dinner.

7th: Board Meeting. R.D.P. Sister ^{in the 12th year of her age,} ^{& 43rd of her profession} ^{CS.M.N.}

8th: M^{rs}: Robertson came to help with secretarial work.

Joanna Kucinskas' aunt came & took her to her home. The little

Collection Number: AB1751

COMMUNITY OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN 1903-1976

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- **Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand**

Location:- **Johannesburg**

©2012

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection donated to the South African History Archives and Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.

DOCUMENT DETAILS:

Document ID:- **AB1751-Bc1-1**

Document Title:- **Mtutuzele, Orlando Log Book: Vol.1 October 1952 - June 1955**