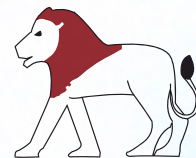


LEADING ⁸⁵ ²⁵ TO THE FUTURE



St. Mark's College

JULY 2025

40 YEARS FROM THE TENT... THE CELEBRATION KICKS OFF!

Part of the beginning was under a canvas in 1985... not just the founding of a school, but the unfolding of a bold vision, anchored in Anglican faith and a dream far greater than its shelter.

From those humble beginnings, St. Mark's College rose. A light on the hill, shaping minds and lifting communities with wisdom, courage and grace.

In this year, we mark 40 years of raising leaders, breaking barriers and proving that rural does not mean behind.

This milestone is more than a celebration. It's a homecoming. A declaration. A launchpad for the next generation.

We honour the legacy, embrace the present and ignite the future, with every soul in The Strength, learners, teachers, parents, sponsors, neighbours and dreamers who think of St. Mark's as home.

#StMarks40



40 YEARS OF FAITH, FOCUS & FORWARD MOTION

A reflection on a journey shaped by service, guided by values and fuelled by an unshakable vision for the future.

Dear St. Mark's College Family

This year marks a profound moment in the life of our school... 40 years since St. Mark's College first opened in 1985. This anniversary is not only a time to celebrate what has been but to imagine what could be. It is an opportunity to pause, reflect and give thanks for every hand, heart and voice that has shaped this extraordinary journey.

As we mark this milestone, we remain focused on the work of governance, sustainability and transformation. The process of repositioning St. Mark's College into a Mining and Engineering School of Specialisation continues to move forward. While progress has not been without its challenges, we remain undeterred in our vision. After careful consideration, Council has resolved to postpone the planned launch of the new school by a year, from January 2026 to January 2027.

This decision was not made lightly. It reflects our deep commitment to doing things the right way, not the rushed way. A critical factor has been the absence of a permanent principal for over a year - a vital role for driving the implementation of such a pivotal project. We are pleased to share that the Limpopo Department of Education has advertised the post and we are hopeful to welcome our sixth principal later this year. Additionally, the schools infrastructure requires significant investment if we are to realise our shared ambition of becoming a true theatre of excellence.

Amid these shifts, we also celebrate the incredible individuals who continue to make us proud. We extend heartfelt congratulations to Butsi Tladi, former Chairperson of Council and founding Chair of the Strength of St. Mark's Executive, on her appointment as CEO of Alexforbes Corporate. We also proudly congratulate Professor Refiloe Masekela on her appointment as the new Dean and Head of the School of Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal. Their leadership reflects the calibre of our alumni and the difference this school continues to make in the world.

And now, the celebration begins. As we mark 40 years of St. Mark's, I am thrilled to officially launch our anniversary campaign... a tribute to the legacy we have built together. Over the next six months, we will journey through four decades of courage, care, learning and leadership. This milestone will be led by The Strength, through a vibrant campaign, both online and offline, that calls on your memories, your voices and your vision for the future.

The story of St. Mark's College has never belonged to one person. It is a story written by many, carried by all and meant to be shared loudly, lovingly and proudly. We look forward to celebrating it with you every step of the way.

Fondest regards,

Khutšo Lucas Ramontja
Chairperson of Council
St. Mark's College



ALL ABOUT THE COURAGE TO RETURN AND THE STRENGTH TO REIMAGINE.

Whether you left last
year or 35 years ago,
you are a vital piece
of this legacy.

Dear Strength of St. Mark's,

It is with deep humility and immense gratitude that I write to you as the newly elected Chairperson of The Strength (the alumni body of St. Mark's College). To be entrusted with this role is more than an honour; it feels like a homecoming. A return to purpose. A return to service.

St. Mark's College was never just a school. For each of us who passed through its gates, it was a foundation; a place where values were instilled, identities were shaped and lifelong bonds were formed. It taught us discipline and compassion, excellence and humility. These lessons continue to guide us in everything we do.

This is why The Strength exists; to protect and elevate the legacy of St. Mark's. To serve as a bridge between past and future. To ensure that every learner who walks these corridors continues to feel the presence of a strong, supportive community behind them.

Now, in 2025 as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of St. Mark's, we are called to rise to the occasion. This milestone is not merely a reflection of the past, it is a bold invitation to reimagine the future.

The Strength will lead a year-long 40th Anniversary Campaign designed to celebrate, reconnect and reinvest. This is not just about a single event like the Gala Dinner, it's a multi-layered journey of memory and momentum. From digital storytelling to intergenerational dialogue, from the planting of 40 legacy trees to the launch of our Digital Legacy Hub. From a global reunion map tracing where we are now, to a legacy soundtrack spanning decades. We are designing moments that honour every St. Marker, wherever they may be.

But our work does not end there. This is the beginning of a new chapter, one where The Strength becomes a truly inclusive, active and a sustainable platform for alumni engagement. We envision a future where every member of The Strength finds a way to give back, whether through mentorship, knowledge-sharing, fundraising or simply showing up.

We are calling on you "our engineers, artists, educators, accountants, health workers, entrepreneurs, researchers and dreamers". Share your wisdom. Join the campaign. Mentor a learner. Submit your story to the archive. Be present. Be proud. Be part of the journey.

Wherever life has taken you, from the hustle of city life to the quiet corners of the world, let this be your moment to return. In presence or in spirit. Let us return to the memories that made us. To the values that shaped us. To the Strength that still binds us.

Together, let us honour the past by building the future, with courage, with hope and with each other.

With strength and pride,

Dr Mercy Sepadi
Chairperson
The Strength of St. Mark's College

THE STRENGTH WITHIN THE STRENGTH

Meet The Strength of St. Mark's new Exco

Made up of passionate St. Mark's alumni across generations, this committee is not just planning a celebration - they are shaping a legacy. As the heartbeat of the 40th anniversary, they will be the driving force behind the momentum.

At the helm is The Strength Exco: a core team entrusted with steering strategy, deepening alumni engagement and ensuring that the contributions of past learners become a sustained force in the school's future. Their role is to connect, activate and mobilise St. Mark's alumni to honour where we have come from and build where we are going.

From career days to fundraising and mentorship initiatives, this committee is more than event planners - they are custodians of the school's soul, ensuring that the spirit of St. Mark's lives on in action, in legacy and in leadership.



DR MERCY SEPADI
CHAIRPERSON
CLASS OF 2009



LEPHATSE MOTSHANA
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON
CLASS OF 1997



HAZEL MATLALA-KHALO
SECRETARY
CLASS OF 1991



MAMOŠE KGAPHOLA
TREASURER
CLASS OF 2008



KHUTŠO RAMONTJA
MARKETING & EVENTS
CLASS OF 1996

“...they will be the driving force behind the momentum.”

40 + 0 = 40

**A MILESTONE. A MIRROR.
A MARK OF TIME.**

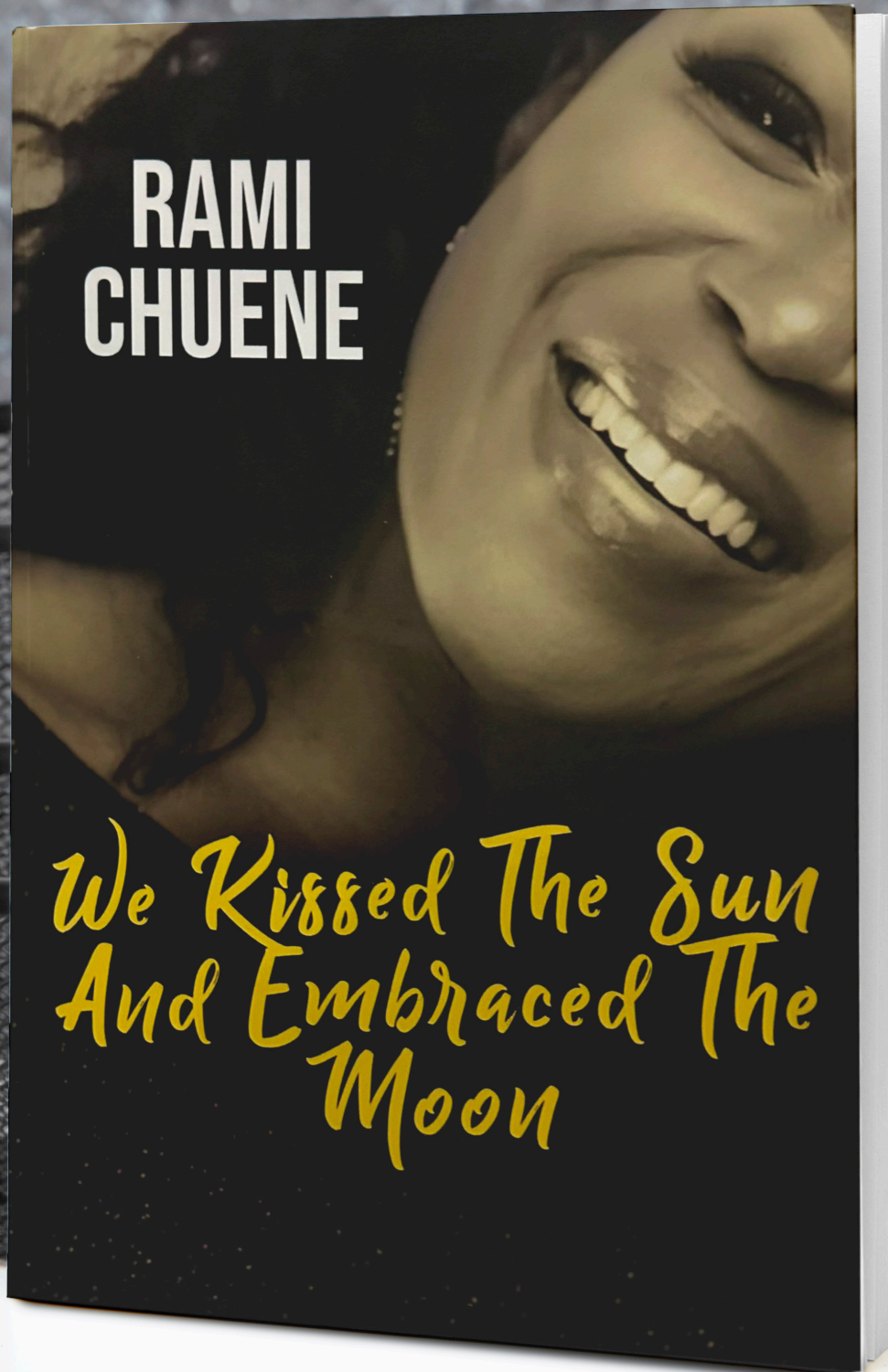
The St. Mark's 40th Anniversary identity is more than a symbol. It's a meditation in design.

At first glance: the number 40, boldly cast. But look again... the zero is an oval mirror, inviting us to pause and reflect.

It holds within it four decades of becoming ... from 1985's humble tent canvas to today's living legacy.

A mark for now. A mirror to what was. A signal of what's still to come.

GRAB YOUR COPY!



Rami Chuene's captivating memoir,
We Kissed The Sun And Embraced The Moon
available at selected Exclusive Books and Bargain Books!
For bulk orders, visit bulabuka.co.za.

GET INVOLVED

You may have missed the first 39 years of planning but the celebration needs you now. **Join us.**



This is not just a moment... it is a full-blown movement. And like any true St Marker, we are showing up with heart, history and a healthy dose of fun.

Whether you are nearby or dialing in from across the globe, this is your sign: **the celebration is calling for your spark.** Got old photos? A wild memory? A tree you want to sponsor? Whatever it is, send it our way and help bring the 40th to life.

See below. Pick your vibe. Any one. Or two. Or all. Just get involved.

#HallOfFame

Tales from our "Hall of Flame"... We're on a mission to uncover fun facts, quirky memories, and the little moments that truly belong on the wall. Because everyone has a story... and some of the best ones haven't been told yet. It's about rediscovering the familiar faces you thought you knew, and seeing them in a whole new light.

#JustSendThosePics

You know you have them. The hairstyles. The school trips. You and your St. Mark's friends. We are building the ultimate St. Mark's photo archive. Send us what you have got.

#GalaDinner (Date TBC)

Dress up, show up and gather your crew and book at table for the event of the year. The official 40th Anniversary Gala is your chance to reconnect, yes, in style. **Detail to follow.**

#MyStMarksMemory

Send us a note (**<100 words**), a video or a voice clip (**<60 seconds**) sharing a moment you will never forget from your St. Mark's days - funny, moving or inspiring.

#NextMark

We are calling on learners to contribute content, whether it is a short write-up, video, artwork or any creative expression, that celebrates what St. Mark's means to them and where they believe it can go next. Two learners with **the most compelling contributions will each receive R1000** in recognition of their voice and vision.

#VirtualReunionMap

From Jane Furse to the world! Help us map where St Markers now live and work outside of South Africa... and show just how far the Strength's impact reaches.

#LegacySoundtrack

Submit your favourite school-era jam. We are building a cross-generational playlist chosen by The Strength for The Strength - all vibes welcome.

#40TreesFor40Years

We are marking this milestone by planting 40 trees: symbols of growth, grounding and giving back. Sponsor and dedicate a tree in someone's honour. Entries will close once all 40 trees have been sponsored. **Each tree is R440.00**

Send any items or enquiry to involved@strengthofstmarks.org.za

DRAPE YOURSELF IN 40 YEARS OF PRIDE

We're marking this milestone in style...
literally.

A special range of the 40th Anniversary apparel is here, made to help you wear your St. Mark's story with pride. **From the young to the young at heart, there's something for everyone.**

For practical reasons, all items are produced per run and only once orders are confirmed. We've kept things simple with classic cuts designed for an easy, timeless fit across generations.



ONLY 40. FOR 40. MISS IT, IT'S GONE.

In true celebration of 40 years, this is a limited edition collection in every sense. Over the next few months, a range of commemorative items will be released, each produced in batches of just 40. No reprints. No restocks.

The next page features the first drop of this exclusive souvenir apparel. If you miss out, that item is gone. So whether you're buying for yourself, a family member, friend or colleague, pick your favourite and place your order to the email below. It's strictly first come, first served.

There are currently four pick-up centres: Pretoria, Sandton, Polokwane and Jane Furse. If needed, you can also request special delivery (at your own cost).

To order, email:
orders@strengthofstmarks.org.za

- Your full name
- Class of [your year] (if applicable)
- Item(s) you're ordering
- Quantity & size(s) per item
- Preferred pick-up point

ORDER YOURS NOW

R540.00

CREAM WHITE
HOODIE



R240.00

WHITE T-SHIRT



R240.00

WHITE CAP



STILL WITH US, ALWAYS.

Happy
Birthday
Elisabeth
ANDERSON

On this 2nd of July, though the candles are unlit and her chair sits quietly, her light remains... warm, steady and unforgettable.

Today, St Mark's College doesn't just remember the date of her birth. We honour the life she lived, the love she gave and the legacy she left behind. Since her passing on 27th March, the soft echo of her memory still lingers. And so today, we say Happy Birthday with deep gratitude, thankful for the gift of her. Still missed. Still cherished.

Still with us, always.



**TOO HOT TO HANDLE?
YOU BE THE JUDGE.**



Siyababa doesn't just whisper "hot" ... it sings it, dances it and moonwalks across your tastebuds. From your kota to your omelette to your pasta, this is flavour with a whole lot of swagger. Proudly local. Unapologetically spicy. And made for the brave. **The ones who say "make it hot" and mean it.**

Wanna taste it?

Find it at selected **Pick n Pay** stores and prepare to shout... **Siyababa!**

Wanna stock it?

Email us at orders@siyababachillies.co.za and let's turn up the heat together.

CONNECT WITH US



Website & LinkedIn
coming soon

**TO ADVERTISE IN
THE NEXT EDITION,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

info@strengthofstmarks.org.za

