



Anglican Church of Southern Africa
Diocese of Grahamstown

The Bishop of Grahamstown
The Rt Reverend Ebenezer St Mark Ntlali

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Ad Clerum

January 2014

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Bishopsbourne family

We, the family of Bishopsbourne are well and wishing all the Diocesan family good health, success, peace and prosperity in 2014. We have enjoyed the Christmas holidays. Children are now back to school and are doing well. Our granddaughter, Sambesiwe Dyantyi – daughter of Sub-Dean Mzinzi and Lilitha is home and we give thanks to God for her good health and growth. We give thanks to Dean Andrew, the Revd Claire, all Cathedral leadership and the Cathedral family for their initiative and love which they have shown by doing a baby shower for our grandchild Sambesiwe. May God bless you all abundantly. We also acknowledge individuals and parishes that have shown such love.

Vestry meetings

We encourage all parishes to audit their finances and have Vestry meetings and thereafter submit their annual financial statements to the Diocesan Financial Manager and their Archdeacons. Kindly forward the vestry reports, names of the new churchwardens and their contact details to the Bishop's office immediately after your vestry of 2014.

Assessment

All parishes that are in arrears are encouraged to settle their debts by the end of February 2014. Remember that your arrears are budgeted as income in 2014. The Diocesan Council resolved to enforce Chapter V, section 10 (a-c) of the Acts of the Diocese which reads as follows:

- (a) Every pastoral charge shall pay an annual sum to the Diocese, to be determined by the Diocesan Council after consultation with the Pastoral Charge concerned.
- (b) Payment of the annual sum shall be made to the Diocesan Treasurer in monthly instalments by the 25th of each month, and shall be first charge on all parochial finance, excluding rent received in accordance with Chapter VI, paragraph 3.
- (c) In the event of the failure of a Pastoral Charge to pay the monthly instalments for a period of three months or longer, the Diocesan Council shall have the authority to appoint in consultation with the Parish Council two persons who, together with the Archdeacon, shall examine the finances of the Pastoral Charge and other related matters and make recommendations to the Council.

These recommendations may include:

- i. Remission of the current obligation in part or in whole;

- ii. Reduction of the amount of the annual sum;
- iii. The loss by the Pastoral Charge of its status as a Pastoral Charge, in which case the Diocesan Council shall request the Bishop to appoint a commission in terms of Chapter IX, section 4. After receiving the report of such a commission, it shall be competent for the Bishop, with the agreement of the Diocesan Council, and after consultation with the Cathedral Chapter, to declare that the Pastoral Charge should cease to exist as such, provided that Synod at its session shall have the power to confirm or annul the action taken.

We congratulate all parishes that are up to date with their payments.

Increase in Assessment: The Diocesan Council resolved that parish assessment is increased by a flat rate of 7% with effect from January 2014.

Parish Insurance

Parishes are encouraged to pay their insurance arrears and ensure that insurance for 2014 is paid by the end of February 2014.

Grahamstown Diocesan Foundation Trust

We remind you that the Diocesan Foundation Trust will be launched on the 22nd of February 2014 at Greenfields-Methodist Church in East London. Any form of donation towards the preparation of the launch will be much appreciated. Donations may be deposited into the Diocesan Revenue, FNB, Account No. 5232 1144 702, Branch Code 210717. For any enquiries in this regard please contact Mrs L. Ndema at 071 389 3623 or Archdeacon to the Ordinary BTM Mfenyana at 072 036 3232.

Training of Executive Rectors and Executive Archdeacons.

We will be circulating themes, dates, venue and the names of those who will be training our Archdeacons, Rectors, Priests-in-Charge and Assistant Clergy to enable them to minister in a democratic South Africa in the twenty first century.

Welcome of new Diocesan Clergy:

We welcome the Revd Rob Penrith who is a Chaplain to the Diocesan School for Girls from beginning January 2014. We wish him a happy stay in Grahamstown and that the Lord may bless his ministry abundantly. We pray and hope that he will be a blessing to the Diocesan School for Girls community and that of St Andrew's College. We look forward to welcoming the Revd Godfrey Walton into our Diocese some time in February.



*Christ has no body on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours.
Ours are eyes through which we look out Christ Compassion on the world.
Ours are the feet with which we are to go about doing good,
Ours are the hands with which God blesses now. (St Teresa de Avila)*

Fellowship of Vocation

There will be Fellowship of Vocation workshops throughout the year – the first of which will take place at St Saviour's on Friday 28th February and Saturday 1st March. Kindly uphold all participants in your prayers

Observing our vision and taking forward our Synodical decisions of 2010 and 2013

Greetings to the leadership, clerics and laity of the diocese and the diocesan family in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. With the Synod Resolution Committee and Chapter we have prioritized 2014 to implement two resolutions as follows:

- Family Life
- Education, that is, theological, civic education and general education

This is interesting because we have discovered that the United Nations Worldwide is encouraging the world society to observe and celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014. We call upon the whole Diocese to observe and to celebrate family life each and every Sunday from the 5th of March – 30th September 2014. We will circulate to every parish a liturgy that has themes, scripture readings, prayers and hymns that will focus on the Diocese as a family, on the Diocese as part of the ACSA Family, and on the Diocese as part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion. Each parish will get the material before the 5th of March.

160th Anniversary of our Grahamstown Diocese

We will provide a programme that will enable each Chapelry, parish, archdeaconry, Diocesan Guild, Junior Church, and all the families that worship the Living God in Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, to participate in thanksgiving for the heritage which our forebears have left us, and in looking at our current situation and determining our future. We will welcome inputs from Clergy, Churchwardens, leaders of various guilds, councils, ordinary church members as to how best we can celebrate this great anniversary, remembering that Grahamstown is the second oldest diocese in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

The College of the Transfiguration

We are pleased to inform you that through the able leadership of the Revd Canon Prof Barney Pityana the College has been accredited for the Diploma in Theology and the BTh Degree. We congratulate Archbishop Thabo and the Synod of Bishops; the Dean of the Province +Rubin Phillip who is Chairperson of the College Council, members of council; academic, administration and domestic staff ; and college students on this achievement. We inform you that there will be a re-launch of the new College on the 19th of March 2014 at 14h00. This will run simultaneously with the graduation ceremony. Remember that contributions to Theological Sunday continue, as we endow theological education in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. For smooth running forward your contribution to the Diocese.

Back to school

We wish all those who start school such as Grade 1, those who have succeeded in their examinations, those are beginners at high school and universities good health and God's blessing in 2014. We pray for all those who teach and all those who learn. We encourage those who were not successful in their examinations to try again and know that the Lord is with them. We will not forget to pray for our country to continue to prioritize education for its citizens and we congratulate the National Minister of Education of Higher Learning for the increase in the pass rate of matriculants, acknowledging what Archbishop Thabo said especially about the poor infrastructure in the Eastern Cape, which impacts on the poor matric results one way or another.

Synod of Bishops

This is to inform you that the Synod of Bishops will take place in the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist from the 3rd to the 7th of February 2014. We urge you to pray for the deliberations of this synod.

Bereavements

We humbly ask you to pray for :-

- The Revd Vuyiswa Jela and her family as she has lost her husband – Nkosinathi who has been buried by the Bishop on the 11th January 2014.
- The Revd Aïda Esprey who lost her dear mother, Mrs Theron who has been buried by the Revd Arends on the 8th January 2014.
- Continue to pray for the Mandela and South African family as we have lost Tata Madiba.

Dates for property Committee

20 February, 7 May, 23 July. Parishes are reminded to submit information two weeks prior the meeting.