



*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 to February 2016**

**No. 01/2016**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

### **Bishopsbourne**

We +Ebenezer, Noncedo and family thank all the people of the diocese and its leaders, cleric and lay for prayers and support of various kinds in 2015. Thank you very much for your love, generosity and hospitality. All our children and grandchildren have returned to school and varsity, refreshed after the Christmas break. Let us join hands in praying for one another in 2016. Do keep us in your prayers. We will continue to uphold you in prayer and serve you as God's people in our diocese as we are called to do so.

We join the leadership of the diocesan family as we go through the spiritual discipline of Lent. We call upon all of you to use this time individually and as a family for introspection of our lives, looking at our spiritual journey with the Lord and engage in the life of prayer, the reading of scriptures, fasting and reflecting on that. Pray that the Lord may bless us during this time and journey with us in the desert and that we may conclude this journey with a blessed Easter.

### **ACSA**

We welcome Archbishop Thabo and all the Bishops of ACSA as we are hosting the Synod of Bishops. We are grateful to all the diocesan committees and other partners for assisting us in hosting this historic occasion. On 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016 the Archbishop will be having a gala dinner, raising funds for theological education. On the 14<sup>th</sup> the Archbishop and the bishops will have morning tea with the Premier at Steve Biko Foundation. The peace march to the Bisho Massacre Memorial Site will start at 11h30. The Archbishop, accompanied by the Bishops, will lay a wreath and say prayers for those who died in the massacre and their families. It will be followed by a moral regeneration programme at the Bisho Stadium and a Thanksgiving Eucharist at 14h00. From the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> the Synod of Bishops will continue at the Gonubie Hotel. We wish the Archbishop and all the Bishops a happy stay in the Diocese of

Grahamstown and pray that the lord may bless them with a successful synod and events. We call upon the people of the diocese to pray for all the above.

### **Provincial news**

The Revd Allan Kannemeyer has been elected Bishop of the Diocese of Pretoria. Pray for him and his family as they prepare for the consecration and their new ministry.

### **Clergy Moves**

The Revd Kolekile Twantwa of Fort Beaufort cluster parishes and the Revd Wilson Ntlola of Christ Church East London have retired at the end of December 2015. Revd Canon Lawrence Nzwana has been appointed the new Rector of St John & St Chad, Zwelitsha. The Revd Vic Graham has been appointed the new incumbent of Christ Church, Grahamstown with effect 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016. The Revds Godfrey Walton and Noluthando Gixana have been elected Canons of the Cathedral Chapter in the recent Chapter meeting.

### **Marketing and Communication Media Officer**

The Revd Luthando Madiba has now taken up the post of Marketing and Communication Officer. We welcome him and his wife Lusanda and we pray that they will have a happy and long stay in our diocese.

### **Diocesan Synod**

Remember that the Diocesan Synod will take place from Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2016. Ascension Day falls on Thursday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2016 and will be remembered in the Synod. We call upon all Rectors and Priests-in-charge to make arrangements for this to be observed on this day or to celebrate it on the following Sunday.

### **Intercessions**

Continue to uphold in prayer Nolumanyano Mbolekwa and Shona Domeris. Pray for the bereaved family of Revd Tsepo Moletsane who died at St Dominic's Hospital on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Also pray for Archdeacon Prof Mtuze who has recently lost his sister Ethel Mtuze.

Pray for the State of the Nation address of South Africa which will be delivered on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2016. We pray that the Lord may bless the President, all political parties and Members of Parliament to pour His grace upon them to discern what God wants for His people in South Africa and that all people may find South Africa a happy and peaceful environment to live in and to enjoy its resources equally.

We call upon you to pray for the State of the Province Address which will be delivered on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2016. We pray for the premier as he would deliver his address, for all political parties, members of parliament, royal families, the business sector, the Church of God and all its partners during this time, and that God may pour His grace upon them.

We call upon you to pray for the Synod of Bishops. We pray that Archbishop Thabo, as he chairs the Synod that the Lord may give him the necessary grace, wisdom, strength and blessing. Let us also focus in prayers as the Synod of

Bishops is mandated by the Dioceses of Niassa and Namibia to elect their Bishops. We pray that God may guide the Bishops to discern God's will in effecting this mandate.

**Prayer for local elections 2016**

King of Kings and Lord of Lords,  
you led your chosen people through the wilderness  
into the promised land, and made from their diversity one nation:  
mercifully lead your South African people through this year's elections  
so that, with no violence and no devious dealings,  
we may choose local leaders who have integrity,  
and finally grow together into one penitent and peaceful people;  
through Jesus Christ, before whom every knee in heaven and on earth will bow.  
Amen

**Prayer for an end to drought**

God of all mercy,  
who makes the rain fall on the just and the unjust,  
and who has granted rain to us in many parts of our land:  
forgive us our many, many sins and return to us your favour,  
granting rain to our parched lands,  
crops for both people and animals,  
and provision and protection for our farmers:  
through Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of our souls. Amen

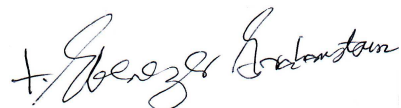
**Please take note:**

The Renewal of Vows service will take place at St John, East London and will start at 10h00.

**Diocesan finances**

Please refer to the attachments for an update of the diocesan finances. You are encouraged to pay the outstanding monies of 2015 as we are preparing our books for our annual audit.

Grace and peace



BISHOP OF GRAHAMSTOWN