



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

May to July 2017

No. 02/2017

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

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

1. **Bishopsbourne**

We, +Ebenezer, Mama Noncedo and family are well. Thank you for your prayers, the love, generosity and hospitality you show to us when we visit the 57 parishes of our diocese. May God bless you all for your unceasing support in various ways. We do pray for you all as our diocesan family. We say to you all "You are dear to God the Creator and may He keep you safe for Jesus Christ, wishing you all mercy and peace and love (Jude 1: 1-2)".

2. **Welcome**

The Revd Rory Middlecote, originating from the Diocese of the Free State, started as Rector of St Nicholas Beacon Bay at the beginning of May 2017. He will be installed as Rector of that parish on 9 July 2017. The Revd Vukile Bunyula, from the Diocese of False Bay, started at St Matthew's Keiskammahoek as a Senior Assistant Priest. We welcome them both in our diocese and we pray that they will have a long and fruitful ministry.

3. **Diocesan Guilds Conferences**

Several diocesan guilds will host conferences this year namely:-

Mother's Union	13 to 16 July
Mary Magdalene	20 to 23 July
AWF	3 to 5 November

We call upon all members of our diocesan family to support our Guilds in various ways and especially to uphold them in prayer for their conferences.

4. **Diocesan Family Weekend**

As the baptized, the confirmed of God, as members of the Kingdom of God, and the Body of Christ, you are all invited to attend our Family Weekend on 26 and 27 August 2017 at the Botanical Gardens in King William's Town. Our meeting together will express our unity in diversity in one

Spirit and will enable us to pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life (APB 1989 page 142). Our draft programme is as follows:-

Saturday 26 August 2017

09h30 Opening service for all including our children and grandchildren.

10h30 Tea will be served

11h00 to DSR information and achievements
11h30

11h35 to Diocesan Development Trust information and achievements
12h05

12h10 to Capraway information and achievements
12h40

11h00 to Children's programme lead by Revd Monwabisi Peter and
13h00 Sunday School teachers which will be followed by games

There will also be a programme for adults at the same time

13h00 to There will be a braai for lunch which will cost R80.00 per
14h00 person and hotdogs etc for the children

14h00 to Sport and various games and speaker on health
16h00

16h10 to Umjikelo wedayosisi by all Guilds, parishioners, St Vincent,
18h30 St Barnabas, FOV, Ordinands, St Stephen, Clergy, Clergy spouses, churchwardens. It will focus on ingxowa ze R100.00 and above kunye nomkumezelo. NB: Parishes will come in as archdeaconries then each guild.

19h00 to Imvuselelo led by Amadodana
22h00

Sunday 27th August 2017

10h00 Diocesan Family Service

Offertory Each guild and each Archdeaconry will forward their ingxowa with Umkumezelo or special collection or giving to increase your ingxowa

RESULTS will be announced before the final blessing by the Diocesan Finance Manager.

We are looking forward to this Diocesan Family Weekend. We hope that you will learn to know each other and experience the networking as well in God's presence – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Our target is R1 million at least.

5. **5.1 Diocesan Retreats for the year 2017**

We are planning to host two clergy retreats – the first one we are hoping to take place on 1st to 4th August 2017 and the second one from 3rd to 6th October 2017. The topic for the second one will be **THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN GOD'S MISSION – LOOKING AT OUR CONDUCT, CHARACTER AND IMPLEMENTATION**. The dates, venues and names of conductors of clergy retreats will be confirmed soon.

We call upon each cleric of the diocese to sign up for a retreat of your choice. Retreats are compulsory as they give us an opportunity for spiritual feeding, introspection, new visioning and renewal and find new wine with God in Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and come back from the mountain for a fresh start and allow Jesus in you and through you to renew the members of His body for spiritual growth and advancement in God's life. Your parish will pay for your retreat.

5.2 **Clergy Spouses Retreat Conducted by Bishop Ebenezer**

We give thanks to God for all our Clergy Spouses as they support our Clergy in Christ's ministry in the Kingdom of God and in the Body of Christ. We invite all the clergy spouses to attend this retreat as a time of reflection and renewal in their support ministry. Let us kindly take it as compulsory. We pray and hope that you will take leave from your work to attend to your soul and life. We will start at 08h30 on Friday 6th October 2017 and end at 18h00. On Saturday, 7th October 2017 we will start at 08h30 and end at 16h00. Could you find accommodation for yourself. The costs would be communicated to you in due course and is payable to the diocese.

6. **Bishop's Meeting With FOV And Deacons**

St Saviour's on 19 August 2017. FOV from 09h00 to 13h00 and ALL deacons – permanent and transitional from 14h00 to 17h00. Tea will be on sale at R30.00 per person.

7. **ACSA NEWS**

The Synod of Bishops, Provincial Trust Board and Provincial Standing Committee Meeting will take place from Monday, 25th to Saturday, 30th September 2017. Kindly uphold these events in your prayers. Also pray for the Elective Assembly for the Diocese of Mthatha which will take place from 2nd to 4th of August 2017.

8. **Bishop Ebenezer's Travel to Germany**

As previously advised, we have represented ACSA as the liaison Bishop for the World Council of Churches at the 500th anniversary of the Reformation at Berlin – Wittenberg from 22nd to 29th May 2017. It was an outstanding experience and we have learnt a lot to share with others.

9. **Intercessions**

We call upon the diocesan family and its leadership to pray for humanity throughout the whole world. Please pray the Litany on page 73 to 77 in the Anglican Prayer Book. Be creative, as incumbents, priests-in-charge and lay leadership of the diocese. We are faced with many social ills and we see an increase in the killings of women and children and rapes are completely out of proportion. We see tendencies in which a boyfriend can just rape his former girlfriend, kill her and burn her body to ashes. There are also rumours that create fears about the selling of human body parts; situations where a person slaughter a young child, cut the body into pieces, put it in a plastic bag and then eat some of the parts. We notice so much anger in us as South Africans.

We have seen how fires have killed people and destroyed animals in Knysna, George and Port Elizabeth; fear of migration and the reversal of an understanding of a global village into isolation of other countries and claim individual sovereignty; poverty, unemployment, expensive health services, fees must fall, sickness, diseases, greed, violence at home, in the work place and in the streets, selfishness, pride and ambition etc. The list is long. The litany will assist us in the covering of all areas in our lives as God's heirs and children and God will give us direction.

We call upon all leadership and diocesan family to pray for the political leadership, for the national, provincial and local governments and Kings and Rulers; that all may be directed by God in their leadership and heads of churches.

Be encouraged also by the words of the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams and others who said: "Prayer is a lifting up of the mind unto God, or a friendly talking with the Lord, from a high and a kindled affection of the heart. In prayer we speak unto God. It is the pouring out of a contrite heart with a sure persuasion that God will grant our requests and give ear to the suits which make unto him. This prayer must only unto God. Prayer is requests, intercessions and thanksgiving to our God. God and the Blessed Virgin Mary help us to pray and to be joined with Him. The prayers by the creatures must be joined to God and Jesus Christ is a door to God's heart". (Love Redeeming Work – Anglican Quest for Holiness 2003 page 61).

10. **Feeding on Christ**

We call upon you all, the leadership and the diocesan family to feed on Christ. The food that is offered by God to us at the Lord's table is to feed our souls. It is food for the mind and not for the body. Our souls, being spiritual, can neither receive nor digest that which is corporal. We feed only upon spiritual food. It is the spiritual eating that gives life (John 6: 63). May God bless our priests as they celebrate the Eucharist frequently for us to be transformed daily by the divinity and Christ's humanity in our inward life as it will impact on our outward life (Rowan Williams: Love's Redeeming Work – The Anglican Quest for Holiness, 2003 page 62-63).

11. **Resignation**

The Revd Freedom Makhubu has resigned earlier this year as he wants some space to put his family right. Please pray for him and his family.

12. **Remedial**

Kindly pray for the Revd Mzoxolo Doda, his spouse Hlengiwe and their children as they are trying to find themselves. Let us pray for them as they go through remedial therapies that the Lord Christ may heal them and enable them to find each other in Christ's abundantly life.

We call upon the Diocesan Family to pray for Revd Lindile Somandi and his spouse as they are being listened to by the Chapter Committee together with their Rector of St Saviour, East London. We pray that through the recommendations of the Chapter Committee and Chapter we may find an amicable solution in Christ Jesus.

13. **Vacant Parishes**

13.1 **St Alban's, East London**

We pray that after the able leadership of Revd Canon Mark Spyker, we may find a suitable Rector. We call upon applicants to apply for the vacant position of a Rector for St Alban's, East London.

13.2 **Holy Cross, Mdantsane**

We thank God for the ministry and contribution of Archdeacon Thami Mhlana. She will be retiring beginning of December 2017. This means that the new incumbent of Holy Cross parish must start on 1st December 2017. We call upon applicants of Anglican Priests to apply for this vacant position

13.3 **St Francis Parish, Mdantsane**

Be informed that the above parish is vacant. We thank God for the ministry of Archdeacon Nkosiphendule Matshaya who is currently the Acting Rector. We call upon the diocesan family to pray for a suitable Rector. We call upon applicants of Anglican Priests to apply for this vacancy.

13.4 **All Saints, Greenfields, East London**

This parish is presently vacant. We thank God for the ministry of Archdeacon Simphiwe Magxwalisa who is currently Acting Rector. We call upon applicants of Anglican Priests to apply for this vacancy.

Closing date for all four vacancies is the 31st of August 2017.

14. **Lenten Project 2017**

We give thanks to God for the contributions that we have received so far and we encourage those parishes that have not yet contributed to kindly do so as soon as possible.

Please refer to the attachment for the Diocesan financials.

Grace and peace

Yours in the service of the Shepherd of shepherds

Fr. George Grahamstown

BISHOP OF GRAHAMSTOWN

Christ has no body on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours.
Ours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out;
ours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and ours are the hands with which
He is to bless us now. (St Teresa de Avila)

AD CLERUM MAY 2017

Assessment received May 2017	2 562 553.00
Assessment expected May 2017	2 992 290.00
Difference(Shortfall)	429 737.00

Insurance received May 2017	191 126.00
Insurance expected May 2017	132 554.00
Difference	(58 572.00)

Medical Aid received May 2017	105 626.00
Medical Aid expected May 2017	229 758.00
Difference(Shortfall)	121 932.00

Khahlamba received May 2017	52 184.00
Khahlamba expected May 2017	105 000.00
Difference(Shortfall)	52 466.00