



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

August to September 2018

No. 05/2018

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

BISHOPSBOURNE

We +Ebenezer, Mama Noncedo and the Bishopsbourne Family are all well. We thank God for you as diocesan family and all its leaders for upholding us in your prayers as we visit the 57 parishes, our schools, Universities of Rhodes and Fort Hare even through our Chaplains and Rectors. Once again, as we finish our ten years of Episcopal ministry, your love, hospitality, generosity and other kinds of support cannot be underestimated. May God bless all of us with the Diocesan leadership and family as we do God's mission in Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. To the diocesan family we want to say, be assured of our love for you and our prayers.

HUMAN SEXUALITY

We were unable to attend the Cluster Meeting of the Archbishop's Commission on Human Sexuality which took place from 17 to 18 August 2018 in East London. The Very Revd Andrew Hunter represented us and he reports as follows:-

“The meeting consisted of a case study, discussion, sharing and reflection. We looked at a document drawn up by Bishop Raphael, summarising the arguments for and against the developing of pastoral guidelines for civil unions. Each diocesan team was given the opportunity to make a presentation. It was clear from the submissions that there was little support from those dioceses represented, for the proposed amendment of Canon 34 to allow for same-sex blessings or marriages within the church”.

Please continue to pray for this commission and its programmes.

IVIYO LOFAKAZI BAKAKRISTU 14th TO 16 SEPTEMBER 2018

We call upon all members of Iviyo and those who are interested to attend the workshop of our renewal. It will be conducted by Revd Mdu Zondi, the President of the Diocese of Natal. The cost for registration and catering is R100.00 per person. Each person has to find their own accommodation. Contact persons:

Secretary, Mrs Nosipho Ngewu

064-755-9962/083-257-3831

Chaplain, Revd Canon Lawrence Nzwana

083-547-2529/079-980-2006

Chairperson, Mr Thobela Mgatyelwa

083-594-8534

RELIGIOUS HERITAGE EXPO

We have been invited by the President of ECPCC – SACC, Archdeacon Lulama Ntshingwa to attend this Expo which be held at St Matthew’s Centre, Keiskammahoek and will start at 10h00 on 13th September 2018 until Sunday 16th of September 2018. We call upon members of the Diocesan family to attend. This is clashing with the Iviyo Workshop and Provincial Deacons Conference but please do send delegates to attend. It will be graced by the presence of Heads of Churches especially the President of the SACC Bishop Siwa and the Provincial government such as MEC’s, House of Traditional Leaders and historic schools. There will be a dialogue on the issue of Church land. For further details contact the Venerable Dr Lulama Ntshingwa Rector of St Matthews and Archdeacon of Alice on 082-498-3221.

DIOCESAN FAMILY WEEKEND 2018

The family weekend of 2018 was a success in all aspects. The Saturday programme went very well and was even enjoyed by children who had fun with older people. The Sunday service was well attended by parishioners and Clergy throughout the Diocese. It was a good sign in our diversity to express our unity in Jesus Christ in attendance and worship. We have run out of words to thank the Archdeaconry of Grahamstown for their warm welcome, their love, hospitality and generosity. We have fundraised an enormous amount of R705 000.00 in love gifts. Our benchmark was R750 000.00 as budgeted and our target was R1 million. For all what we have received, we give glory to God and give thanks for each other for our fellowship in the body of Christ. The Family Day of 2019 will be held in the Archdeaconry of Alice. May God bless all of us as the Diocesan Family as we grow together in the Lord.

ACSA DEACONS CONFERENCE

This will be held in Stellenbosch from 13th to 16th September 2018. We are pleased to say that 12 Deacons from our diocese will attend including Revd Canon Melany Adonis and the Chaplain Revd Canon Dr Sam Beja. Kindly pray for those who will attend this conference.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND

In our last Ad Clerum we appealed to parishes to take a special collection on Sunday 19th of August 2018. We trust that this has been done. We await payment of what has been collected into the Diocesan Revenue Account:-

Bank:	First National Bank
Account No	5232 1144 702
Branch Code	210717
Reference:	Theological/Name of Parish

Please reference your payment correctly. We thank those parishes who have already paid.

IMPORTANT DATES

1. DIOCESE

(a) Clergy Retreat:

The second clergy retreat will take place from Tuesday 23rd October 2018 to Friday 26th of October 2018 at the St Pius Centre, Cambridge, East London. This retreat will be conducted by Bishop Brian of the George Diocese.

(b) Clergy Spouses Retreat

This will take place from Friday 19th October to Friday 20th October 2018 and will be conducted by us. It will take place at Induli Guest House, Gonubie, East London and the cost is R600.00 per person for accommodation and all meals. Kindly pay into the Diocesan Money Market Account:-

Bank:	First National Bank
Acc No:	6221 6294 653
Branch Code:	210717
Reference:	Retreat/Name

Registration 13h00 – starting time 14h00.

(c) Clergy and Spouses Wellness Indaba

We call upon all clergy – stipendiary and non-stipendiary with their spouses to come and discuss and receive inputs on our wellness. Kindly come with ideas for a good wellness programme in the diocese. This indaba will take place from 23rd to 24th November 2018. The venue and programme will be communicated at a later stage. This will incorporate the Bishop's End of Year function as well.

(d) Diocesan Council

The Diocesan Council Meeting will take place over two days – starting at 14h00 on Wednesday, 19th September 2018 and would continue to Thursday, 20th September 2018. The meeting will take place at St John, East London.

20th September 2018

This will be our 10th anniversary as Bishop of Grahamstown. Please continue to pray for us as we give thanks to God the Holy Trinity for being with us throughout this period.

Please see the article from The Very Revd Andrew Hunter on this topic:-

“The Dean, in consultation with diocesan leadership, has been giving some thought about how we can acknowledge and celebrate the 10th anniversary of the consecration and enthronement of Bishop Ebenezer, as the 14th Bishop of Grahamstown. The date of the anniversary will be Thursday 20th September 2018, which is also the date for the meeting of the Diocesan Council. The programme for the celebration is as follows:

Date: Thursday 20th September 2018

Venue: St John's, East London

11 a.m. Celebration of the Eucharist. Bishop Ebenezer to preside, the Dean to preach. Liturgical colour: RED.

12.30 p.m. Lunch, attended by mama Noncedo, all members of Chapter, all members of the Diocesan Council, and invited guests. During the lunch, we have a short program of addresses and presentations. There will be an opportunity for Bishop Ebenezer to respond”.

Dean Andrew writes further: “A 10th anniversary is always a significant milestone and landmark, and particularly as we give thanks for the episcopal ministry and leadership of our Bishop. It is an opportunity to look back and give thanks; to look around and acknowledge all who are part of this journey of faith and life; and to look forward with hope and expectation for the years that lie ahead. We congratulate Bishop Ebenezer, together with Mama Noncedo, and we thank God for all that they are in our lives, and in the life of the diocese and the wider church.”

2. **ACSA**

(a) **Khahlamba Diocese** will have their Family Day and Fundraising Dinner at the Thobi Kula Indoor Sport Centre, Komani on Saturday, 13th October 2018. Their programme starts at 08h00 and the Gala Dinner starts 18h30. For any further details contact the Khahlamba Diocesan office on 045 – 383-3261

(b) **Anglicans Ablaze**

We call upon all those who would love to be enriched spiritually at the Anglicans Ablaze which happens at least once in two years. This year it will take place from 3 – 6 October 2018 at the City Hall Auditorium, Hillcrest Durban and the Theme is “LIVING A JESUS SHAPED LIFE”. Full registration R850.00; Early Bird registration R650.00; Financially assisted R650.00 and Youth registration R450.00. For more information contact the Provincial Office on 021 – 763-1315 email: info@anglicansablaze.org

(c) **Growing the Church**

We call upon those who co-ordinate Growing the Church to attend Provincial Training Conference for “Leadership, Evangelism and Discipleship (LEAD)” 26 – 29 November 2018. This will be Diocesan Co-ordinators’ meeting. Could you kindly as Diocesan family pray for all these programmes. Contact details Trevor Pearce at 086-100-1171 or trevor@growingthechurch.org.za

(d) **Launch of the Archbishop’s Book**

We, as the Diocesan Family of Grahamstown are excited to host the launch of the Archbishop’s book *Faith & Courage: Praying with Nelson*

Mandela.which will be in East London. The precise venue will be communicated in due course. We are happy to see how our Archbishop is growing as an author, academic and his prophetic role and ministry in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. We invite all the Clergy and especially members of Chapter and parishioners to attend and to support this initiative and buy a book.

(e) **Hope Africa (a Social Development Programme of ACSA)**

We are called upon as Diocesan Family and Leadership to join other Dioceses in ACSA in the observance of the Poverty Eradication Day 17 October 2018. This will be an international event. We are aware that the UN has set up goals for sustainable development. Poverty eradication is a priority which will result in **NO POVERTY**. We are called therefor to donate and assist Hope Africa to provide agricultural trainings, and equipment, food parcel distribution, clean drinking water, education material, school uniforms, and support in an ongoing effort to fight poverty. Kindly deposit your donation in the following bank account:-

Account Name:	HOPE Africa
Bank:	First National Bank
Branch Code	201 409
Acc No:	6204 7177 515
Reference	Poverty Eradication

DIOCESAN INTERCESSIONS

We request the Diocesan Family and its leadership to continue to pray for the family of the late Mama Sobukwe. We, together with the Archbishop, were represented at the funeral, on 25 August 2018 by the Very Revd Andrew Hunter. He was pleased to meet church leaders like Bishop Siwa, Bishop Dr Stanley Mogoba, Revd Canon Prof Barney Pityana and Mama Ntsiki Biko our parishioner. He assured us that the funeral went very well except for a few disruptions. May her soul rest in peace and rise in glory.

BISHOP NCEBA BETHLEHEM NOPECE Dip Th, B.Th, B.Th (Hons), M.Th

We are pleased to inform you that with members of Chapter we have welcomed Bishop Nopece on the 7th of August 2018 at St Martin-by-the-Sea after he has retired as Diocesan Bishop of Port Elizabeth on 31st of July 2018 after a tenure of 21 years. He would be staying at St Alban's Rectory, East London which he has made his spiritual home as well. He will do ministry at St Alban's as directed by the Rector Sharon Summers-Smith. He will be asked by us to perform any other duties, if need be.

We are blessed to have him as a Theologian and Educationist – someone who is broad in knowledge having studied in South Africa and abroad at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. A great pastor and evangelist. On behalf of the Diocesan Family and its leaders, we wish +Bethlehem a happy stay and a blessed retirement in our diocese.

St Francis Parish, Mdantsane, East London

On the 19th of August 2018, we instituted the former Archdeacon of the Diocese of the Free State, the Revd Andile Mbutye as the Rector of St Francis Parish. We have welcomed him together with his family. We thank God for the St Francis parishioners who receives an experienced pastor during these challenging times. He is admitted to sacred theology and also have administration skills. We call upon you to continue to pray for him, his family and the parish of St Francis as we are all partners in God's mission.

Grace and peace



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)