



Anglican Church of Southern Africa
Diocese of Grahamstown

The Bishop of Grahamstown
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Ad Clerum

January to March 2021

No. 02/2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

BISHOPSBOURNE FAMILY

We +Ebenezer, Mama Noncedo, our children, grandchildren and sons-in-law are well. We thank God who gave our daughter Zipho the gift of marriage. She married into the Mbuku family in Queenstown. The Mbuku family are “Amasiya” Sesotho clan and our son-in-law’s mother is the daughter of the late Revd Jayiya from the Hlathi clan. The full wedding with the rituals will be done as the lockdown eases. Aviwe and Zipho are blessed with a son Lebohang who is now 5 months old. Our children have finished schooling and only grandchildren are still at school – Esona in grade 7, Buhle grade 8 at DSG and Sambesiwe is doing grade 2 and Samila in Grade 0 at St Andrew Prep. Thank you for your prayers as we minister in the lockdown situation.

DIOCESAN MOTHER’S UNION GUILD

The Mothers Union is alive in the Diocese in the lockdown under the able leadership of Anna Mangaliso who is our MU President. We had successful elections of some members of the executive. The Mother’s Union at St John & St Chad, Zwelitsha had successful elections. We were assisted by the Archdeacon to the Ordinary during the election process. Mrs Wendy Mfazwe the first deputy of the Grahamstown Mother’s Union was elected the second term as Deputy President. The Revd Dr Prim Beja was re-elected for the second term as Second Deputy President. After the able leadership as treasurer, Mrs Nomhle Ntshingwa who served for two terms was succeeded by Mrs Nombulelo Nelani.

On the same day, Mrs Masechaba Lottering was elected Diocesan Secretary of the Grahamstown Mother’s Union after the able leadership of Mrs Yolo Zantsi. We give thanks to God for the outgoing office bearers and we welcome the new officers hoping they will enjoy their ministry in taking forward the Diocesan Mother’s Union.

On the 4th of February 2021, the Mother’s Union Diocesan President notified us that this year is the beginning of a new triennial term for the presidential position worldwide. The nominations for the position of MU President of the Diocese of Grahamstown have been distributed to the parishes and returned to the office of the Bishop. The presidential elections will take place on 22nd May 2021 at the Cathedral of St Michael & St George, Grahamstown.

The elections will be led by us (Bishop) which will be followed by the induction service. We call upon the MU members, probationers and the Diocesan Family to pray for this process. We thank God for the above leadership of MU President Mrs Anna Mangaliso especially how the MU members and their ACSA cluster diocese have prayed and are still praying the Angelus during this Covid 19 pandemic. This has kept us awake and inspired us in our spiritual journey in the lockdown situation.

DIOCESAN ST AGNES

We thank God for Mrs Siki Wababa-Putini who has been Diocesan Organiser of the Diocesan St Agnes Guild together with her deputy Mrs Thozama Ntantiso. They have done well with their executive lead by Aphiwe for two terms.

Be informed that on the 8th of November 2020 a new executive of Diocesan St Agnes Guild has been elected and inducted by us and the new office bearers are as follows:-

Diocesan Organiser	Mrs Noluthando Mqhaba;
Deputy Organiser	Mrs Khululwa Msadu;
Chairperson	Amelia Sogcwe;
Deputy Chairperson	Zoliswa Kate
Secretary	Bulelani Ntenta
Deputy Secretary	Babalwa Godongwana
Treasurer	Bavuyise Jabane

We commend this new executive to your prayers. We are taking forward the initiative of the former executive and that is “A Dialogue or Conversation between Girls and Boys with Clergy” on the subject of “Gender-based Violence” to create a safe, peaceful environment that will promote human dignity and respect for others in the church and beyond.

The former executive also lead a virtual conference and other virtual programmes. We pray and hope that they will work hand in hand with the incoming executive.

COVID 19 REGULATIONS

We are giving guidance again on the policies that we have forwarded to you. The Churches are open and you can use them for worship, weddings and funerals. The numbers have been increased from 50 to 100 inside for the above services and others but it must be 50% of the accommodation space with social distancing of 1.5 or 2 metres. Families could sit together in whatever service, observing social distancing and the wearing of masks. For now outside numbers are 250 only.

COVID 19 REGULATIONS AND ITS IMPACT

We have appointed the Revd Canon Dr Sam Beja as our liaison person between the Diocese and ACSA. He works with a team of doctors and nurses. We thank God for the policies we have created with an approval of Chapter and other bodies. The policies made changes as the President of RSA regulates the levels in control of the pandemic of the Corona virus. We call upon the Diocesan family and its leadership to comply to our church and state policies that are provided such as

SACC-ECPC. We have lost a number of Clergy and Clergy spouses since lockdown started:-

1. Revd Lizo Sokopo
2. Revd Themba Philip
3. Revd Mlandeli Tekile
4. Revd Queen Laxa
5. Revd Jeanette Faniso
6. Revd Mnikeli Mkiva
7. Revd Kolekile Twantwa
8. Revd Mluleki Mize
9. Revd Ed Smith
10. Revd James Hoyle
11. Revd Mvuleni Mvula
12. Revd Erica Notsolo
13. Archdeacon Zamile Dlanjwa
14. Revd Vuyani Mnqatu
15. Revd Pumza Tiso

Clergy spouses who have died since lockdown

1. Mrs Zoleka Mduzana
2. Lay Canon Nontobeko Moletsane
3. Mrs Nompucuko Twantwa
4. Mrs Kholiwe Mkiva

We call upon the clergy, their families and diocesan family to continue to pray for our deceased clergy, their spouses, families and the diocesan families who have lost their loved ones as we face and go through this pandemic.

We will never forget their life and contribution to God the Trinity and to themselves, their families and to the Church and community at large and their contribution to their spouses and children.

May their souls rest in peace and rise in glory.

LENT 2021

Members of the Diocesan Family of Grahamstown Diocese and beyond, thank you for joining us in this journey of Lent which is 46 days from Ash Wednesday to the Easter Vigil of 2021.

The roots of Lent are in the penitential discipline which was practised in the Early Church where Christians had notorious sins that had caused scandals, and this resulted to the ex-communications of those individuals. In their punishment they were wearing sackcloth and ashes. Fasting and prayer was their life. These persons were reinstated during the Easter Vigil.

The theme of Lent is repentance and mourning and showing remorse, expressing our sorrow of our faults and sins by pouring ashes on our foreheads. As we go through the discipline of Lent, doing our own introspection, let us have a goal in our fasting, praying "create in us new contrite hearts, that lamenting our sins and

acknowledging our weaknesses, we may obtain from God in Christ Jesus, all mercy perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord (APB 1989; page 162).

We call upon the entire diocesan family and our leadership to practise what the Bishops of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa are describing as our duty to practise:

- Our duty and stewardship which we are called to practise daily as our lifestyle as Christians (number 82 -98 APB 1989 page 434-437);
- We need to practise fasting as directed in APB 1989 from 99 – 103 page 437;
- We are called as diocesan family to practise the following as well:
 - By giving more time to prayer, Bible Study or spiritual reading;
 - By eating less or simpler food;
 - By giving up some pleasure or luxury, and using the money saved to help others.

As your Diocesan Bishop I call on each and every parishioner in our Diocese from what you have given up this Lent, generously give towards the following:-

- St Andrew's Parish, Ginsberg. They have built a Church of R2.6 million. They have paid cash for it. Their challenge is R400 000.00 for toilets;
- St Peter's Zozo have built a church worth R400 000.00. Could we donate in order that they finish God's house;
- Our brothers and sisters in the Lord in the Diocese of Lebombo, Mozambique are faced with natural disasters such as floods and political instability. From the monies of Lent whatever little will be donated towards bringing relief through HOPE Africa.

Kindly pay what you have given up in Lent as budgeted by the Diocese to fulfil these three goals that we want to meet in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

EASTER OFFERINGS

Remember the words of Christ to you as churchwardens and parishioners. In Matthew 10:9 Jesus said to his apostles "as you do God's mission do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts – no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep".

Please release Easter offerings to your Rector as we lead you in the name of the Lord (Holy Bible 2011: 910). Easter is 4th April 2021.

PENTECOST OR WITSUNDAY OFFERINGS

We call upon all diocesan leadership and family to be generous towards curates and assistant priests in your parish. Give to them generously as the Lord leads you to the men and women of God who have accepted Jesus' call to serve Him in serving you. We pray that the churchwardens and members of the parish council will not neglect your duty by forgetting those "little ones". Pentecost or Whitsunday is on 23 May 2021.

THEOLOGICAL SUNDAY 2021

The Theological Sunday is a special day for all who have been ordained by God in His church. It is special because they have been theologically trained through theological seminaries such as St Bede's, St Peter's and St Paul's that became the College of Transfiguration. You are Rectors and leaders because of the gift of theology. It is our obligation as a diocese to support ACSA's vision that Priests, Deacons, Bishops and Archbishops must go through "spiritual formation" and be theologically trained. We +Ebenezer who are also a council member and chair of the Executive of CoTT call upon all clergy and members of the diocesan family to take Theological Education Sunday seriously. It will be celebrated on the 22nd of August 2021. May God bless you with a generous spirit in support of our only theological seminary in ACSA.

FAMILY DAY 2021

The Revd Canon Dr Sam Beja, with his team, will call upon you as soon as possible and inspire us in ways and means of celebrating ourselves as God's family in Christ Jesus in the Gold Circle of the Holy Trinity. Let us learn quickly how to do God's mission in Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit in this lockdown. The Family Day will be celebrated in East London on the 21st – 22nd August 2021. We will also bring offerings of Theological Sunday during this weekend.

GIVING IN THE CHURCH OF GOD

The Living God through His Word has mandated each Christian or church member how we should give and why giving as well?

HUMAN GIVING

The members of the Christians decided themselves without God and without obedience to God's word of how much they would give in God's Church. They would give not what God wants but what they think and decided. They decided as follows:

TICKET SYSTEM: Everybody is told to give R10 or R20 a month irrespective of what their budget is. This does not take into account that although we are the body of Christ our income is not the same;

PLEDGE SYSTEM: Those who are not working will pay R20.00. those who are working will pay R50.00.

PLANNED GIVING

This is another way of giving. Although it is not a way that God has instructed us to do. It is a human way of giving. God is calling us to give according to his word as follows:-

- The Lord's tithe (10%) also known as the Levite's tithe, this tithe meant for the temple and priests (Leviticus 27: 30)
- The harvest tithe (10%). This is a once-off tithe. IN our parishes it is called the Patronal Festival. It is taken from your 13th cheque or your extra income. This tithe sought to encourage and maintain national moral and unity (Deuteronomy 12: 10-18);
- The tithe for the poor (4%). This supports the welfare of widows, orphans and other people with nothing to eat (Deuteronomy 14: 28)
- In Matthew 17:24-27 we learn that Jesus Christ and his disciples were also tithing 40% as above and remember the words of Jesus that Caesar

to Caesar and God to God. He was giving 24% to God and 16% to Caesar. We +Ebenezer by divine permission Bishop of Grahamstown declares that the minimum giving for the unemployed is R100.00 per month. Those who are working but are not professionals R150.00 per month minimum giving. Those who are professionals such as directors, teachers etc must be from R500.00 per month. Nevertheless, we encourage everybody to give generously and cheerfully as the Holy Spirit leads them – especially in this pandemic – with effect 1st April 2021.

ORDINATION 13 MARCH 2021

The following were successfully ordained and we give thanks to God for the pastoral charges they are going to serve:-

Fete, Luyanda	Cathedral, Grahamstown
Gess, Robert Wolfgang	St John, Bathurst
Gqoboka, Mzwabantu	St Gregory Mdantsane
Malotana, Lunga	St John & St Chad
Mkiva, Nkosohlanga	St Bartholomew, Alice
Ntontela, Zisiwe	St John & St Chad
Roberts. Helecyne	St Andrew, Bedford
Sokopo, Bongwiwe	St Andrew, Ginsberg
Tembani, Siyabulela	Holy Name, Stutterheim
Tyiso, Nondumiso	St Gregory, Mdantsane
Wababa-Putini, Sikelelwa	St Katherine, Berlin

We commend them to your prayers.

CHAPTER NEWS

The Very Revd Dr Andrew Hunter, his wife the Revd Canon Dr Claire Hunter and their children Rachel and Nicola relocated to Cape Town.

We give thanks to God for their lives and contribution to God, to us and the community of the Eastern Cape. We are grateful to the Archbishop Thabo and Bishop Joshua for providing work for them.

NEW DEAN ELECT

This is to inform you that our former Ven Subdean Mzinzisi Dyantyi has been unanimously elected by Bishop in Chapter and the Cathedral parish council and wardens as our Acting Dean to the end of March 2021 and as Dean of the Diocese with effect 1st April 2021. His installation service will take place on 24th April 2021 at 10h00 at the Cathedral of St Michael & St George. We thank God for him with his wife Lilitha and children Sambesiwe and Samila. We commend them to your prayers.

SUBDEAN ELECT AND CATHEDRAL CHANCELLOR

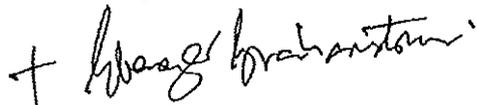
Be informed that the Revd Canon Melany Adonis has been unanimously appointed by Chapter and the parish council and wardens of the Cathedral. She is now our Subdean elect Madam Canon Chancellor and a Priest of the Cathedral with effect 1st March 2021. We give thanks to God for her, for her dear spouse Hilton and children Joy and Stephano. We commend them to your prayers.

HOLY TRINITY KING WILLIAM'S TOWN

We give thanks for the live and contribution of the Revd Gareth Jones together with his dear spouse Mariana who has now retired. We are pleased to inform you that the Revd Sinje Dlokweni has become Rector Elect of that parish with effect 17 February 2021. We commend all of them to your prayers.

May God bless all of us as we are partners in God's mission.

Grace and peace

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bishop of Grahamstown', written in a cursive style.

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)