



*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***

**November to December 2017**

**No. 05/2017**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

Advent greetings to our Diocesan Leadership, all its structures and the entire Diocesan family in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Mausolfé in his book “Saints and Companions” believes that Advent is the pre-Christmas season. It begins from its first Sunday as the Church’s new liturgical year which follows the solemnity of Christ the King. He continues to believe that Advent is the preparation for the first coming of Christ and the second coming of Christ at the end of time (Parousia) (1986 p 453). We pray that God in Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit through our faithfulness and obedience to the Gospel of Grace in word and example.

**BISHOPSBOURNE**

We +Ebenezer, Mama Noncedo, Bishopsbourne family and the Diocesan staff thank the entire Diocesan family and that of ACSA for your prayers, support of different kinds throughout 2017. May God in Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit enable all of us to uphold our unity, holiness and of being catholic and apostolic.

The Bishopsbourne house is under renovation. It is unfinished and unsafe. As a family we are all well. Esona will be doing grade 4, Buhle grade 5 at DSG, Chwayita has written her grade 12 exams patiently waiting for her results. She is interested in doing law in one of the Universities in 2018. Anda has enjoyed his gap year in 2017 preparing to go to University or Technikon in 2018. Masandi, Buntu and Aphiwe are in good health and doing well in their jobs. Zipho has just completed her BA degree at NMU majoring with Psychology and Public Administration. She will be doing Honours in 2018 in Public Administration. We also want to mention that Aphiwe, Zipho, Chwayita and Anda have passed their driver’s licences.

We do not underestimate your love as a Diocesan Family, prayers, various kinds of support as we experience this in our visits of the 57 parishes and as we participate in Provincial and International gatherings of the church. Let us continue to pray and uphold one another in our prayers and life.

**DIOCESAN FINANCE, TRUST BOARD, DIOCESAN COUNCIL,  
CHAPTER AND SUB-COMMITTEES**

We give thanks to God for all those who serve God in Christ by serving on these Boards tirelessly for the smooth running of the Diocese. We call upon the Diocesan Family to pray for our leadership.

### **DIOCESAN GUILDS**

Our Guilds are strong pillars of our church in the Diocese. They are doing very well in their meetings, conferences, social outreach and in enhancing our spiritual life, developmental life and assist all of us in the Diocese in focussing our faith in the vertical and horizontal aspects. We are very proud of them as they operate locally, on archdeaconry, diocesan and provincial level. They are doing an outstanding service. We call upon all Clergy, Christ's shepherds in thanksgiving to continue supporting our Diocesan Guilds (ie MU, Bernard Mizeki, AWF, St Mary Magdalene, St Agnes Guild with associates, Diocesan Youth Guild and other structures such as Layministers (St Barnabas), St Vincent (Servers) and St Stephen (all Deacons – transitional, permanent and vocational)).

### **ORDINATIONS**

The following people were ordained to the transitional diaconate at St Alban's, East London on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2017:-

Alice Kabaale – St Mark's East London;  
Mnikeli Mkiva – St Bartholomew, Alice;  
Zukisa Mabuya – St Luke, Nxarhuni  
Vusumzi Botile – St Andrews, Mdantsane  
Bassie Mbenya – St Francis, Mdantsane  
Gcobani Maqubela – St Francis, Mdantsane  
Siyabulela Bam – St John & St Chad, Zwelitsha  
Mbongeni Pongoma - St Barnabas. Tsholomnqa  
Siphokazi Matini – Church of Resurrection, Fort Beaufort  
Mzameli Mndi – St Peter, Peddie

Please note that due to time constraints it has been decided to postpone the ordination service for priests to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2018 at the Cathedral of St Michael and St George. The liturgical colour for all ordination services is Red. Only Chapter members wear copes in the Diocesan services.

### **ST VINCENT DIOCESAN SERVERS**

Be informed that our servers are travelling to Harare, Zimbabwe in an exchange programme under the able leadership of the Revd Canon Noluthando Gixana their Chaplain and her assistants. You will remember that in 2016 ordinations we were visited by the servers of Bishop Chad. Now it was their turn to experience what other servers are doing in Zimbabwe. We call upon you to pray that servers may have a safe travel to and from Zimbabwe.

### **MARCH OF THE DIOCESAN MOTHERS UNION 24<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMBER 2017**

Be informed that the Mother's Union of the Diocese under the able leadership of their President, their Chaplain together with the Clergy and the Diocesan Bishop +Ebenezer took a petition that will be presented by the South African Police to the Premier of the Province the Honourable Phumulo Masualle. The petition

was about “NO” to gender based violence and other matters. We give thanks to God for those who attended the march and the prayers of those who were unable to attend. We pray that South Africa may be a safe environment for all its citizens and visitors.

### **ST AGNES GUILD MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

Be informed that our St Agnes Guild and associates had a march with us +Ebenezer, Clergy of the Diocese to the leadership of the House of Traditional Leaders to hand over a petition that seeks partnerships. On that same date the St Agnes Guild had a launch of their Lilies Arise Project and donated sanitary towels that last for 5 years as they are re-usable to child-headed families and those who are in need. This march was done in partnership with the DSR and Help A Student Foundation. The petition was about to help curbing the violence against women and children and assist in the creation of HIV free communities in restoring the dignity of young girls by keeping them in school. The call was that we, as the church, traditional leaders and other partners to take a firm stand against the increasing prevalence of HIV, violence against women and children, rape, coercing and dehumanising of women through acts of ukuthwala, human trafficking and sexual abuse. Research has proved that girls and young women between ages 15 and 25 are mostly affected with HIV/AIDS in South Africa. We call upon the diocesan family to pray for and support St Agnes Guild in their commitment to fundraise and support girls that go without sanitary towels to keep them in school etc. We do not underestimate the able leadership of their Diocesan Organisers and Chaplain ie Mrs Sikelelwa Wababa-Putini, her deputy Thozama Ntantiso and the Revd Canon Lawrence Nzwana. It is also interesting to see how Guilds support each other in Diocesan activities.

### **IVIYO RENEWAL CONFERENCE AT IXOPO, DIOCESE OF NATAL FROM 14<sup>TH</sup> TO THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

Time is against us. We have forwarded an open invitation to Chapter members, Clergy, Servers, Guilds and Parishioners to attend Iviyo Lofakazi Kukakristu. Theme “We serve the unchanging God in changing times”. We are all called as a Diocesan family to obey God the Trinity, by obeying our own Synod resolutions and that is the decade for Mission and Evangelism, which we have launched and the Iviyo Lofakazi is a motion of Synod 2016 as we will be launching it in 2018.

Therefore, let us go to this conference to gain experience and learning. The programme is as follows; for Grahamstown Diocesan guests 09:00 – 16:00, 14 December 2017. We will be taught Mission, Evangelism and Church Planting. On the same date at 18:00 we will be joining other dioceses in the renewal conference, which will end Sunday 17 December 2017 after the Eucharist. This experience will enable us to launch our own Iviyo conference with other dioceses in 2018.

We urge all who will be attending to pay the bus as soon as possible. Do not target to pay at the bus!! Attached to this letter will be the bishop’s invitation letter with all the details of the trip.

Makhe sizikhuphe sonke egameni leNkosi uYesu.

### **HOW DO WE END 2017 AS A DIOCESE**

The Diocesan Council is calling upon us (Acts of the Diocese of Grahamstown 2016 Chapter V page 19-25) as the Diocesan family under the leadership of +Ebenezer to meet all our obligations for 2017 as follows:-

- Update your assessment and arrears up to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 as the offices will be closing on 15 December 2017;
- The new insurance year has started 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017. Kindly pay all your current and arrear insurance before the office closes;
- Please update your Khahlamba, Lent, Diocesan Family Day, Theological Education, Medical Aid before the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2017.

Once again we thank God for you. We remember you in our prayers. We continue to be amazed by your unceasing, prayerful, financial support and other ways in which you love your and our diocese and our province.

### **CLOSING OF OUR DIOCESAN OFFICES FOR DECEMBER HOLIDAYS 2017**

Be informed that our offices will be closed on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 12h00 re-opening on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2018.

### **ACSA**

#### **SYNOD OF BISHOPS AND PSC – COLLEGE OF TRANSFIGURATION**

The Synod of Bishops and PSC have agreed that we support the cashflow of the College of Transfiguration as follows:

- Each Diocese make a stop order of R2800.00 per month from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019;
- Each Diocese is asked to send at least one student per year or if not having a student to pay for one student for purposes of sustainability;
- Theological Sunday collections continue to be paid in the Diocesan Revenue Account and forwarded to CoTT;
- The CoTT Council has established a fundraising committee which will be fundraising for the College.

We call upon the Diocesan family to join the Provincial family in praying and supporting our only Theological College that is raising our future leaders in Southern Africa and those who come from elsewhere.

### **DIOCESE OF KHAHLAMBA**

We give thanks to God for the able leadership of +Mazwi Tisani who has retired now. Be informed that the Diocese of Khahlamba on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2017 had an election of a Diocesan Bishop. Its Bishop-Elect is the Vicar General Moses Madywabe. We congratulate him and Thembisa wishing them a fruitful ministry in the Lord. May God be praised as Moses has been elected in the first ballot as the indigenous son of that diocese and as our son also in the Diocese of Grahamstown. We assure the Bishop-Elect, his family and the Khahlamba Diocese of our prayers and support. We thank God for the ministry and leadership of our Archbishop the Most Reverend Dr Cecil Thabo Makgoba, his family and the advisory committee for their success.

### **DIOCESE OF MTHATHA**

We thank God for the able leadership of the former Dean of the Province Dr Sithembele Mzamane in leading the Diocese of Mthatha to his retirement. We

also give thanks to God for the leadership of the Vicar General Bishop Anthony Mdlletshe and his family as they were assisting the Archbishop in the interregnum. Be informed that on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2017 at the Cathedral of St John, Mthatha the Right Reverend Dr Nkosinathi will be translated and enthroned by the Archbishop of Cape Town and the Metropolitan of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa as the Diocesan Bishop of Mthatha. We call upon all members of the diocese to pray for the new Bishop, his family and the diocese.

### **WORD AND WORSHIP**

The new Word and Worship book (ISBN 978-1-86804-419-1) is now available and could be ordered through the office. Please contact Vuyokazi on 046 – 636-1995 to place your order.

We request your prayers for the following upcoming events:-

Synod of Bishops 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018;  
Consecration of the Bishop of Khahlamba on 24 February 2018  
Synod of Bishops 24 to 26 September 2018  
Provincial Standing Committee 26 to 29 September 2018  
Provincial Synod 24 to 27 September 2019

May you have a prayerful Advent, blessed Christmas and Epiphany and a prosperous New Year.

Grace and peace

Yours in the service of the Shepherd of shepherds



BISHOP OF GRAHAMSTOWN

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**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)**