



*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 November 2018**

**No. 05/2018**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

**BISHOPSBOURNE**

We +Ebenezer, Mama Noncedo, Bishop's family and Diocesan staff – thank you all for your prayerful and other kinds of support. We were humbled and pleased when the Dean of the Diocese, Diocesan staff and senior leadership of the diocese celebrated and giving thanks to God for our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Diocesan Bishop in the Episcopal ministry. The programme, the love, the fellowship and kind words made us to feel very small when we were reminded of our ministry and our life as we lead the diocese. The anniversary and the Diocesan Council were on the same day and the Dean preached very well during the thanksgiving Eucharist.

We wish you a blessed Advent, Christmas and Epiphany and a prosperous New Year.

**ARCHBISHOP'S BOOK LAUNCH**

We, as a Diocese were humbled by the request of the Archbishop Dr Cecil Thabo Makgoba to launch his book Faith & Courage. Firstly, we are excited that our Archbishop is growing as an author as this is his second book. It is an interesting book that shows his heart, ministry, passion and a great pastor to attend to even the lost sheep as he prayed with the late Dr Nelson Mandela during his last days. We pray and hope that people will order the book through our office or directly from the publishers. We are pleased by the way in which the Diocesan family and our working team have embraced this launch and prepared for it. We also give thanks to God for the availability of the Archbishop, Mama Lungi, Mama Brigalia Bam, members of the Diocesan and other denominations. It makes us proud as we give glory to God for what His Christian workers are doing in Christ. Jesus always says, "love each other as I have loved you". We continue to pray that God may pour His grace on the Archbishop's ministry and authorship.

**ANGLICANS ABLAZE – ACSA**

We give thanks to God for all the members of our Diocese and leadership who have attended the Anglicans Ablaze from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in Durban. These are the opportunities for all of us to grow in our spiritual journeys. Let us continue to bear testimony even to those who were not able to attend in order that they can also be enriched.

## **ACSA DEACONS CONFERENCE**

Revd Canon Melany Adonis who accompanied the Deacons to the recent conference writes as follows:-

The Deacons Conference was held at the Christian Brothers Retreat Centre in Stellenbosch from on 13 to 16 September. The theme of the Conference was “From the Altar to the streets”. We were encouraged to think about the ministry of the deacon “in the streets” and then “returning to the Altar to bring the challenges and issues for prayer”. Different topics were presented and discussed:

- Personal reflections on the diaconate and its history.
- An introduction to Diakonia - a worldwide organisation.
- Theological Education and Training
- The process of discernment
- Training before ordination

It was however also a time of fellowship and it was good to meet people from different dioceses and have interesting conversations during meals.

We were also challenged to move from our comfort zones when we visited the Drakenstein Correctional Centre. We were taken to the section for young people and able to interact with some of the young boys and men. This was an emotional visit. The young faces looking at us and their stories, challenged us to see ordinary human beings in need of love and support. We were made aware of the pain of our communities and the need for the Church to be more involved especially as a bridge when people leave the centre and need to re-connect with their communities and families.

There was also work done on a Constitution for ACSA Deacons. This process is part of making the Church aware of the need to affirm the ministry of distinctive deacons. In order to facilitate networking and development and growth of the diaconate a committee to help with communication in ACSA was elected. Two deacons from the Diocese of Grahamstown were elected as part of the ACSA Communications Committee - Rev Nokuzola Gitywa and Rev Lunga Dongwana. We thank God for their willingness to serve and pray God’s continued blessings over them and their families.

## **AWF PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

We thank the Diocesan family as it has been praying for the AWF Provincial Council that took place at Blue Lagoon Hotel, Beacon Bay, East London from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2018. It was a great blessing for our own AWF to host this Council meeting which they have done with distinction. We were graced by the Provincial President of the AWF, +Dan the liaison Bishop and his spouse as well as Archbishop Thabo and Mama Lungi. We give thanks to our Diocesan guilds that have supported our AWF. We also give glory to God for the help that we have received from the Rector and Wardens of St Saviour, the Archdeacon of East London East, Chuma Mduzana and Archdeacon Simphiwe Magxwalisa though he was involved in an accident and was assisted by the Revd Canon Randall Gallant. This meeting was successful in all its deliberations and the Provincial President was re-elected into her second term of office. We call upon the members of the Diocesan family to continue praying for our Diocesan President, Mama Thobeka Jack and her team to gain strength in doing Christ’s work in the power of the Spirit to the glory of God and that God may continue to bless all the beneficiaries of the AWF ministry and its members.

### **DIOCESAN FAMILY DAY**

We thank God for the Archdeaconry of Grahamstown for hosting this year's Diocesan Family Weekend so well. Many people and children have enjoyed it especially on Saturday with the games etc. During the Sunday service the Finance Manager announced that an amount of +R700 000.00 was collected in love gifts from all the parishes and Guilds of the Diocese. This is encouraging, showing that we can make a million and above. The next Diocesan family day will be hosted by the Archdeaconry of Alice on 24 and 25 August 2019. Kindly pray for the success of this event. We give thanks to God for the enthusiasm of the Events and Fundraising Committees and all the various committees that they work with. We do not underestimate the hard work of the members of the diocesan family for such a great achievement. May God bless you all abundantly and give you good health, prosperity and grace.

### **DIOCESAN DUES**

We have observed in our cashflow that this has been a difficult year for us as a diocese and as a church of God living in this socio-economic and political context of South Africa. You have however kept on doing something beautiful for God. The diocese, the parishes and ACSA were able to do God's mission through their commitment and faithfulness to the Lord. We call upon you to remain committed until Christ's second coming.

We call upon all parishes of the Diocese to pay their 2018 Diocesan dues in full – that includes assessments, Lenten contributions, Family Day, Insurance, Medical Aid, Khahlamba, Theological Sunday etc. You know that we close our financial year on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December and our books are taken to the Auditors. We are always amazed by your love and effort and we trust that you will do as requested.

### **DIOCESAN ORDINATIONS**

There will be no ordinations this year. The suggested dates for 2019 are as follow:-

for Deacons – Saturday, 16 February;  
for Priests – Saturday, 16 Mach.

### **OUR LIFE**

We thank God for those who attended the Clergy Retreats that were conducted by the Very Revd Sharon Nell of the PE Diocese and Bishop Brian from the Diocese of George respectively. We have conducted a successful spouses' retreat which was attended by 46 spouses. We give thanks to God for such opportunities of learning from each other as we grow in our spiritual lives.

### **ST AGNES CONFERENCE**

Thank you for your prayers. This conference which was held on 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018 was well attended. We were excited to see a big number of young girls called Gcashe who have enrolled as members of St Agnes in the Diocese. We have seen growth in attendance, spiritually and financially. A new executive was elected and instituted. We give thanks to God for their Diocesan Organiser, Deputy Organiser, Executive Council and Mother's Union for their hard work and efforts to see to the livelihood of our girls. We wish them all every blessing.

## **165<sup>th</sup> DIOCESAN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

We were encouraged by the Archdeaconry of Scenery Park under the able leadership of the Venerable Zamile Dlanjwa as they have celebrated the legacy of the Diocese of Grahamstown - that of education, spirituality, development of Christian family - spiritually and physically. We continue to be grateful to God for our forebears who have left us with school buildings, church buildings, rectories, offices to accommodate God's servants and the worship of the faithful. We call upon all parishes and archdeaconries to celebrate this 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary in their own ways in 2019 as will be done by the Diocese itself. May God bless all of us as we are the second oldest Diocese in ACSA.

## **IMPORTANT DIOCESAN DATES**

### **(a) Clergy and Spouses Wellness Indaba**

Because of time constraints we will unfortunately have to postpone this event until Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> November and Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018. You will receive more information under separate cover.

### **(b) 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. Could you kindly as Diocesan family pray for all these programmes. For more information, contact Trevor Pearce at 086-100-1171 or [trevor@growingthechurch.org.za](mailto:trevor@growingthechurch.org.za)

## **IMPORTANT PROVINCIAL DATES**

Synod of Bishops 18 to 22 February 2019

Synod of Bishops 23 to 12h00 on 24 September 2019

Provincial Synod 14h00 on 24 to 27 September 2019.

## **INTERCESSIONS**

### **DIOCESAN**

We call upon the Diocesan family to pray for Archdeacon Simphiwe Magxwalisa as he is recovering at home from a neck injury which he sustained in a motor vehicle accident recently. We give thanks to God for him and his family as they continue to contribute to the life and ministry of our diocese.

Prayers are also requested for the bereaved family of Revd Philip Makalima who passed away on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Funeral arrangements will be announced in due course.

## **PROVINCIAL**

Our prayers have been requested for

- Bishop Sitembele Mzamane and his family as they grieve and mourn the passing of his dear wife, Tobeka Hazel Mzamane.
- Bishop Dale Arthur Bowers on his consecration and enthronement as the Bishop of St Helena on Sunday 11 November 2018;
- Revds Zwelidumile Tom, David Stansbury, Lulamile Ngesi, Revd Dr Edward Daniels, Ven Fumanekile Kula The Very Revds Sharon Nell, Andrew Hunter, Mark Derry who will be considered for election as the next

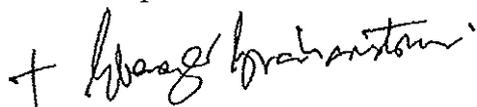
Bishop of the Diocese for Port Elizabeth at their Elective Assembly to be held from 5 to 7 December 2018;

- Revd Mzukisi Nomatshila, Revd Canon Mpilisi Capa, Rt Revd Tsietsi Seleokane who will be considered for election as the next Bishop of the Diocese of Mzimvubu at their Elective Assembly to be held from 10 to 12 December 2018.

### **OFFICE CLOSURE**

The diocesan office will close for the Christmas break at 13h00 on Friday 21 December 2018 and re-opens at 08h30 on Monday, 7 January 2019

Grace and peace



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)**