



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

September to October 2017

No. 04/2017

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

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

BISHOPSBOURNE

We, +Ebenezer, Mama Noncedo and Bishopsbourne family are all well. Thank you for your unceasing prayers and support of various kinds. The Bishopsbourne house and chapel are under renovations at the moment. It was last renovated in 2008. The work to be done is huge but it will be taken in stages, as funds permit. Please pray for this process. If you have any contributions to make, feel free to contact our Diocesan Administrator, Ms Zoleka Maqwili.

DIOCESAN FAMILY WEEKEND (26 – 27 AUGUST 2017)

Thank you to the parishes which have already paid their contributions. To those that have not yet paid, it is not too late. We await your payment as soon as possible.

POST ORDINATION TRAINING WITH DEACONS & PRIESTS

Thank you for the parishes that have supported all our priests and deacons who have attended the Post Ordination Training this year. Education and Training is a continuous issue as we are faced with daily spiritual, political, economical and social challenges. We thank God for the ministry of the Revd Canon Godfrey Walton and his team for their hard work.

AWF CONFERENCE

Will take place Friday 3rd November to Sunday 5th November 2017. Kindly uphold them in your prayers that their conference will be successful and their deliberations fruitful. It will take place at Mngqesha Great Place, King William's Town.

RETREATS

Thank you for all who have attended retreats in 2017. We hope that it has been a time of renewal and spiritual feeding as you always give out to the needs of the souls of God's people. Retreats are compulsory to all our clergy and are a necessity to their lives for their benefit and those whom they lead in Christ's name. Please plan and put your dates in the diary for 2018. The first retreat would be from Tuesday, 13th to Friday 17th of August; the second one Tuesday

23rd to Friday 26th of October 2018 and spouses retreat will take place from Thursday 28th to Saturday 30th June 2018 at St John's, East London.

ORDINATIONS

The ordination date for deacons has been changed to Saturday 25th of November 2017 and the service will take place at 10h00 at St Alban's East London. The following will be ordained to the diaconate:-

Alice Kabaale;
Mnikeli Mkiva;
Zukisa Mabuya
Vusumzi Botile
Bassie Mbenya
Gcobani Maqubela
Siyabulela Bam
Mbongeni Pongoma
Siphokazi Matini

Kindly uphold them and their families in your prayer as they prepare for this joyful event in their life and ministry.

We intend to ordain priests at 10h00 on Saturday, 2nd December 2017 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.

SYNOD OF BISHOPS AND PROVINCIAL STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

Thank you for your prayers for the Synod of Bishops and Provincial Standing Committee from 24th to 30th September 2017. We give thanks to God for the election of Bishop Nkosinathi Ndwandwe as Bishop of Mthatha. He will be translated and instituted on the 9th of December 2017. We call upon you to pray for him and his family as they prepare themselves for this new Episcopal ministry. We also pray for the people of Mthatha as they prepare themselves to receive their new Bishop.

We give thanks to God for the 25 years celebration of women to the Priesthood. It was celebrated in the opening service for the Provincial Standing Committee. In that way it was celebrated in the context of the Provincial Family of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. We continue to give thanks for the leadership and ministry of Archbishop Thabo and the Bishops of the Province. We pray for other dioceses throughout the Worldwide Anglican Communion who have not yet received the grace and understanding of ordained women. May God continue to bless the women in their priestly ministry. Besides this we also give thanks to God for our two female Bishops and those women who are deacons in ACSA.

This is to inform you that the Right Reverend Anthony Mdletshe, one of our retired Bishops, has been made a Vicar General of the Diocese of Mthatha. Let us continue to uphold him and his family as he ministers in that Diocese.

We also inform you that the Right Reverend Mlibo Ngewu, under Canon 14.2 will be moving into a new ministry in his Episcopate. In other words, in three months' time he will be leaving the Diocese of Umzimvubu. We call upon you to pray for Bishop Mlibo and his family, the Vicar General of Umzimvubu and his family and all the people of the Diocese of Umzimvubu as they go through this transition – including the Clergy and the Diocesan staff.

We are encouraged as Dioceses to continue to support the College of the Transfiguration by making a stop order of R2800.00 per month beginning 1st of October 2017 to 30 September 2019. Over and above to forward all the collections of Theological Sunday through the diocesan office to the College of the Transfiguration. The Bishops in their Synod have committed themselves to send at least one student per diocese per year. The CoTT Council has resolved to have a fundraising committee which will continue to fundraise for the smooth-running and the development of our only theological seminary. If you are interested to serve on this committee please forward your name to Beverley Isaacs, our secretary.

VACANT PARISHES

We have now sent the applications to the various vacant parishes so the ball is in their court to shortlist and call the applicants for interviews.

MISSION, EVANGELISM AND RENEWAL CONFERENCE

As you know, as diocesan leadership and people we are a Synodical church. In the Synod of May, 2016 we passed a resolution to start Iviyo Lwabafakazi in our diocese as our renewal programme. Secondly, we have launched the decade of Mission and Evangelism and adopted the positive aspects of the Missionary Model for our own spirituality and development. We invite layministers, FOV, Ordinands, all Deacons, all Priests and whoever is interested to learn, to grow and to participate in the mission of God in Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit in the diocese to attend this conference which will be held in the Diocese of Natal at Ixopo from the 12th to the 16th of December 2017. As a diocese we will have a privilege to learn together from the 12th to the 13th on Mission and Evangelism and how to do church planting then from the 14th to the 16th it will be the renewal conference in the same venue. We will forward the letter with full details to the Rectors, Priests-in-Charge, churchwardens and the Leadership of Guilds and formations. Please accompany us as the Diocesan Bishop to experience this together.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Will take place on Wednesday, 29th November 2017 at St John's, East London. We remind all Archdeacons to come to the Diocesan Council with their archdeaconry representatives, lay and cleric, as elected by Synod. We also invite all archdeaconry bursars to attend this meeting.

INTERCESSIONS

We continue to pray for the Magxwalisa family as they mourn the death of their mother Buyiswa Jane Magxwalisa whose funeral service will be held at the Cathedral of St Michael and St George on Friday the 27th of October 2017 at 09h00 (for speeches) and 10h00 for the requiem mass. The service will be

conducted by the Diocesan Bishop and Clergy and Chapter Members are expected to attend.

We also pray for Revd Mxoli's brother Tebogo Matsepe who is hospitalised at Ward 4 at Livingstone Hospital in Port Elizabeth. We pray that the Lord Jesus Christ our Eternal Physician – with the doctors - may heal him.

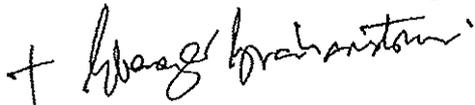
DIOCESAN FINANCES

Thank you for your unceasing financial support to the diocese. As you know we have our Diocesan and Provincial commitments we need to end the year by 30th of November 2017. Could you speedily pay all your arrears in order that we can manage to close the year on a good note.

Please refer to the attachment for a breakdown of the Diocesan finances.

Grace and peace

Yours in the service of the Shepherd of shepherds



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)**

DIOCESAN FINANCIALS FROM JANUARY 2017 TO SEPTEMBER 2017

Assessment received	4 591 316.00
Assessment expected	5 070 177.00
Difference (shortfall)	478 861.00

Insurance received	281 255.82
Insurance expected	318 128.79
Difference (shortfall)	36 872.97

Medical Aid received	244 796.00
Medical Aid expected	416 907.00
Difference (shortfall)	172 111.00

Khahlamba received	92 990.00
Khahlamba expected	189 000.00
Difference (shortfall)	96 010.00

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