



*Anglican Church of Southern Africa*  
**Diocese of Grahamstown**

*The Bishop of Grahamstown*  
*The Rt Reverend Ebenezer St Mark Ntlali*

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TO: All the Clergy and  
Churchwardens  
Diocese of Grahamstown

24 March 2022

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

LENTEN APPEAL: 2022

Lenten greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We have had several enquiries as to projects we have nominated for the Lenten Appeal this year.

After much prayer we have considered the following projects:-

1. HOPE AFRICA, an initiative of the Province, have requested us in our consideration for our Lenten Appeal to remember the vulnerable and marginalised communities who are still challenged with putting food on the table and paying their monthly bills.
2. GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL, GRAHAMSTOWN

Cathy from the Good Shepherd School Trust writes:-

“We are very grateful that there will be a contribution from the Bishop's Lenten Appeal to Good Shepherd School. A particular need at present is to sustain the all-important Breakfast feeding scheme. In these tough economic times, many children come to school not having eaten breakfast. At Good Shepherd School we have seen the huge educational value of providing learners with Breakfast so that they can concentrate in class. The Good Shepherd Trust has been funding the Breakfast programme from donations but at present there are only two faithful donors remaining. Money from the Lenten Appeal will assist with funding the monthly costs of providing the children with porridge every morning. The approximate monthly costs of supplying breakfast for over 300 learners every morning is R1 300”.

3. IAMA PROVINCE OF MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA

The Archbishop, together with all the Bishops of the Province and the ACSA family give thanks to God for the gift of IAMA, the newly formed Portuguese speaking Province of Angola and Mozambique. We are requested that each diocese donates something towards the development of that Province to assist their Archbishop as they open Dioceses in their new Province.

4. SCHOOL OF THE HOLY CROSS

Kary from the Holy Cross School writes:-

“Holy Cross School is now a full primary school that hopes to prepare young learners for high school. In this modern age it is imperative for us to provide the children with access to modern technology. We would use any funds you allocate to us to buy tablets for the learners to be able to open up their learning experiences to online learning. Our dream is to buy 15 tablets so that a whole class could use them in our Intermediate Phase”.

5. CHILD WELFARE, GRAHAMSTOWN

Martha Thompson from the Child Welfare Grahamstown writes:-

“Thank you for considering Child Welfare Grahamstown for your Lenten Appeal.

Covid-19 has definitely had a HUGE impact on our services, but we have a duty towards the children of Grahamstown.

Our February 2022 statistics indicate 5 children between the age of 7 days and 11 years had to be removed from the care of their birth parents, due to drug abuse.

Two (2) children aged 15 months and 6 years had to be removed from the care of their foster parents, due to their parents interfering in the care of the children whilst under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

Two (2) children were reported by our local hospital as being admitted with severe malnutrition.

In March 2022, thus far, we had to remove 5 children, also due to parental drug abuse.

= 3 =

As a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, we see a sharp rise in the number of new referrals, as well as cases of neglect and abuse reported in our office. In 2021, we received 18 new referrals for serious neglect and abuse of children under the age of 10. In 2019 and 2020 we only received 3 cases in each year.

138 new cases were recorded in 2021, compared to 2019 when 101 cases and 2020 when 78 new cases were reported.

We still continue with our projects: namely Nompumelelo Pre-school (we have 74 children who attend and 6 staff members), VESTAS aftercare programme and Ikhaya Losizo, our cluster foster home for orphaned children.

In terms of Ikhaya Losizo (Cluster Foster Home), we currently have 10 children in two of the homes. Our current housemothers are really very committed to the care of the children. 3 Children were reunified with a family member at the end of last year, but their places were quickly filled due to the number of removals we had to do.

Our After School care programme is also operational with 32 children getting extra schoolwork support in our 2 sites.

We also looking to work more proactively on Prevention programmes, i.e. to ensure that children remain in their birth families. We hope to start Parenting Support groups and especially look at how we can address the issue of drug abuse in our communities. We currently looking at training for our staff on Substance Abuse, so that they are better equipped to deal with the rising problem of substance abuse.

We continue our services with 5 Social Workers, 2 Social Auxiliary workers, 1 Social Manager and myself as Director.

Our biggest problem of course is funding for just the various operational costs of our offices and the projects we run. As fuel prices increase and as we are dealing with more and more cases, just the basics to run our office and the foster home, become a huge concern for us. Your funding would help us to maintain our home visits, help with electricity and rates and taxes as well as maintenance. All of this is so important to continue the basics of our services and we would appreciate any funding that can help us 'survive' as we deal with more pressure of more cases.

Please kindly consider donating towards Child Welfare so that we can continue to support and help the children of Grahamstown who so desperately need our support and help.

= 4 =

We rely on you as the family of our Diocese and ask that you encourage your parishes to give generously towards these projects.

2 Corinthians 9:7: (NIV) "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver".

Grace and peace

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bishop of Grahamstown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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)**