



Anglican Church of Southern Africa
Diocese of Grahamstown

The Bishop of Grahamstown
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Ad Clerum

January to February 2018

No. 01/2018

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

BISHOPSBOURNE

We +Ebenezer, Mama Noncedo and Bishopsbourne family thank God for 2017 and for bringing us, the Diocesan leadership and the whole diocesan family into the new year of 2018. We pray that all of us may be filled with God's grace and journey together this year. Thank you for the prayers that we receive from all of you and the various kinds of support. May God bless you abundantly and answer your prayers.

LENTEN PROJECT FOR 2018

We, Bishop in the Cathedral Chapter meeting of the 6th of February 2018 agreed as follows:

- Our Lenten contributions will go to the cashflow of the College of the Transfiguration which is the amount of R2800.00 per month which started end October 2017 and will end September 2019. In that way an amount of R33 600.00 of the Lenten contribution will go to CoTT;
- R20 000.00 will go to mission and evangelism and church planting;
- R20 000.00 will go to St Peter, Zozo (which is in the rural farms of Mooiplaas) to finish their church roof.

Let us remember as Christian believers in the Diocese that in Lent we begin with Ash Wednesday a spiritual journey of forty days following in the footsteps of Moses, Elijah and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ moving towards Easter. We join other Christian believers in the Eastern church (Constantinople), Western Church (Rome) and in Africa to fast, to pray following Jesus in our own spiritual deserts. Lent is a time in which every Christian believer is doing an introspection of his/her relationship with God, with people, and the earth. We are called to repent from our sins to read and obey the scriptures, recite the Ten Commandments and that of Christ to obey and to practise them in our daily life.

We call upon you all to observe Lent through your fasting and your prayers. The Lenten envelopes that are designed by the diocese will follow. In the meantime, use ordinary envelopes for your Lenten contributions.

ORDINATION OF PRIESTS

The following will be ordained at our ordination service at the Cathedral at 10h00 on 3rd March 2018:-

Dlokolo, Nondumiso	St Phillip, Grahamstown
Gowa, Siyabulela	St Gregory, Mdantsane
Kepe, Cikizwa	St Augustine, Grahamstown
Khotlo, Nosisi	Holy Cross, Mdantsane
Madyibi, Nondumiso	St Saviour, East London
Magaga, Steven	St Matthew, Keiskammahoek
Mahlati, Babalo	St Gregory, Mdantsane
Maqoma, Nkosazana	St John, Fort Beaufort
Mfukuzo, Sicelo	St Luke, Mdolomba
Mtimkulu, Mkangeli,	St Saviour, East London
Ngewu, Zolile	St Francis, Mdantsane
Walton, Herbert	Holy Trinity, King William's Town
Wulana, Mthetheleli	St Matthew, Keiskammahoek
Xintolo, Sindiswa	St Saviour, East London

The retreat conductor and preacher will be the Venerable Sub-Dean Mzinzisi Dyantyi. Kindly uphold all of them in your prayers.

BERNARD MIZEKI PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

The Grahamstown Diocese will be the host for the Bernard Mizeki Provincial Council from Thursday the 1st of March to Saturday the 3rd of March 2018 at LekkerOord Christian Camp Site in East London. Kindly uphold them in your prayers.

MOTHER'S UNION will have their Presidential Elections at the Cathedral in Grahamstown on Saturday 19th May 2018. Kindly pray for the smooth running of the process and for those nominated for the position.

ST AGNES GUILD will have their Conference at Byletts High School, Mooiplaas from 5th to 8th July 2018. Kindly uphold them in your prayers as they prepare for their conference.

165th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGACY OF THE DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN: CELEBRATIONS FROM JANUARY 2018 TO 20TH DECEMBER 2019

The Diocese of Grahamstown is 165 years old in 2018.

God has been with us constantly through years of growth, of turmoil of change and therefore we celebrate the blessings of 165 years. We celebrate the people and their gifts – the Body of Christ. *“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness”*. (Lamentations 3:22-23 NRSV). Therefore, our celebrations will be done over TWO years from February 2018 – December 2019.

The idea is that the celebrations will be gaining momentum as time progresses and therefore the biggest celebrations which need more planning will happen in 2019. More information about these will be forwarded as soon as plans have been finalised.

All our parishes and archdeaconries celebrate patronal festivals and have fundraisers each year, which will continue as planned. However, please allow the 165th celebrations to be included in the celebrations by, for example, celebrating the people of the past who played an important role by highlighting the history of the diocese, of the archdeaconry, of the parish.

We have identified FOUR pillars of the diocese to celebrate the legacy of the Diocese of Grahamstown namely:

- Spirituality (The involvement of the Episcopate, priestly, diaconal, lay Apostolate and parishioners; worship, Gospel, doctrines, scriptures, God's mission etc)
- Education (Theological and General Education)
- Development (Mission stations, parish churches, schools etc)
- Assets (Land, bricks and buildings, movable and immovable assets)

We call upon all Clergy, laity and the Diocesan family to celebrate the 165 years in remembrance of what we have identified and our heritage as well such as people, events, institutions, monuments, etc.

The Umbuliso will be the space where we showcase our celebrations. PLEASE forward photographs and articles of celebrations to the Media Officer, Revd Luthando Madiba at umbuliso@grahamstowndiocese.org.za

STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP MEETINGS

There will be two meetings – the first one is at 13h00 on Saturday 10 March 2018 at St Saviour's, East London and the second one at 13h00 on Saturday 17 March 2018 at Holy Trinity, King William's Town and would be made up of representatives from all Guilds (Mother's Union, Bernard Mizeki, AWF, Diocesan Youth Guild, Mary Magdalene, St Agnes), Orders (St Stephen, St Vincent, St Barnabas), Departments (Spirituality, DSR, Capraway, Development Trust). Bishop, Dean, Finance Manager and Administrator will also attend and the Archdeacon to the Ordinary Bubele Mfenyana will chair the meetings. People would be invited to these two meetings in due course.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETINGS will take place on 12 April 2018 at St John, East London and on 20 September 2018 (venue to be announced). Reports for the first Council meeting must be submitted to the Diocesan Administrator, Ms Zoleka Maqwili, by 9th March 2018 the latest.

VESTRY MEETINGS

Rectors and Priests-in-Charge are requested to direct their attention to the Acts of the Diocese Chapter X(A) - The Vestry. Pay particular attention to the dates as prescribed by the Acts. We call upon all parishes to have their vestries and submit their Vestry Returns and Minutes to the Diocesan Office not later than the second Sunday after Easter.

PROVINCIAL SYNOD FUNERAL POLICY OF 2016

As we know all funerals in the Anglican Prayer Book are managed through the Rubric. The Province (ACSA) through its Synod resolved to encourage all Dioceses and parishes through their Bishops that the following has to be observed and practised:-

1. All Anglican parishioners should be received for burial in church without discrimination;
2. All families should be entitled to similar pastoral care;
3. That in order to secure this protection for our people, all funerals should be conducted by Clergy or under the close oversight of incumbents in order to ensure that equitable pastoral care is offered to all.
4. That no improper demands are made either at the time of death or in the normal life of the church as a prerequisite for access to a funeral in the parish church

We +Ebenezer Bishop of Grahamstown in Chapter call upon all Archdeacons to see to it that this policy is implemented through teaching, in practise and in keeping a balance with what is in the Rubric on funerals. We pray that all the Rectors, Priests-in-Charge with their parish councils under the supervision of the Archdeacon will implement this in a loving, peaceful and smooth manner without conflict. Where there is conflict, consult the Dean and the Diocesan Bishop. (The Provincial Synod 27 to 30 September 2016 - Acts and Resolutions of the 34th Session of the Provincial Synod page 69).

VACANT PARISHES

We are pleased to inform you that the Venerable Andile Mbutye will be licenced as Rector of ST FRANCIS, MDANTSANE soon as he will be joining the Diocese on 8 April 2018. We welcome and commend him with his family to your prayers and the St Francis parish family. We thank God for the leadership of Archdeacon Matshaya and for the search committee for their hard work.

We continue to uphold the leadership and the ST ALBAN, EAST LONDON parish family in our prayers as they are in search of a Rector.

We also pray for HOLY CROSS, MDANTSANE, its leadership and family as the Archdeacon and search committee are in the process of finalising election of a suitable Rector.

We are pleased to inform you that the Revd Bafana Jolobe will be instituted as Rector of ALL SAINTS, EAST LONDON on the 15th of April 2018 after the able leadership of the Revd Noelene Arends who is now at St Martin-by-the-Sea Gonubie.

DIOCESAN LAUNCH OF IVIYO RENEWAL PROGRAMME

Remember that in our Synod of 2016 it was resolved that we start Iviyo Lofakazo Lwaba KaKrestu in the Diocese. This will be movement and a vehicle of mission and evangelism in our Diocese. As this is a programme which is part of the growing of the church. We acknowledge that it started in the Diocese of Zululand and spread out to other dioceses in the Province. We had a privilege to attend the Iviyo Renewal in the Diocese of Natal being 53 in total including 25 clerics. We had a safe travel and were enriched by the conference. Now we are ready to launch

this programme from the 24th to the 26th of May 2018 at Bernard Mizeki, Scenery Park. The programme will follow in due course and we will be joined by other dioceses as well. We invite the leadership and the diocesan family to come to this conference come in numbers. We commend this launch of this programme to your prayers.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Be informed and uphold in prayer the Synod of Bishops that will be held at Kopanong Hotel in Johannesburg from the 19th to the 23rd February 2018. Please pray for the Archbishop and the Bishops as they deliberate on issues that affect the life of the Dioceses, the Province and the worldwide Anglican Communion.

ORDINATION, CONSECRATION AND ENTHRONEMENT

You are all invited to attend the Ordination, Consecration and Enthronement of the Venerable Moses Madywabe who has been our son, priest and Archdeacon of Alice for more than 16 years. After the Diocese multiplied he remained in Queenstown, his hometown and became a Rector of St David's and a Canon of the Diocese of Khahlamba. The service will start at 09h00 on 24 February 2018 at the Thobi Kula Sports Centre in Mlungisi Location, Queenstown. The liturgical colour will be red. Kindly uphold him in your prayers including Thembisa his wife, his family, the leadership and the Diocesan family of Khahlamba. We pray for the Archbishop as he presides and for safe travel for all who will be attending the service.

CONGRATULATIONS to Revd Mxoli Sizani who got married to Nothini Dyalomu of Tsholomnqa on Friday the 9th of February 2018. Pray for God's blessings on their marriage. We thank God for the Diocesan family and friends that have supported this couple during this time.

INTERCESSIONS

We continue to pray for the bereaved family of Revd Anaida Allwood who sadly passed away on Sunday the 4th of February 2018. We also pray for Revd Themba Philip who is recovering from a short illness and his wife who has removed gallstones recently.

STATUS OF SOUTH AFRICA OUR COUNTRY

We give thanks to God that the Honourable G Zuma has resigned after 9 years of ministry. We welcome the new elected President of the Republic of South Africa the Honourable C Ramaphosa. We commend all to your prayers and the all people of South Africa in this point in time.

We do not underestimate the sacrificial ministry and support we get from the Dean, Sub-Dean, Executive Officer, Archdeacon to the Ordinary, Archdeacons, Canons, Lay Canons from all our Guilds and their leadership, St Barnabas (Layministers). St Vincent (Servers), Clergy (Priests and Deacons), Rectors, Priests-in-Charge and the Diocesan family. May God bless all of us and give us the necessary grace to continue to serve the Lord of the work in His vineyard in the Diocese in the Province, in the worldwide Anglican Communion as partners in God's mission.

Grace and peace

Yours in the service of the Shepherd of shepherds

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