



Anglican Church of Southern Africa
Diocese of Grahamstown

The Bishop of Grahamstown
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Ad Clerum
July to August 2019

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

BISHOPSBOURNE

Warm greetings from the whole Ntlali family at Bishopsbourne. We, +Ebenezer and Mama Noncedo, thank you for your continued prayers, love, support and generosity. We always remember the diocesan leadership and family in our daily prayers.

ORDER OF ST VINCENT CONFERENCE: 21 TO 23 JUNE

We give praise and thanksgiving to God for the existence of such a wonderful guild. There is no doubt that it is growing under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the able leadership of the Revd Canon Noluthando as their Diocesan Chaplain and her wonderful committee. This conference took place at St Matthew's Keiskammahoek, hosted by Archdeacon Dr Lulama Ntshingwa who is Archdeacon of Alice and Rector of St Matthews together with his spouse Nomhle and the St Matthew's family. We were graced by the presence of servers from the Diocese of Harare, Zimbabwe. They brought a letter from their Bishop who values our friendship and partnership. There were ±500 servers of the diocese. We wish Canon Noluthando and her team, the Zimbabweans and our servers to continue growing in the Lord in serving Christ by serving others. We call upon you to uphold all servers in the Lord in our daily prayers.

YOUTH GUILD 30TH ANNIVERSARY: 28 TO 30 JUNE

We had a great time with the Youth in celebrating their 30th anniversary. It started with an outstanding Gala Dinner and a wonderful closing thanksgiving service. We were graced by the presence of Bishop Moses the Diocesan Bishop of Khahlamba who came with his direct family and members from the Diocese. He is like the founder of young people under the able leadership of the late Bishop David Russell as he was the first appointed director of youth. The surprise which we experienced was that the young people launched an education fund which was named the Bishop Ebenezer St Mark Education Fund and its aim is to educate those children who have nobody to educate them depending on the limited available funds they have. We will write more about this initiative in our next *Ad Clerum* and Umbuliso and provide you with the banking details. Let us continue to uphold our young people in prayer in these trying times as they are faced by 50% unemployment rate in South Africa.

We continue to give thanks to God for giving them a sacred space to exercise their time, talents, strength as a contribution in the building up of God's Kingdom. May God bless the Revd Mndi and his wife as Diocesan Youth Chaplains and for their outstanding ministry in raising our children.

MARY MAGDALENE COMMEMORATION SERVICE: 27 - 28 JULY

We had a wonderful time with St Mary Magdalene at St Philip's Gompo, East London. On Saturday they had a special programme which ended up with imvuselelo. On Sunday we had a thanksgiving service, commemorating the life and contribution of St Mary Magdalene which is their patron saint. We have observed that it is one of the fastest growing guilds in numbers in the diocese. We give thanks for our Diocesan Chaplain the Revd Lindelwa Kunene for her contribution of shepherding, teaching, equipping and giving spiritual direction in mentoring and coaching. We are called as diocesan leadership and family to continue to pray for the leadership, members, probationers also as they seek to be a Provincial Guild. We will not forget their smiles, vibrancy, generosity, hospitality, laughter, worshipping and what we have shared together.

CHURCHWARDEN'S WORKSHOP: 27 JULY

This is a Bishop's forum where we engage one another reminding one another about our roles in the Kingdom of God and in the Body of Christ. This was well attended. We are grateful to the Dean, the Archdeacon to the Ordinary for his address, the presence of the Diocesan Administrator and the Diocesan Finance Manager. We had a good time together. We call upon the diocesan leadership and family to give thanks to God for the life and ministry of our parish wardens and to continue to uphold them in prayer.

CLERGY RETREAT

We all understand the importance of spending time away from the business of parish work and communities in order to connect with and listen to God. Due to our busy lives, we however often neglect this important discipline of the Church. We wish to encourage all clergy to make sure that we put time aside for at least one retreat per year. After thought and prayer, we want to suggest that Archdeaconries organise one retreat for clergy in that Archdeaconry per year and the Diocese will organise one retreat for all clergy per year. We trust that this arrangement will enable us all to attend at least one retreat per year.

This year we had our Synod which put extra strain on the finances of parishes. Therefore we have decided that there will only be ONE clergy retreat from Tuesday 15 until Friday 18 October 2019 at St Pius Centre in East London. We will communicate more details in due course. Please book and pay in time before we run out of space. Be aware that failure to attend retreat is a contravention of one of our Diocesan Acts. Please note that the retreat is compulsory for all Clergy. Avoid going through a disciplinary hearing unnecessarily. Just prepare yourself and attend. Stipendiary clergy are paid for by the parish and non-stipendiary pay for themselves except the permanent deacons who are not working are paid for by the parish.

DIOCESAN FAMILY WEEKEND

Our Diocesan Family Weekend will be during the weekend 24 to 25 August; will be hosted by the Archdeaconry of Alice and will be held at the Fort Hare Sport Centre, Alice Campus. Kindly deposit your contributions into the account which we have provided for purposes of security. We +Ebenezer call upon the leadership and the diocesan family to really try and realize the target of R1.4 million and beyond as we are led by Christ and the Spirit in our fundraising for God's mission in Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

CHAPTER NEWS

In the Archdeaconry of Winterberg, we will be licencing priests as we have re-structured that Archdeaconry. The Venerable Sandy Nyakatyia continues to be Archdeacon and Rector of St Michael & Christ Church. He will be assisted by the Revd Nkosazana Maqoma as Deputy Archdeacon and Priest-in-Charge of St Michael & Christ Church. Revd Pat Wells will be Rector of St Andrews and St Edmund, Bedford after the able leadership of John Joubert. The Revd Lindile Somandi will be Priest-in-Charge of St John's and Holy Trinity under Archdeacon Sandy Nyakatyia. He will be assisted by the Revd Mongezi Cintso who will be focusing mostly on Holy Trinity parish doing mission and evangelism through the Gospel of Grace. The Revd Guzana will be Priest-in-Charge of Church of Resurrection and assisted by Deacon Wongama Nkumanda. We call upon you to pray for this restructuring and new ministry in the Archdeaconry of Winterberg. They will be working as a team throughout the Archdeaconry. We give thanks to God for the parish wardens and members of Council of these pastoral charges for allowing this new pastoral plan for the Archdeaconry.

REMINDER

We wish to remind you of the following events which will take place later in the year. You are requested to diarise these dates:-

The inaugural lecture on Bishop John Armstrong will be postponed until sometime in October 2019.

The Mother's Union of the Diocese will be having their Conference from 12 to 15 September 2019 in East London. The precise venue will be announced in due course.

SYNOD OF BISHOPS AND PROVINCIAL SYNOD

We call upon you to pray for the Synod of Bishops which will take place at Kopanong Conference Centre, Johannesburg from 23rd September until 12h00 on the 24th September 2019. The Provincial Synod will continue at the same venue from 14h00 on 24th to 27th September 2019. We pray for our Diocesan Representatives as they prepare for the Synod. We pray for the Electoral College of the Diocese of Mzimvubu on the 22nd of September.

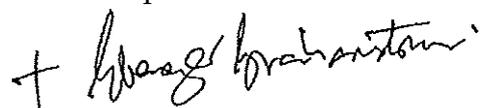
INTERCESSIONS

We pray for the following bereaved families:

- Laxa Family
- Siqendu Family
- Mabandla Family
- Madiba Family

We pray for those who have been and are struggling with ill health: Archdeacon Cynthia Webbstock and Revd Bukhosi Mabandla. Pray for the Very Revd Dr Andrew Hunter who underwent hip replacement surgery recently. The operation went well, and he is recovering slowly in Cape Town.

Grace and peace

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bishop of Grahamstown', written in a cursive 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)**