



Anglican Church of Southern Africa
Diocese of Grahamstown

The Bishop of Grahamstown
The Rt Reverend Ebenezer St Mark Ntlali

P O Box 181 • Grahamstown • South Africa • 6140 • email: bishop@grahamstowndiocese.org.za
Tel. Home (+27) (0)46-622 2500 Office (+27) (0)46-636 1996 • Fax (+27) (0)46-622 5231

Ad Clerum

July to September 2017

No. 03/2017

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

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

Bishopsbourne

We, +Ebenezer, Mama Noncedo and family are well although struck by a bout of flu. We are nevertheless surviving. The grandchildren have just returned to school from their August holidays, Anda is taking a gap year and Aphiwe is doing his practicals at EMC College in Uitenhage.

We do not underestimate your love, smiles, warm welcome, generosity, support of various kinds and prayers. On our side, we love you as our diocesan family. Be assured of our prayers and let God's name be praised.

Diocesan Family Weekend (26 – 27 August 2017)

We are out of words to thank you, our diocesan leadership and diocesan family for what you have shown to us. Your presence on Saturday and the attendance at the Sunday Eucharist was exceptional – let alone the vibrant worship which we have experienced.

Although we had a target of between R700 000.00 and R1 million we are grateful to God for what we have already received. The amount (as at 6 September 2017) stands at R519 537.00. Thank you to the parishes which have already paid. To those that have not yet paid, it is not too late and we await your payment as soon as possible.

BISHOP'S MEETING WITH FOV CANDIDATES AND DEACONS

We had a wonderful time with the FOV Candidates and Deacons on Saturday, 19 August 2017. The meeting was attended by 48 deacons (Permanent and Transitional) and 33 of the Fellowship of Vocation Candidates. We had good interaction, times of learning from each other; times of reflecting on our calling and the focus on the missionary model. We believe that this servant ministry of diaconate is critically needed in our life as we face huge challenges and alarming social ills in our province and country. We pray that God may continue to pour His grace on the FOV Candidates as we discern our different callings together.

We continue to declare God's blessings on our Deacons and being grateful of what they do in the different parishes of our diocese and the broader society.

POST ORDINATION TRAINING WITH DEACONS

We give thanks to God for Revd Canon Godfrey Walton and his team as they grow the deacons from one degree of glory to another, through God in Christ. The Deacons met on 12th to 13th May 2017 at St Pius, East London and were focussed on the following tools:-

- Scripture
- Theology
- Ethics
- Spirituality
- Apologetics
- Liturgy
- Analyses of Contemporary and local society
- Person intercessory prayer and public proclamation skills
- Pastoral leadership ethics and social responsibility

These studies were done in an environment of preparations for worship, ethics and liturgy, how to lead prayers and the celebration of the Eucharist. Emphasis was on the ongoing formation in leadership. Lastly there was an open discussion on current challenges facing the deacons in the diocese.

POST ORDINATION TRAINING WITH PRIESTS

We give thanks to God for the leadership of the Revd Canon Godfrey Walton with his team for the Post Ordination Training which they have conducted with those priests who are under five years of their priestly ordination. They met at St Pius Centre, East London from Friday, the 11th to Saturday the 12th of August 2017. Their areas of focus were as follows:-

- Leadership Ethics and Social Responsibility and discussed the theory around leadership and ethics looking at four ethical leadership behaviours;
 - Be honest and trustworthy and have integrity in dealing with people;
 - Pay attention to all stakeholders (contextual);
 - Build community;
 - Respect the individual.
- The second session was on leadership ethics and social responsibility based on the factors contributing to ethical differences as follows:-
 - Leader moral identity;
 - Greed, gluttony and avarice;
 - Rationalisation and implied permission;
 - Moral development level;
 - Sense of entitlement;
 - Situational differences;
 - Character of a person;
 - Motivated blindness

The above sessions were undergirded by love, fellowship, learning from each other, sharing about what one does, reflecting on the current challenges and the ministry and being empowered as we are moving into the day-to-day ministry of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Let us continue to pray for those who serve God as priests in our diocese.

MOTHER'S UNION CONFERENCE

We have run out of words for a wonderful conference the Mother's Union had in Adelaide hosted by the Archdeaconry of Alice and Winterberg from Thursday 13 July to Sunday 16 July 2017. It was a resounding success. It was well attended, had good speakers, amazing vibrant worship, and they fundraised R324 000.00 for their own diocesan, provincial and international programmes. We give thanks to God for the ministry of the President, Mrs Mandisa Mhlwatika, her team and the wonderful women who are members of the Mother's Union in the Diocese. It was good to see all our Guilds and parishioners working together and supporting one another.

ST MARY MAGDALENE CONFERENCE

This conference was held at the new St Matthew's Tourism Centre. It was hosted by Archdeacon Dr Lulama Ntshingwa and his dear spouse Nomhle. We congratulate the former President Luleka Tini who became the first leader of St Mary Magdalene until it was launched during the conference which took place from Thursday, 20 July to Sunday, 23rd July 2017. This conference was also undergirded by brilliant speakers, vibrant worship, fellowship, love, thanksgiving and the joy amongst God's people. We congratulate the new President Lindelwa Mkhosana whom we instituted to take the Guild forward. We give thanks to God for all St Mary Magdalene members and their probationers.

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.

RETREATS

The first retreat will be conducted by Dr Henry Mbaya a priest of the Diocese of False Bay and a lecturer of Missiology at the University of Stellenbosch. Some of you know him as he was our guest speaker at our 2016 Diocesan Synod. All our diocesan retreats are compulsory for our own spiritual growth as clergy. It is the responsibility of the parishes to pay for clergy retreats. This retreat will take place at Mariya uMama weTemba Monastery in Grahamstown from 15h00 on Tuesday, 12 September 2017 until after breakfast on Friday, 15 September 2017. Could you sign up with Beverley as we are running out of space. We will see you there.

The second retreat will be held at St Pius Centre in East London from 15h00 on Tuesday, 24 October to after breakfast on Friday 27 October and will be conducted by Revd Nobuntu Penxa-Matholeni also from the Department of

Missiology at the University of Stellenbosch. Could you sign up with Beverley as we are running out of space.

The third retreat is for the Clergy spouses and will be conducted us (Bishop Ebenezer) and will take place at St John's Church, East London from 15h00 Friday, 6 October to 16h00 on Saturday 7th October 2017.

ORDINATIONS

- We intend to ordain deacons some time November 2017. You will be notified of the exact date, time and venue later.

- We intend to ordain priests on Saturday, 9th December 2017 at the Cathedral of St Michael and St George starting at 10h00.

SYNOD OF BISHOPS AND PROVINCIAL STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

We call upon the diocesan family to pray for the Synod of Bishops and Provincial Standing Committee Meeting which will be held at the Kopanong Hotel in Johannesburg from Monday 25 September to Saturday, 30 September 2017. Special prayers are required as the Bishops would be electing a Bishop for the Diocese of Mthatha on the 25th of September 2017.

VACANT PARISHES

We call upon the diocesan family to pray for the following vacant parishes:-

- St Alban, East London;
- St Francis, NU 8, Mdantsane;
- All Saints, Greenfields, West Bank East London;
- Holy Cross, NU 1, Mdantsane

We commend all the above parishes and their parishioners to God as they pray and discern for their future leaders.

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 call upon the diocesan family to pray for the Njova and Ncape families of the Diocese of Mthatha who lost their son Revd Sibulele Elias Njova and his wife Akhona, their son Liyema and his sister in a fatal car accident on the 28th of August 2017 on their way home. May their souls rest in peace and rise in glory. Further we continue to pray for their other children Litha (10 years) and Lavela (4 years) who are still hospitalised. Their funeral will be on Friday, 8th September 2017 at their home in Mqanduli, (Dudumayo administrative area). This is sad news. Let us continue to pray for Archbishop Thabo, the Vicar General, the whole diocesan family of Mthatha and ourselves as ACSA.

Grace and peace

Yours in the service of the Shepherd of shepherds

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wesley 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)**