

# Synergy



A daily report on Synod 2024  
Diocese of Port Elizabeth

No 2 Friday 24 October

## Be kind and put your name in the place of the word 'love' in 1Cor13:4-7

Using Romans 5:1-5, Bishop Edward, in his address to Synod this morning said he would focus on the theme of 'Hope' - hope as a steady anchor, a beacon that guides us through the fog of uncertainty, and a divine gift that fills us with confidence in God's unfailing love.

He went on to say that the apostle Paul, in his letter to the Romans, speaks profoundly about hope. He writes that, "hope does not put us to shame" because it is grounded in the love of God, which has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

He said that this hope is not some vague optimism or mere positive thinking. It is much deeper - it is a spiritual certainty that God is with us, shaping our lives and our world, even in ways we cannot immediately perceive.

He spoke on hope through various themes:  
**Hope as Tested and Strengthened Through Trials**

Saying that Paul makes a remarkable connection between suffering and hope: 'We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance character; and character, hope.' This progression shows that hope is not something we acquire easily. It is tested and strengthened through the trials we endure. It is forged in fires of perseverance

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**Bishop Edward asked us to read 1 Cor 13:4-7 replacing the word 'love' with our own names and embrace the depth of this for ourselves.**

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and faith, refined into resilient hope that holds firm even when everything around us shakes.

He went on to speak of the trials our Diocese has gone through, and come through, through the hope of the leadership and people.

**Henri Nouwen's Vision of Hope as Vulnerability and Trust**

Bishop said it is not about safety or comfort, but about a radical trust in God's providence, even when we step into unknown and fearful places. He went on to enhance on this theme.

**Hope: an Active Force in our Lives**

On this Bishop said one of the greatest misconceptions about hope is that it is passive, that it requires only waiting and enduring. He said that biblical hope is dynamic; it propels us forward. It

compels us to live in anticipation of God's promises, to be co-creators with God in the unfolding of His Kingdom here and now.

He continued by saying that hope is not idle - it stirs us to action, to be instruments of God's love and peace in our world. As a Diocese, we are called to embody hope - not just for ourselves but for our communities. We are called to bear witness to the world that God's love is real, active, and transformative.

**Hope as a Community Experience**

Bishop reminded us that we need to remember that hope is not just a personal experience but a communal one - when one part of the body suffers, we all suffer, and when one part rejoices, we all rejoice. This shared hope binds us together, reminding us that we are not walking this path alone.

**A Call to Live in Hope**

Bishop asked that as we embark on this Synod, let us be people who live out this hope in all that we do. Saying, may we be a Diocese that looks not to the past with regret, or to future with fear, but stands firmly in the present with deep and abiding trust in God's love ... let us trust in the power of God's love poured into our hearts ... let this hope be our anchor, our strength, and our guide as we seek to serve Him in all we do.

## Queuing for coffee

**Tea and coffee, sarmies and muffins, roti's and wraps were all part of Synod ... and all meant queuing in order to get satisfaction. As you can see in the photo, not just Synod members, but even the Dean had to join the queue for coffee.**

Synod can be long and, yes, at times, very boring! But there are fun times and serious times ... and the fellowship times during breaks when one catches up with longtime friends and acquaintances.

I wonder how many members of Synod realise that we have a distinguished member in the person of Prof Henry Thipa, who was involved in the translation of the original isiXhosa Bible into modern isiXhosa so that the younger generations can easily understand their Bibles.



# Measures to change the Acts of the Diocese accepted

This morning Synod accepted the third reading of many of the Measures to change the Acts of the Diocese, some being:

- ACT IV 16(a) - Building Advisory Committee by adding (iv) to include the Dean.
- ACT IX (B (6)) - Church Officers and Parish Councils to add 6a No direct family of the incumbent or serving clergy within the parish to be nominated or elected as Churchwardens (Chapel Wardens) in the said parish.
- Measure regarding Diocesan organisations annual gift to the Diocese - this enacted the Motion from Synod 2022 which stated that Diocesan Organisations, namely  
Mothers' Union  
Anglican Women's Fellowship  
Anglican Youth Fellowship  
St Bernard Mizeki Guild  
Diocesan Youth Council  
pay an annual "love gift" from their income to the Diocese by the end of each financial year.
- ACT IX (B(6)) - Church Officers and

Parish Councils, which enacts that any member of the Parish Council absent without leave from two successive meetings shall be deemed to have resigned;

- ACT IV 18 (g) (vi) - Diocesan Retirement Fund covering dependants who have disabilities to be able to remain in the accommodation for a further two months;
  - ACT VI (13) The Status, Privileges and Responsibilities of the Clergy which cover clergy - with the Bishop's consent, may live in their own homes and negotiate a housing allowance with the parish.
- We also accepted Motions on:
- Changing the name of our Diocese to - The Diocese of Christ the Redeemer or the Diocese of the Holy Cross or the Diocese of Living Water;
  - Changing our Diocesan Vision Statement;
  - Having a Day of Prayer Against Moral Decay on 4 February 2025;
  - A call to parishes to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew life on the earth;
  - A call for Anglicans to become involved in fighting for Justice within their Wards;
  - Lay Ministers to retire at 65.



## Popcorn Man

- Our condolences to the Nkewana family of St Stephen's (and a member of Synod) whose son died tragically on 22 October. May the family know the loving arms of the Lord Jesus surrounding them as they mourn.
- We give thanks that Canon Lungile Ngcola was not injured in the motor accident he was involved in on his way to Synod yesterday.
- Motions of greeting were sent to:
  - Trevor Jennings wishing him a full recovery after multiple operations;
  - Bishop Edward on a prayerful Charge, with the 10 Commandments for our Diocese to follow while we await for the election of our new bishop;
  - Bishop Bethlehem who is not well at present;
  - Elliot Banzana, who is ill;
  - Students writing exams.
- During a break Bishop Eddie asked for some funny stories =
  - Petrus (from Cradock) shared how he unfortunately set his arm alight whilst driving only to be stopped by a traffic cop who gave him a fine for carrying a fire arm.

## Words of farewell to Bishop Edward



Right - The Diocesan President of St Bernard Mizeki Guild, Xola Nodwele, shares words of farewell from the Guild to Bishop Edward. He said they were inviting him to their next Conference where they would present him with their purple vest, a knobkeri and membership of the Guild.  
Above - Members of the Mothers' Union who were present at Synod came forward singing and dancing. After their President had given their words of farewell, she handed over a certificate of appreciation to Bishop Edward.

## Diocesan Day of Prayer against moral decay 4 February 2025

Set aside time to intercede for our NMB, Province and Government

Editor: Frankie Simpson, assisted by Andrew White  
Our thanks to everyone who contributed towards the Synergy.  
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Bishop nor the editor.