



Celebrating 200 years of St Mary the Virgin Church

In 1825 a plot of land was granted to the Church of England to build a place of worship.

In September the Revd Francis McClelland arrived as the Colonial Chaplain and registers were started.

In October the foundation stone of St Mary's was laid.

On 2 November 2003 St Mary's became the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth.



For the bicentenary celebration of the Cathedral, the Diocese welcomed Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, who presided and preached at the Eucharist service.

During our interregnum, the Archbishop becomes our Bishop, guiding the Vicar General, Sharon Nell, when she needs the seal of the Bishop.

To mark the 200 years of St Mary's there were many celebratory events throughout the year, including Mark Jennings the classical guitarist; a Symphony of voices with various international and local choirs; a tour of the Cathedral and Songs of Praise with Richard Cock. Then the weekend of 13-14 September kicked off with a Flower Show of magnificent arrangements, crafted by members of various parishes, celebrating people and using texts from the Bible.

On Sunday morning the great celebratory Eucharist took place with a full congregation of clergy and members from many of the congregations of the Diocese. The Cathedral also welcomed many invited guests.

Organist, Justin Stone, opened the service with the processional hymn, "Christ is made the sure foundation." So began a wonderful time of praise and worship, recalling two centuries of those who had been the forerunners in worshipping in St Mary's.

In his sermon Archbishop Thabo touched on some of the history of St Mary's mentioning that it predated the Church of the Province of Southern Africa (now the Anglican Church of Southern Africa) as it had fallen under Canterbury and the Province of South India.

He spoke of the role Mary and other women played in the Gospels and went



Some of our clergy who attended the celebration gathered with Archbishop Thabo on the steps in front of the Cathedral.



"As we look for his coming in glory, we celebrate with this bread and this cup his one perfect sacrifice." APB

on to speak of the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden when Satan deceived them. He said that in Jesus the fall of the first man was redeemed and in Mary the fall of Eve was redeemed.

Among the subjects he touched on was that most of the Canons had been improved and that the Province was looking to establishing a Degree in Canon Law at the College of Transfiguration in Makhandia.

He also said, "As we move forward with your next Bishop, you may need to look at boundaries of the Diocese, or having a Suffragan Bishop," but that he was not saying this should be so.

He went on to speak of the terrible crime in the Nelson Mandela Metro and said that in Cape Town the Christian leaders came together to work for change.

He also spoke of the Cathedral being well placed to be a beacon of light to seek to defeat crime, poverty and fear and so bettering the lives of people in the Eastern Cape and beyond.

He closed by warmly congratulating the Cathedral on its 200th celebration and asked that they build upon this for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

The service was followed by a celebratory tea where Archbishop Thabo and his wife, Lungi, cut the cake.

Pray for our Elective Assembly



As we seek a new bishop we take counsel from Paul's instructions to Timothy on the choosing of a bishop /presbyter /overseer:

This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover, he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

1 Tim 3:1-7 NKJV

Please pray earnestly for the Holy Spirit to reveal to the members of the Elective Assembly who, of the six candidates nominated, should be our new shepherd.

The Revd R Groepe

The Revd F Kula

The Revd L Ngesi

The Revd A Potgieter

The Revd Z Tom

The Revd G Walters

Thy will be done, Lord, as we choose a new Shepherd of Your flock, according to Your Word, for this Diocese.

Calling all intercessors!

We need soaking prayer cover for the duration of Elective Assembly

Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 November.

If you are able to allocate some time to pray please let

Adele know on e-mail:

bpsec@pediocese.org.za

The Diocesan Treasurer-Secretary writes ...

Dear Family of God, Money matters

As I pen this letter, we are in the throes of all things budget, having waded through the quagmire of laborious number crunching, forecasting, comparing of historical data, finally followed by the presentations of the final “product” amidst the answering of many questions. Since the start of Paul’s missionary journeys to spread the gospel, and the continuation thereof by numerous missionaries through the ages, we too continue to obey the instruction from our Lord, to “Go!” and to make disciples. However, of equal importance, there has been a need to trust God for finances, to make this happen.

Within a profit-making organization the inflow of revenue comes from the sale of goods and services, but for the church, our income stream comes from our faithful parishioners giving their tithes, their dedicated giving and their free-will offerings, with the intent that the good news of the gospel should be preached and that the Kingdom of God should be extended. Because the clergy primarily

have their focus on spiritual and pastoral matters, the church wardens need to relieve them from having to focus on the logistical and financial aspects, without which the preaching of the gospel would not be possible.

In October every year there is normally much focus around dedicated giving within our diocese. We see in 1 Corinthians 9:11 that Paul speaks about having sown spiritual seed and therefore was expectant of reaping a harvest of physical food and drink from those whom he had fed spiritually. How then do we determine what would be an acceptable or reasonable financial gift?

It should be determined prayerfully in the heart, in accordance with the conviction and leading of the Holy Spirit, so that the giving is not done out of compulsion or obligation, nor done grudgingly, because “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7). Giving is therefore not something to be taken lightly or done arbitrarily but should be seen in an attitude of worship and in obedience to God, and as an act

of faith, because faith without works is dead! (James 2:14)

Also, without faith it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6) Remembering that not everyone of us has been called to preach, we can still all participate in ministry by availing our finances, and by doing that, we are in fact actively assisting in, and promoting the ministry.

The first port of call for the churchwardens of any parish therefore, is to ensure that they support their cleric by meeting the diocesan stipendiary assessment in full and then, second, to meet the other diocesan obligation, known as the general assessment, which provides for the needs and running costs of the Bishop’s office, an allotted portion required by the Province of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and for the fulfillment



of the administrative and logistical tasks of our diocese. However, of equal importance, the running costs of having a place of worship with electricity, running water and ablution facilities and consumables are a few other examples of necessary running costs of any parish.

The managing of church finances should therefore be done carefully and prayerfully, not carelessly or wastefully, always bearing in mind that we are attending to our “Father’s business”. If we want to see growth and increase, we must first be faithful, because whoever is faithful with little, will be faithful with much!

I end with the words of the Apostle Peter: “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms”. (1 Peter 4:10)

Blessings,
Yolande Wolmarans
B.Compt, MBL (UNISA SBL)
Diocesan Treasurer/Secretary

On choosing our new Bishop

Can you feel the excitement mounting? Can you feel the change in the atmosphere as we near the date of our elective assembly? Can you feel the moving of God’s Holy Spirit? This is an exciting time in the life of our diocese as we will gather together, under the direction of God’s Holy Spirit, to discern a new Shepherd to lead us forward. What is it that we will be looking for in our new Bishop?

I believe that there are three important aspects which we need to identify in the life of our new Bishop. There is a phrase within our prayer book found on page 105, which states what we should be discerning in the election of our new bishop. It is rubic 10, which simply says “Jesus said You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like it You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets”.

Two simple commandments which we are called to obey. Two simple commandments which we need to discern to be found in the candidate we will elect as our new bishop. Take note that both these commands revolve around one word – LOVE. As we come to elect our new bishop, we need to discern that our candidate’s life is ruled by love – love for God, love for neighbour, which includes love for the church and love for God’s people.

As members of the elective assembly, we are called to discern the heart of the new bishop for our diocese, in ensuring that our new bishop loves the Lord with all his/her heart, soul and mind. We are

Vicar General Sharon Nell thanks Niqui Cloete-Barris for hosting a High Tea at St Saviour’s.
See story on page 4.

not being called to discern if the new bishop is the best preacher, we are not being asked to discern who is the most popular, wears the trendiest clergy shirts or who will look good wearing a purple shirt. We will need to discern, if the candidate we will elect, Loves the Lord their God with all his/her heart, and with all his/her soul and with all his/her mind – in short, does our candidate love the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the New Testament, there is a lot of information about Bishops. I want you to note that the EMPHASIS in all these verses is on what Bishops are to BE rather than on what they are to DO. This is because BEING always comes before DOING.

In 1 Timothy 3:1 – 7 we read, “If anyone wants to provide leadership in the church, good! But there are preconditions: A leader must be well-thought-of, committed to his/her spouse, cool and collected, accessible, and hospitable. Must know what he/she is talking about, not be overfond of wine, not pushy but gentle, not thin-skinned, not money-hungry. Must not be a new believer, lest the position go to his/her head and the Devil trip him/her up. Outsiders must think well of him/her, or else the Devil will figure out a way to lure him/her into his trap.” The Message.

Our new Bishop should be an example of godly living in every area of conduct. Put simply our new bishop must be one in whom we discern the words of Jesus – that he or she loves the Lord our God with all his or her heart, and with all his or her soul and with all his or her mind. For ourselves and our new Bishop, being a godly example is not an option, it is commanded in Scripture.

Second, we as members of the elective assembly, will be called to discern that the new Bishop has a **Love For Christ’s CHURCH.**

Our newly elected bishop will be expected to love and cherish the wider church family, doing all to keep the fellowship of believers sweet. You may remember the



book of Acts tells us that the incident in the early church that led to the formation of deacons was the ABSENCE of unity, caused by the grumbling and complaining of the Grecian widows who felt they were being overlooked and even shortchanged in the daily distribution of food. Well, the office of deacon was God’s answer to that problem. With the help of the first seven deacons, peace was restored and the church in Jerusalem resumed and even increased its growth. Just like those first deacons, you and I and our new bishop are called to preserving the unity we enjoy as part of the Body of Christ, His church. When things arise that are divisive, it is time for all, for you and me, and especially for our Bishop, to remind the church that the Bible teaches that “the peace of Christ is to rule in our hearts since as members of one body we are called to peace.” Our mandate at this elective assembly is clear, we the People of God and the one we will elect as our new bishop, are called to love Jesus and we are called to love Christ’s church. Finally as we approach our elective assembly, we must discern that our new bishop has a love for Christ’s people. The Church is made up of people - people like you and me - and without people, the church would be but a cold building. The Bible says we are to love one another. Sounds good, but can we do it? Even people at church can be difficult to love. Yet this is what the Bible commands. “For this is the message you have heard from the beginning: we should love one another” (1 John 3 :11).

Even though we have the freedom to set our own priorities, Jesus made a point of defining certain ones for us: “Love the

Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and most important commandment. The second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’” (Matthew 22 : 37 - 39). Love, then, is not a grey area the Scriptures. Jesus gave love priority over all other Christian virtues.

When we demonstrate Christian love, it distinguishes believers from the rest of the world. Jesus goes on to say, “By this [love] all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13 : 35).

People of God, it is sad that in the Church of Christ, of which you and I are part, we who profess to have accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour and profess to love His Church, often do not show this character of Christ, love for Christ’s people.

As we prepare our hearts and minds for the elective assembly, I would urge that we listen, listen intently to the voice of God, hear the prompting of the Holy Spirit first in our own hearts – do we truly love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our souls and with all our minds, do we truly love His Church, of which we are part, do we truly love the people of God?

And then, let us listen again, listen, listen and the Holy Spirit will direct us to the right person who is to be our new Bishop, who we can truly discern loves the Lord his/her God with all his/her soul, with all his/her mind and with all his/her heart and loves his/her neighbour as him/herself.

We continue to uphold the candidates and their families in prayer as they prepare themselves for the elective assembly: Archdeacon Relton Groepe, Canon Fumanekile Kula, Archdeacon Lulamile Ngesi, Archdreacon Andrea Potgieter, Revd Zwelidumile Tom and Canon Grant Walters.

God bless with His discernment the members of the elective assembly. God bless the Diocese of Port Elizabeth. Much love and blessings.

Dean Sharon,
Vicar General+

Tag lines!



**When you give love,
it will come back to rest in your heart,
making you whole
and spiritually healthy.**

Bishop elect of
the Diocese of Grahamstown



Archbishop Thabo congratulates the Ven Mcebisi Pinyana as the Bishop Elect of the Diocese of Grahamstown.

The Synod of Bishops, sitting as an Electoral College, today elected the Ven Mcebisi Pinyana, Archdeacon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Cape Town, as the new Bishop of Grahamstown.

He was elected on the third ballot during an online session of the Synod, presided over by Archbishop Thabo Makgoba of Cape Town.

The election was delegated to the Bishops after an Elective Assembly of the Diocese was unable to elect after four ballots in June this year.

Please keep Archdeacon Pinyana, his family and the Diocese of Grahamstown in your prayers as they prepare for his consecration and installation.

Sincerely in Christ,
The Revd Canon Grant Walter
Provincial Executive Officer

Also of interest is that the former Rector of COTT, who became Bishop of Lesotho, Vincencia Kabe, is to be translated to the Diocese of Pretoria.

Proud readers
Sinamava Jibiliza



Sipheshile Pisani and Siyolise Daca from St Peter’s Sunday School being congratulated by Assistant Priest Andile Tom after reading in church.

Sipheshile Pisani and Siyolise Daca from St Peter’s Sunday School in Zwide both reached a long-awaited milestone today by taking part in today’s Eucharist service through reading the scriptures.

Archbishop elect
of Canterbury



The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, has been elected as the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

She will be the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury since Saint Augustine arrived in Kent from Rome in 597, Bishop Sarah will be the first woman to hold the office.

She will be installed in a service at Canterbury Cathedral in March 2026.

As the Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of Canterbury, she becomes Primate of All England and Metropolitan, as well as primus inter pares – or first among equals – of the Primates of the global Anglican Communion, which consists of around 85 million people, across 165 countries.

Taken from Abp Canterbury page

Among the winners
Jill Bromiley



It’s all in the preparation - Ricardo and Jackie Franse place the ingredients into their potjie.

St Hugh’s annual Cook-off competition took place on 4 October.

Congratulations to the 2025 champion, Dr Tembisa Ludidi (Tini) and her sous chefs; second were Cheslyn and Ashton Booyesen; and in combined third were Parish treasurer, Ricardo, and lay minister, Jackie Franse, and Ike van Rooyen and his sous chefs.

All competitors were given a drum to use but Ricardo and his team used a wheelbarrow!

iindaba wonders if the sides of the wheelbarrow helped shield the fire from wind?

Congratulations to all the winning teams.

Green Piece



Available from Amazon -
RESTORE by Sandra Schwarz.

This is a compelling exploration of how green spaces can profoundly support human restoration. Delve into the diverse ways humans have historically created, and continue to create, green spaces to be spaces of calm and deep connection to nature.

Sadly for us it’s R1 996 for the hardcopy.

A cry from our brothers and sisters in Africa



Christians are being massacred, and their women kidnapped, raped, and forcibly converted daily in Nigeria.

This year, more Christians have been killed in Nigeria than Palestinians in Gaza.

And yet, not a single protest for them!

(Dr. Maalouf on X)

ALL ARE WELCOME TO
ST HUGH'S CENTENARY CELEBRATION
~ weekend of 15 November to 16th November ~

SATURDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER:

- 08:00 - WEST STREET CENTENARY BANNER PROCESSION
- Followed by - BREAKFAST BUNS & COFFEE OR TEA

SUNDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER:

- 08:30 - EUCHARIST SERVICE & UNVEILING OF CENTENARY PLAQUE IN MAYO HALL
- Followed by - A GROUP PHOTO & A SPITBRAAI LUNCH

Special Dress Code: BLUE & WHITE



SPITBRAAI LUNCH @ 12:30, 16 NOV
R100 per person
R50 per child under 12

PLEASE RSVP IF INTENDING TO ATTEND FOR CATERING PURPOSES.
PARISH OFFICE WHATSAPP - 079 139 3062

A walk in the garden with Niqui

A walk in the garden at St Saviour's brought us to Casino Royale with 007 and a frog with attitude who had his wine bottle and a glass of wine too!

Niqui Cloete-Barris took over 100 guests at St Saviours on a wonderful musical journey. From evergreen songs like 'The Rose' and 'I didn't promise you a Rose Garden' to fun songs such as 'Things you don't say to your wife' and 'Annie's Song'.

St Saviour's in Walmer hosted the High Tea on Saturday 27 September and hostesses were asked to dress their tables around the theme of 'A walk in the garden'. There were so many beautifully decorated tables - from Alice in Wonderland, a garden full of delightful frogs to Casino Royale and James Bond's bevy of beautiful women.

Both the Rector, Sharon Nell, and Niqui kept the laughter going as they shared many stories and jokes while the abundance of delicious food was disappearing fast.

There were also many prizes as well as two raffles. The one for a basket of delicious goodies was drawn at the close of the afternoon and was won by a member of the St John's table.



Tastes of Africa at HTC



Colourful traditional dress from various countries as members of HTC celebrated their heritage.

The Sunday morning service on 28 September at Holy Trinity was colourful and very exciting as the congregation sang hymns in various African languages and prayed in their mother-tongues to celebrate Heritage Day.

After the service, fires were lit for those who chose to do the all-South African braai while in the hall dishes such as Nigerian egwusi with catfish in red oil; Ugandan bean stew, chipati's and yams; Irish colcanon and many more tasty dishes were on offer for everyone to enjoy. Oh, and even our little new born baby enjoyed his mothers milk.

Combined Confirmation for seven parishes



Bishop Margaret with Vicar General, Sharon Nell, and the candidates who were Confirmed at St John's.



The Vicar General, Sharon Nell, presented Bishop Margaret with a fluffy 'Ellie' in lieu of a visit to Addo Elephant Park!

iindaba feels that next time it needs to be the real thing - a visit to the Park!

On Saturday 4 October retired Bishop Margaret Virtue had a busy day of Confirmations. In the morning she had a service at St Stephen's for a few parishes, then in

the afternoon she had a service for seven parishes at St John's. On the 5th she had more Confirmation services - altogether she Confirmed about 135 people.

Bishop Margaret had responded to a call from our Vicar General, Sharon Nell, to visit the Diocese and confirm many candidates.

In her address to the candidates at St John's, Bishop Margaret used an analogy of a mother zebra with her new-born baby. As she looks at her foal she immediately takes in the pattern of the stripes so she will always know her foal - because every zebra has a unique stripe pattern. Bishop Margaret assured the candidates that each of them is different too, but God knows all of them individually.

She went on to explain that she would be anointing each one with Chrism oil which cannot be washed off because they will have received the anointing forever. They will be making the vows for themselves that their parents and Godparents had made for them at baptism.

In her closing she reminded everyone that they are 'God in skin' and that everyone needs to see God in us - see and give the love and goodness He gives - because one cannot out give God.

Abp meets Chapter

Claire Phelps



Members of Chapter were privileged to enjoy the company of Archbishop Thabo at a Chapter meeting on Monday 15 September at St John's.

Excited by Addo visit

Zandile Mtsewu



Excited Sunday school children on their visit to Addo Elephant Park

The South African National Parks provided free access to the public during Heritage Day / week. Some children from St Matthias Sunday School had a very exciting visit to Addo National Park and enjoyed all the animals they saw that day.

A big thank you to all those who made this day a success.

Note - Your reading doesn't stop here! We've added an extra page!

Editor: Frankie Simpson Tel/WhatsApp +27 84 742 5514
e-mail: iindaba@anglicandiocesepe.org.za Web: www. https://anglicandiocesepe.org.za/
iindaba is the vehicle for sharing your parish news with the rest of the diocesan family.
Please send contributions and photos to the editor. Deadline: 6th of the month prior to publication.
Articles may be reproduced but credit must be given to iindaba.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Vicar General nor the editor.

Layout / design : frankie



A splash of photos from the Cathedral celebration



You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. Ps 63:1



Shane Fraser of the Bible Society presents a gift to Archbishop Thabo.



After the service the Servers, joined Archbishop Thabo on the steps in front of the Cathedral. They are displaying the Cathedral banner.



A beautiful arrangement done by St Hugh's ... although it seems that a Fumaria muralis, a Claire de Lune (Peony) and a Rose of Sharon seem to have been added!



To God be the glory - Sacristan Carol George with Cynthia Cupp who made sure the Sanctuary shone like a star.



Organist Justin Stone closed the celebration service with a resounding Organ Voluntary.



Patti Bosman and Corlia Rodger admire the beautiful depiction of Heb 11:11 'by faith, Sarah, despite being past the age of childbearing, was given strength to conceive a child because she considered God faithful to His promise.'



Above - In memory of former Cathedral priest, Fr Roy Snyman tssf, who loved Israel: 'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.' Psalm 122:6 KJV.

Left - Archbishop Thabo and Lungi cut the celebration cake.