



The Vicar General writes ...

Dear Family of God,

As I get older, it seems to me, that life moves much faster – we have just celebrated the birth of the Christ-Child and now we enter into the solemn period of Lent, which will lead us to the glorious celebration of Easter!

However, in order for us to celebrate Easter, we first have to pass through Lent and the agonies of Good Friday. It is in Christ's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, His appearance and trial before Pilate and His ultimate death on the cross, that our Father's love for us is expressed in ways words cannot define.

Christmas was the celebration of the birth of a Child who would change the course of human history by His life, His death and His resurrection. One life which would have the most profound impact on all humanity.

I am reminded of a little article/poem which I read many years ago and which seems so appropriate for us as we enter into Lent. It is a popular poem about the life of Jesus Christ. Although the author is frequently cited as "unknown", the poem is actually attributed to James Allen Francis.

One Solitary Life.

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant.

He grew up in another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was 30.

Then, for three years, he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book.

He never held an office.

He never had a family or owned a home.

He didn't go to college.

He never lived in a big city.

He never traveled 200 miles from the place where he was born.

He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness.

He had no credentials but himself.

He was only 33 when the tide of public opinion turned against him.

His friends ran away.

One of them denied him.

He was turned over to his enemies.

He went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.

While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his garments, the only property he had on earth.

When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race.

I am well within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat,



The Vicar General, Sharon Nell, with Bishop Eddie and the BEO, Fumi Kula, enjoyed tea and eats with the Diocesan staff, Yolande Wolmarans, Trevor Bruckman, Adelé Erasmus, Peter Hopper, Busi Gwentshu and Debbie Vencencie on Bishop Eddie's last day in the office as our Bishop.

all the kings that ever reigned - put together - have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one, solitary life!

As we begin our Lenten journey, we have already witnessed the Baby in the manger as we celebrated Christmas, and now we journey on the road that leads to the hill, where the cross stands, bridging the gap between sinful us and holy God.

My prayer is that during this holy time, you will make time to pause for a while,

to reflect on the life of that one Man, Jesus, the road He trod and the price He paid for our freedom.

May you be blessed as you walk the road of life this Lenten period.

Much love and blessings

Dean Sharon+
Vicar General

Archdeaconries combine for Day of Prayer

Luvaine Brandt

In a profound gathering of faith and unity, St Barnabas in Sydenham hosted a Diocesan Day of Prayer to address the ongoing moral decay afflicting our city. The event brought together clergy and congregants from the Bay and Bay South Archdeaconries, uniting in heartfelt prayer against the challenges of gangsterism, extortion, kidnapping, corruption, and the inability of officials and law enforcement agencies to address these critical issues effectively.

Rowan Jacobs, the Rector at St Barnabas, warmly welcomed all in attendance and set the tone for the solemn service, reminding everyone of the power of collective prayer in seeking divine intervention and societal transformation.

The service was beautifully coordinated by Archdeacon Andrea Potgieter, who ensured a seamless and spiritually uplifting programme. Several dedicated priests contributed to the service, including Andrew Watt, the Rector of St Nicholas; retired Priest David Grobbelaar,

of Holy Trinity; Kwandiwe Ludziya, of St Augustine's; Claire Phelps, the Rector of St John's; Andrew White, Rector of St Margaret's and Pakama Plaatjies, Priest-in-charge of St Cuthbert's. Their prayers and readings spoke to the themes of justice, peace, and hope for the future.

A special highlight was the participation of Vicar General Sharon Nell, whose presence was a blessing and encouragement to the congregation. Her powerful prayer and message reinforced the importance of unwavering faith in the face of societal challenges.

The gathering served as a beacon of hope for the city, reaffirming the role of the Church as a moral compass and a source of strength in difficult times. Those who attended left inspired and renewed, committed to being agents of change in their communities.

As the city faces ongoing challenges, the Church remains steadfast in its mission to pray, advocate for justice, and foster peace among its people.



A Franciscan Benediction to challenge us during Lent

May God bless you with discomfort
At easy answers, half truths, and
superficial relationships
So that you may live deep within
your heart.

May God bless you with anger
at injustice, oppression,
and exploitation of people,
So that you may work for justice,
freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears
to shed for those who
suffer pain, rejection,
hunger and war,

So that you may reach out your
hand to comfort them and
to turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with
enough foolishness

To believe that you can make a
difference in the world,

So that you can do what others
claim cannot be done

To bring justice and kindness to all
our children and the poor.



Anda Nanana of the Cathedral leading a section of the prayers.

NMU and USPG coordinate TELP programme

Khanti Mhlontlo



Members of the NMU and USPG teams with delegates of the TELP programme are welcomed by St Stephen's leadership and view the garden project.

The Nelson Mandela University (SA) in partnership with United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG), are coordinating Theological Executive Leadership Programmes (TELP).

This is a paradigm-shifting leadership initiative equipping 15 nominated leaders from Theological Education Institutions, across the Anglican Provinces in Africa.

They represent the following countries: Ghana; Mauritius; Seychelles; South Africa; Zimbabwe; Botswana; Zambia; Malawi; Liberia; Sierra Leone; Mozambique and Tanzania.

Delegates were hosted by St Stephen's in New Brighton, Gqeberha (South Africa) on 3 October 2024 by the Rector, Khanti Mhlontlo, and Parish leadership.

The Parish of St Stephen's shared their Community Engagement Model with the delegates, who, in turn, shared their outreach programmes. We all learnt much from this sharing.

We thank God Almighty for that which He is doing to equip and empower leaders in the context of Southern Africa and beyond, to His glory, and honour.

The view from pulpit and pew

❖ *iindaba* extends condolences to the families of:

- Desré Foaden, parish secretary and lay minister at St Saviour's, on the passing of her brother, and three weeks later, her sister;
- Eileen Bamborough, a former Diocesan President of the Anglican Women's Fellowship;
- Peta Louw, for many years a churchwarden at All Saints' in Kabega Park.

May our Lord Jesus enfold their families in His loving arms and give them peace as they mourn their loss.

❖ *iindaba* asks healing prayers for:

Trevor Bruckman, the Diocesan Financial Accountant, who has torn a muscle in his right shoulder;

• and safekeeping prayers for: the peacekeeping members of the Defence Force stationed in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Among them is the son of the Rector of St Michael and All Angels', Lulamile Ngesi.

❖ *iindaba* extends apologies to Bulelwa Gogo, self-supporting Priest at St Matthias. In the photo on page 3 last month we labelled her as the wife of the former Rector Mziwoxolo Nodwele.

Clergy on the move

• Andrew White, Rector of St Margaret's, has been licensed as University Chaplain.

Heeding Diocesan call to prayer

Carol Brand



The clergy and laity of the Bay West Archdeaconry gathered at St Francis Xavier Church for an incredibly meaningful and powerful Prayer Day service, answering the call of Synod to intercede for the moral and spiritual renewal of our communities.

Led by Archdeacon Mark Barth, the

service brought together some faithful believers from across the archdeaconry to seek God's guidance in addressing the growing moral challenges in our society. With heartfelt prayers, Scripture readings, and hymns of supplication, the congregation lifted up concerns such as crime, substance abuse, family breakdown, and the erosion of ethical values.

Archdeacon Barth delivered an uplifting message, emphasizing the Church's prophetic role in upholding

Some of the members of Bay West Archdeaconry who attended the Diocesan Prayer Day service.

righteousness and fostering hope. "We are called to be the light in the darkness," he reminded the faithful.

Representatives from various parishes offered intercessions for different aspects of community life, including youth, education, leadership, and social justice. The service concluded with a call to all present to continue in prayer and action, working within their parishes and beyond to restore God's love and truth in their neighbourhoods.

The Bay West Archdeaconry remains steadfast in its mission to uphold the Gospel and bring healing to a broken world, trusting that through prayer and faithful witness, renewal is possible.

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." — 2 Chronicles 7:14



Newly licensed University Chaplain, Andrew White, with the Vicar General, Sharon Nell, and his proud mother, Andrea Potgieter, the Rector of St Hugh's.

Cathedral celebrations
Sunday 9 March at 15h00

The German Girls' Choir
They have sung in PE previously and presented a beautiful performance.

R50.00 pp

Tickets at the door. Join in some refreshments afterwards!

Tag lines!



Do not judge by appearances;
a rich heart may be under a poor coat.

St Agnes Day celebrated

Veronica Kaibe

On Sunday 26 January, when the Church celebrates St Agnes Day, members of the St Agnes Guild celebrated at St Stephen's in New Brighton.

St Agnes Guild members from various parishes gathered to celebrate the Eucharist with Members of the Mothers' Union, under whose wing the Guild falls. Members from St Matthew's (KwaMagxaki), St Peter's (Zwide) and St Timothy's (Motherwell) took part in the service which was well attended.

The celebration was followed by a delicious lunch in the hall.



Some of the young members of St Agnes Guild who attended the celebration day.

60 years of serving

Shirmell Newman



Garth de Reuck, Altar Server at St Mary's for 60 years.

Garth De Reuck finished his last service as a Cathedral server on Sunday 9 February. For the past 60 years he has been an Altar Server, and as Head Server he has trained many young people to follow in his footsteps.

The Cathedral and the *iindaba* wish him well on his retirement from this ministry as he moves to Port Alfred.

Christmas lunch for the 'Generals'

Lungile Ngcola



Three of the Generals make a toast at the combined organizations Christmas lunch.

St Matthew's Parish Mothers' Union held a Christmas lunch for the Generals from MU, Anglican Women's Fellowship and the Skills Sharing project.

The celebration for the church's senior citizens, 'Generals', was organized for mothers who are upwards of 75 years. It was held on 5 December 2024 in the church.

Mothers and the guests came wearing the Manyano garb and promotional gifts provided. They were ushered into the

beautifully decorated hall, where the tables had glitters and lights, and they were donned with Christmas hats.

Pictures were taken by some generals on the glitzy photoshoot bar. The generals were excited and eagerly welcomed their Christmas gifts.

The message of peace, happiness and forgiveness was brought through this festival.

A delicious lunch was served after the speeches.

Recalling the past and celebrating the future

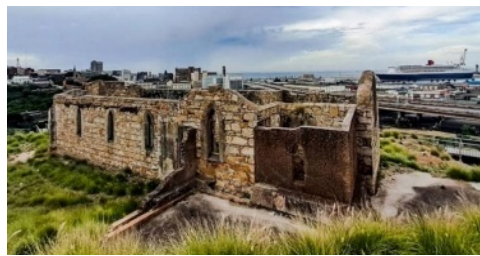
Corrine Gin



Members of the Chinese community who were forcibly moved from South End, gathered to reminisce and paint celebratory stones.

Members of the Chinese community, many from St Francis Xavier parish, gathered on Sunday 9 February to paint stones which will be placed in a garden of honour at the restored St Peter's Church in South End.

Those who gathered were former South Enders, or families of those who were forcibly removed by the apartheid government in the 1960s. While they painted their stones they had time to reminisce about their life in that vibrant community.



St Peter's was built in 1875, and after the forced removals, the empty building was vandalized and, by 1972, had become irreparable. The Mandela Bay Development Agency (MBDA) purchased the land and has partly restored the historic St Peter's Church. The partial restoration started with the timber walkway that provides visibility of the ruins of the church and a beautiful view of the ocean.

Shaun van Eyck of the Tourism Board invited the families to gather for the stone painting event and was pleased to find that about 15 families responded. He has assured *iindaba* that there will be more of these gatherings.

As a diocese we look forward to the opening of this wonderful old church building (the restored ruins) that meant so much to very many families in our Diocese.



Knitting and Nattering

Daphne Momberg

Knitting away are Kirsten Platt, Glenn Draper and Mary Wardman.

At St Cuthbert's, Westbourne Road, we have a small group of sisters who gather in the church hall at 10h00 on the second Tuesday of every month, to knit and to natter. Sometimes we sit in the kitchen having our tea, which is very important!! It is all very casual.

We would love to have more people

Community Seniors' lunch

Luvaine Brandt



Senior citizens from the Sydenham community enjoying their lunch at St Barnabas.

On 21 December 2024 St Barnabas Church in Sydenham hosted a heartwarming Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch, bringing festive cheer to approximately 80 seniors in the community. The event, held in the spirit of giving and fellowship, was a memorable celebration filled with laughter, good food, and holiday joy.

Guests were treated to a delicious meal, thoughtful gifts, and entertainment that made the day truly special. The beautifully decorated venue added to the festive atmosphere, and the seniors expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to connect with others and enjoy a joyful afternoon.

The event demonstrated the power of community partnerships and the importance of honouring and supporting senior citizens. St Barnabas and its collaborators left a lasting impact, spreading Christmas cheer and fostering a sense of belonging among all who attended.

This special occasion was made possible through the collaboration of several local small businesses that joined hands with the church to give back to the community. These businesses included Next Development Modelling Agency, Sisters Crafts and Market, Algoa Print Shop, and Manyati's Place. Each contributed in unique ways, ensuring that the event was a resounding success.

It was truly a celebration of love, unity, and the festive spirit of the season

A time to retire

Shirmell Newman



Churchwarden, Julia Bell; Garth De Reuck; Rector of the Cathedral, Fumi Kula; Cynthia Cupp; Assistant Priest Thembela Sixaba and Thobeka Nanana, a Churchwarden, at the farewell service.

On Sunday 26 January the Cathedral held a farewell for Aunty Cynthia Cupp who has retired from all her various ministries at the Cathedral and for Garth De Reuck who decided, after 60 years, to hang up his Server's robes.

Both he and Aunty Cynthia felt the time had come to let go of their ministries at the Cathedral. Both are recipients of the Order of the Diocese.

Aunty Cynthia has spent 91 years (since she was baptised) at the Cathedral and

has seen many priests come and go over the years. She has been on Parish Council, Head Sacristan who taught many a new Sacristan the right way to do things, flower arranger par excellence, involved in the Charity shop and organising High Teas, and much, much more.

We also welcomed Thembela Sixaba as the assistant priest for both the Cathedral and St Philip's. Thembela is also the St Mary Magdalene Guild Chaplain.

It was an all in one celebration!

join us for fellowship. If you have knitting, crochet, quilting, stringing beads or just any crafting, you are welcome.

We donate our items to different charities, but we also take our personal items, like

mending or darning and do them while we chat. If anyone would like to join us for tea and just needs company and a natter, please feel free to come along. Some admit that they actually natter better than they knit!!

What is an Elective Assembly and What happens there?

The Vicar General, Sharon Nell

Now that Bishop Edward has retired the diocese is officially vacant and without a Bishop. Our bishop in this time of waiting for a new shepherd is the Archbishop of Cape Town until the next bishop is elected at an Elective Assembly in May, or, failing that, appointed by the Synod of Bishops.

How long till the next bishop?

In our Diocese, which has more than ten licensed clergy as per the Canons, an Elective Assembly will be called. This process follows strict time lines and needs to happen within five months of Bishop Edward's retirement, hence the Elective Assembly is scheduled for 8 and 9 May at St John's in Walmer.

What happens now?

An Advisory Committee, under the lay chairperson of the Chancellor, Lee-Anne Ah Shene, drives this process. The Advisory comprises four clergy and four lay parishioners who were elected at Synod. The Vicar General is an ex officio member of the team.

There are also Provincial members, elected at Provincial Synod, and appointed by the Metropolitan who join the Advisory Committee before the Elective Assembly.

What are the duties of the Advisory Committee?

The Committee will write to every pastoral charge in the Diocese, inviting clergy or confirmed communicants to submit names of candidates within a 40 day period. The nominators are to provide various details in writing about the candidate. Then the Advisory Committee is to submit a list of suitable candidates to the President of the Elective Assembly, who is the Archbishop.

Who is eligible to become bishop?

Any person who is a communicant in the Anglican Communion, or in one of the Church Unity Commission (CUC) churches, and who is 40 years or older is eligible for ordination and consecration as a bishop.

Who votes for the next bishop?

An Elective Assembly will be held from 8 – 9 May at St John the Baptist to elect the 6th Bishop of the Diocese. The voting membership of the Assembly is composed of licensed members of the Clergy as per Synod 2017, and 2 lay delegates from each parish, elected in accordance with the Canons of our Province.

When is the consecration?

Depending on the outcome of the Elective Assembly, a date will be set for later in 2025.

What can we do?

Pray: Parishioners and Clergy are encouraged to commit this process to prayer.

We give thanks for the leadership of Bishop Edward, and pray for the election of a new bishop for our diocese:

Almighty God, giver of every good gift:

Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese,

that we may receive a faithful shepherd,

who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Braai Fellowship at St Paul's

Carol Brand



Having fellowship with their Rector Rowan Jacobs (right) during a braai are members of St Paul's in Parsons Hill.

Members of St Paul's gathered in the church grounds after worship on Sunday 2 February for a relaxed and enjoyable bring and braai. Though our numbers were small, the spirit of fellowship was strong as we shared good food and warm conversation.

The aroma of sizzling meat filled the air as parishioners took turns at the braai, enjoying the opportunity to unwind and connect outside of the usual Sunday service. Laughter and stories were shared and the simple act of breaking bread together reminded us of the joy of Christian community.

While this was a modest beginning, we hope that this event will become a regular feature of our parish life, growing into an event where more members can join in the camaraderie. It's a wonderful way to strengthen our bonds as a church family and welcome newcomers into our midst.

Easter candles



Some of the Easter candles made by Sister Neheng CR (archive photo - please ignore the 2022 date).

Sr Neheng of the Community of the Resurrection of our Lord in Makhanda is still making church candles for all seasons as well as other beautiful candles that can be given as gifts.

She can be contacted on:

087 197 5936 (afternoon)

or srneheng@comres.co.za

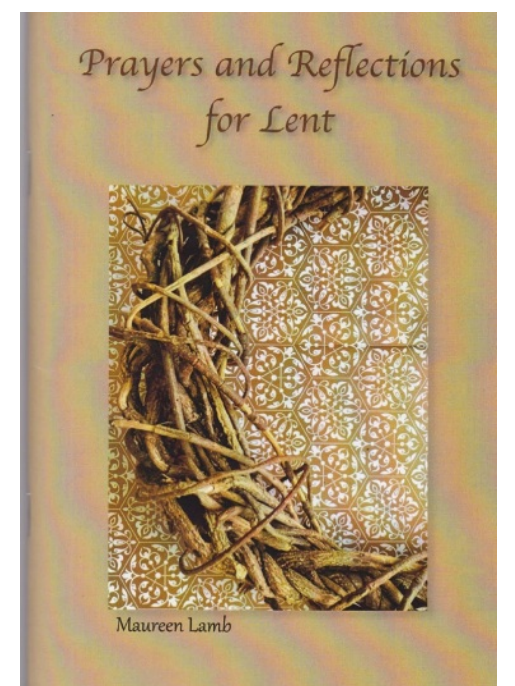
Photos and POPI Act

When submitting reports and/or photos please remember the POPI Act and make sure everyone is happy to appear in the *iindaba*.

If children are in a photo remember to get the parent's permission - this can be verbal.

iindaba does not want to be accused of not having received permission.

Take time to reflect during Lent



This wonderful little book will be a big help as you set time aside to reflect and pray through the 40 days of Lent.

Bishop Eddie wrote in the front page, "Revd Maureen Lamb has once again gifted us with a manual to accompany us on a spiritual journey during a most sacred time in our Church Calendar."

Yes, it has been out for a couple of years but if readers have not been introduced to it before now, it is well worth using during your quiet times through Lent.

Compiled by Maureen Lamb, Assistant Priest at St Saviour's, proceeds go to the Nothwood Children's Hospice.

The book can be purchased for R100 donation.

To order from Maureen phone:

071 603 6162

e-mail her on:

northwood.nch@gmail.com

Very early notice

Calling all our reporters and would be reporters - **iindaba workshop**

Saturday 19 July

Registration 08h30

expected time of finishing 12h00

St Hugh's church hall

West Street

(between 3rd and 4th Avenues - almost parallel to Cape Road)

Newton Park.

This is a refresher course for our reporters and an introduction course for all would-be reporters.

National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI)

saving lives at sea, lakes, rivers and fires - wherever they are called to help, a team will be there.

Members of NSRI are always willing to speak to organisations about their work - which includes making children water safe; putting up Pink Buoys at beaches to help save lives when someone gets into trouble when swimming; rescuing fishermen, swimmers and sailors in danger or ill on board ship.

Contact Judy Venter to arrange a talk - even if you wish it to be during a Service.

The team members dedication to saving lives is well worth celebrating.

Judy: 072 678 1536 (also Whatsapp)

Join

SA belongs to Jesus

on Telegram and pray for God to continue to heal our land our intergrity and bring justice to all.



God bless Africa

Protect her children
Transform her leaders
Heal her communities
Restore her dignity



And give her peace
For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen

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.

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