



The Vicar General writes ...

Dear Family of God,

The article this month in the iindaba was to be one of excitement and thanksgiving for the election of our new Bishop, instead this article is penned from a heart of sadness and disappointment due to the postponement of the elective assembly. I am also saddened by an attitude which seems to be creeping into the diocese, an attitude which will seek to destroy and divide the unity of the diocese. This takes the form of many faces and shapes and has the ability to cause tension within the family of the diocese.

As the Vicar General, I operate with an "open door" policy (as I have done throughout my ministry) and if there is at any time, anything which is viewed as a "serious concern" or matter which needs attention, please feel free to come and share a cup of coffee and voice your concerns etc to and with me and together, hopefully we find a solution to those concerns.

Having stated the above, I want to share a poem with you, which I found to be enlightening and yet challenging. Read this little poem – read it slowly, take it in.

How Can You "SM_LE" Without "I"?

How Can You Be "F_NE" Without "I"?

How Can You "W_SH" Without "I"?

How Can You Be "N_CE" Without "I"?

How Can You Be a "FAM_LY" Or "RELAT_VE" Without "I"?

How Can You Be a "FR_END" Without "I"?

So "I" Am Very Important!

But How Can I Achieve "S_CCESS" Without "U"?

How Can I "LA_GH" Without "U"?

How Can I Take A "C_P" of Tea Without "U"?

How Can I Enjoy The "S_NSHINE" Without "U"?

How Can I Have "F_N" Without "U"?
And That Makes "U" Also as Important As "I"

Therefore U and I = WE

We need one another in life to be happy, we need one another to work together

U and I = We



and we need one another to achieve great things.

U and I can make this world a better place.

It is not a cliché that we need each other. As a family here in the Diocese of Port Elizabeth, we need each other, especially now as we will, sometime in the near future, I pray, start of the process for the elective assembly again.

Paul writes to the Corinthian church about being one body but many parts in 1 Corinthians 12, 27th verse, "27 You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it."

Let's unpack this statement: "Now you are the body of Christ" - this metaphor captures the essence of Christian fellowship where all believers are intertwined like the parts of a physical body. Paul emphasizes the collective identity and purpose, urging a harmonious and supportive environment within the church (diocesan) community. What is vital here is the affirmation that every person matters. We find strength in recognizing that together we form a greater whole, showcasing the diversity of spiritual gifts. Each one brings not only their skills but their experiences and testimonies, engendering growth and deepening our faith.

Each one of us plays a significant role, whether it be a leader, helper, teacher, or encourager. This unity in diversity creates a rich environment for spiritual growth. We are encouraged to employ our spiritual gifts, not solely for personal benefit, but for the edification of the church.

However, unity does not mean uniformity, rather, it embraces the rich tapestry of skills, backgrounds, and perspectives God has woven into our community. This allows us to share in one another's joys and burdens (Galatians 6:2), fostering an atmosphere of support that builds one another up in Christ.

Our understanding of being part of this body directs us towards a purpose. We are called to serve and contribute actively. 1 Corinthians 12:27 not only serves as a reminder of our communal identity but also orients us toward action, urging us to engage in ministry together.

We are not solitary beings but vital parts of a greater whole - the body of Christ. Each one of us plays a crucial role, and together, we have the potential to enrich one another's lives and further God's kingdom. It challenges us to embrace our identity in Christ and motivates us to participate actively, recognizing that everyone has a purpose.

My dear family of God, we have the divine calling to reflect love, to support one another and to live in unity, and we ought actively to promote this within our diocese and communities.

May we strive to listen, love, and honour one another as we journey together in faith.

As my dear family, we embrace our roles, we contribute jointly towards cultivating a vibrant, loving diocesan family where all are welcomed.

Much love and blessings,

**Dean Sharon,
Vicar General+**

Father's Day 15 June



Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many. I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evildoers. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way. Proverbs 4:10-15 NIV

Fathers Matter Film Series - Heartlines

In South Africa, many children grow up in homes without their biological fathers. Fathers Matter is a new campaign that uses the power of story to support the positive and active role of fathers or men in the lives of children.

There are six different films in the series, set in various contexts around South Africa. Each short film is a compelling drama that explores the complexities of fatherhood and the relationships people have with their fathers in South Africa today, where many children grow up in homes without their biological fathers.

<https://www.heartlines.org.za/films/fathers-matter-film-series>

Youth Day 16 June

In South Africa we celebrate Youth Day to honour all the young people who gave up their lives in the fight for freedom - and especially those school children who marched in Soweto on 16 June 1976.

Ad Clerum and Ad Laos, 6 May 2025

To the Family of God in the Diocese of Port Elizabeth

Postponement of Elective Assembly

It was with sadness, that on 1 May 2025, I received notification of the application to the High Court in Makhanda seeking an interdict to halt the elective assembly and have the decision of the Discernment Committee reviewed, in order to allow an unsuccessful nominee's name to be added to list of candidates for the elective assembly.

Upon receipt, the relevant committees met, and a decision was taken to postpone

the elective assembly and to oppose the review of the decision of the Discernment Committee in the High Court.

This obviously has the effect of the postponement of the elective assembly until the litigation is finalised. Until such time as an elective assembly is held and a new bishop for the diocese elected, I remain the Vicar General, appointed by Archbishop Thabo.

Please continue to uphold the current process and the future process of the elective assembly in your prayers.

Blessing

During this time of uncertainty and

waiting in our diocese, we thank those who continue to pray for and uphold our beloved diocese in prayer.

My dear family, we need to remember this truth: God is still on the throne and the gates of hell will not stand against Him or His Church.

I leave you with the blessing as found in Numbers 6: 24 - 26

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.*

SHARON NELL - Vicar General



**Please pray that this matter
will soon be resolved
and that
new dates may be set for
our Elective Assembly.**

140 + 1 x 2

Over the weekend of 3 and 4 May, two celebrations of 140 anniversaries were held - but really they were both 141 years' of ministry! Holy Trinity Thornhill United Church and the Community of the Resurrection of our Lord in Makhanda were both founded in 1884, but for various reasons were only able to celebrate their milestones this year.

Holy Trinity - Thornhill United



A few of the people who attended the 140 celebration service at Holy Trinity, Thornhill. You may recognise Methodist minister Dick Hill (second row), and Anglican clergy: Robert Penrith, Claire Phelps, Michelle Werth (third row), Bishop Eddie (fourth row) and Dudley Greenshields in the fifth row. Barry Sendall was also at the service but is not in the photo.

Thornhill United celebrated their anniversary on Sunday 4 May with a full church which included many clergy, some with their wives, who have served the congregation over the years. The oldest member present was Beryl Gilson at 96 and the oldest cleric was the Methodist minister, Dick Hill, who is 93.

Our retired Bishop, Eddie Daniels, gave the sermon and spoke on 1Peter 2:4-10 on being living stones and a royal priesthood who need to take the gospel out to the community as the early members of the first church did. There were just over 70 congregants present at the celebration service and one

wondered how the original congregation of 120 people were able to be seated in the original wood and iron building - the present brick building having retained the original roof.

After the service 53 of the congregants enjoyed a celebration lunch at the Gamtoos Ferry Hotel.

The land on top of a small hill overlooking the Grootwinterhoekberge was donated by George Smith with Isaac Newton probably having paid for the original wood and iron building which cost £200.

The church was officially opened on St Thomas Day, 21 December 1884 and was called the Van Staden's River Udenominational Church.

In 1947 the present building was completed (excluding the hall) and was renamed Holy Trinity Thornhill Church.

On 23 February 1992 the Church became a United Church, under the umbrella of the Church United Commission.

The hall, which was built in the same style as was used for the church building, was added and it was officially opened by Bruce Puttergill on 25 May 2003.

At present it is the Anglican Church who have oversight of the services at Thornhill United and it falls under St John the Baptist in Walmer, with retired Priest, Dudley Greenshields caring for the congregation at present.

The view from pulpit and pew

❖ iindaba requests that all parish clergy and churchwardens look for likely reporters and encourage them to attend the iindaba workshop on Saturday 19 July at St Hugh's. For seating, notes and tea arrangements please RSVP by 10 July:

- calling all organisations, please also select reporters to attend the workshop. This will help to have coverage in the iindaba.

❖ iindaba thanks the many reporters who have contributed articles. Without your contributions iindaba would not survive.

❖ iindaba also thanks Isabel Douglas-Jones for her wonderful proof reading of the iindaba over the past few years. You're a star. Isabel is stepping down for personal reasons.

- iindaba thanks Lionel Heath for stepping into the gap. Lionel was our proof reader many years ago but had to give up because of work commitments. Thank you for taking up the challenge once again.

Yes, it is a challenge to read through all the articles and check the grammar and spelling.

In the swim



Off to Singapore are Courtney Musson, Moira Norden and Kerry Norden-Smith who have been chosen to judge events at the World Aquatic Championships. The photo is from a 2015 world competition, which took place in Kazan Russia, where Courtney and Kerry competed and Moira attended as coach.

Two members of St Cuthbert's, Courtney Musson and Moira Norden have been chosen to judge at the 22nd World Aquatics Championships being held in Singapore during July and August. They will be joined by Kerry Norden, Moira's daughter, who attended St Cuthbert's while growing up.

Moira is a fourth generation St Cuthbert's member. Her grandmother, Nova Woolacott, attended as did her father, Roland Hibbert ("when my grandmother wasn't fighting with the minister ..." then they moved to Holy Trinity). Back at St Cuthbert's, Moira and her two brothers went to Sunday School, once they started school.

Courtney Musson's family also attended St Cuthbert's, where the families met in the late 1980s.

The children became good friends, and Courtney soon started training artistic swimming with Moira.

The championships are a major multi-sport event, encompassing swimming, water polo, diving, artistic swimming and high diving.

Moira coached both her daughter, Kerry, and also Courtney at Aquabear Club. She is thrilled that all three of them have been chosen as judges for this prestigious event.

The Community of the Resurrection of our Lord

On Saturday 3 May the Sisters of the Community of the Resurrection of our Lord in Makhanda celebrated the 140th anniversary of their founding by Mother Cecile in 1884.

The celebrations opened with a Eucharist service in St Peter's Chapel presided over by retired Bishop, Paddy Glover, who is the Communities Visitor Bishop. Many Sisters from both Anglican and Roman Catholic communities attended the celebrations - coming from Zululand, the Freestate and Lesotho.

The service was followed by a finger lunch and the opening of the exhibition of the most exquisite needlework done by the Sisters at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries.

Some history of CR work in PE

The Sisters have had a long history of ministering in our Diocese - especially when we were still part of the undivided Diocese of Grahamstown.

St Francis Xavier Mission - At the turn of the 19/20th centuries, the Sisters pioneered the work of the church among the Chinese community in the North End area under the banner of St Francis Xavier Mission and set up a school. Converts worshipped in a room in the school in Queen Street (now part of Govern Mbeki



Street). Later the Chinese community took over the running of the school.

St Mark's Mission - the Mission House was the home from which the Sisters went out to their various duties, in St Mark's School or in the crowded districts of the North End and Korsten.

St James Mission - St. James' Mission Church has had its own visiting Sister and the church grew rapidly. Part of this work brought about the beginnings of St Michael and All Angels' church in Schauderville where a magnificent painting by Sr Margaret of St Michael and angels can be seen in the Sanctuary.

The House of Resurrection - In April 1977 the Sisters opened the House of Resurrection in Salsonville as a centre of refuge from the noise and violence outside and around it. In 1994 when the Sisters returned to Grahamstown they



Above - The anniversary cake was cut by Mother Kekeletso with Sisters Neheng and Zelma to help.

Left - Bishop Paddy Glover examines the Bishop's robes exquisitely embroidered by early members of the CR Community. With him is the chair of the CR Board of Trustees, Dr Claire Cordell.

gave the House to the then still new Diocese of Port Elizabeth.

Associates of the Fellowship of the Resurrection of our Lord - many members of our diocese are Associates who continue to pray for the work of the CR Sisters. They journey to Makhanda twice a year to meet and have fellowship with the Sisters and one another.

The Religious Life

Mother Keke and the Sisters are very willing to visit parishes and organisations to share their joy in being part of the Community of the Resurrection of our Lord. The youth of today may not realise this option is open to them.

Contact Mother Keke on:

063 363 9149 or superior@comres.org.za

Tag lines!



Don't underestimate the value of doing nothing, of just going along, listening to all the things you can't hear in the busyness of life .

Looking back at Easter

Awestruck at the tomb
Nizam Kader



“He has Risen” - Two children are awe-struck as they look into the empty tomb and see the angels standing there on Easter morning at St Mary Magdalene.

On Easter Sunday, 23 March, parishioners of St Mary Magdalene, both young and old, were profoundly moved by a life-sized depiction of the tomb where Christ’s body was laid on Good Friday.

Three days later, on Easter Sunday, He was resurrected. This powerful experience brought the parishioners face-to-face with the reality of the cost of their sins.

One parishioner remarked, “This made it feel so real, and in the present.” It was an emotional encounter that deepened their faith and understanding of the Resurrection.

Well done to the team of Noel, Tienie, Melanie and Selwyn, who took the rector’s vision, made it their own and recreated the scene.

Easter garden
Sharon Nell



The beautiful Easter Garden at St Saviour’s which showed the empty tomb close to the Cross.

At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. John 19:41



Celebrate 200 years of St Mary’s. Join the guided tour of the Cathedral on 20 June. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards. See page 4.

Their singing enthralled the audience at CR celebration



Caitlin Balmer, Jessica and Glyn Lloyd-Jones, Charles Antrobus and John Jackson, make up the capella group Saeculum Aureum (Latin for ‘by ear’)who enthralled the audience in St Peter’s Chapel during the celebrations for the Community of the Resurrection of our Lord 140 anniversary celebrations.

Mother’s Day spoiling
Bandile Mkele



Celebrating Mother’s Day on 11 May the Sunday School children of St Peter’s Church in Zwide made gifts for all the women in their parish, to show their appreciation and gratitude.

Sunday school teacher, and Anglican Youth Fellowship member, Sinamava Jibiliza, encouraged the children to make a beautiful variety of gifts. She is seen with some of the children and gifts.

At St Paul’s in Parsons Hill
Carol Brand



St Paul’s children sharing a beautiful song with the congregation on Mother’s Day.

On Sunday, 12 May, the St Paul’s, Parsons Hill, family celebrated Mother’s Day with warmth and gratitude. Our Sunday School children, guided by their dedicated teachers, presented small gifts to all

mothers present, with one mother winning a lovey hamper in the lucky draw. They also performed a heartfelt song during the service.

It was a joyful moment that brought smiles, a few happy tears, and a deep sense of appreciation for the mothers in our midst.

Thank you to our Sunday School team and all who made the morning special.

At Holy Trinity in Central



While they were enjoying their coffee after the service on Mother’s Day, 11 May, two mother’s were spoilt with hair touchings by their daughters. Just look at the peace on Vuyo’s face and the joy on Mbiso’s face.

Exquisite stitches



A burse exquisitely embroidered by one of the early Sisters of the Community of the Resurrection of our Lord.

In the Warden’s report of January 1943, D Randolph writes: “There is a steady demand for plain vestments and copes, and also for embroidered stoles (chiefly for the St Paul’s College ordinands), while frontals and banners exercise our ingenuity in the bolder appliqué work, and finer white linen embroidery also claims some of our time.

Another point of great interest to us is the fact that our work brings us in touch with so many churches and missions all over South Africa, and indeed beyond the ecclesiastical Province now that we have a Branch house in Northern Rhodesia.”

Holy Trinity in Central is one of the churches who boast intricately embroidered frontal, burse and veil done by the CR Sisters many years ago. They still use these during the white Sundays.

Learning the art of self-defence
Jill Bromiley



Learning the importance of using one’s elbow to defend oneself are Des Daniels, Caryl Wakeford, Unette Jacobs, all from St Hugh’s, and on the right is Anita White from St Phillip’s Church.

St Hugh’s Church Ladies’ Fellowship group had a self - defence demonstration on Saturday 10 May. This was led by Natalie May.

Natalie has been doing Karate for 28 years. She showed the ladies a number of positive moves to help in times of need. She then had the ladies actually doing all of these moves too.

Natalie has been doing Goju Ryu Karate for 28 years, and is currently a 4th Dan in karate and a 3rd Dan in Ryukyu Kobudo, which is weapons training.

Much needed in Gqberha these days!

Travelling with an angel

For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone. Ps 91:11

In this time of uncertainty and fear I felt I needed to share a testimony with you. During the struggle years, around 1985, I was a member of the Ecumenical Media committee.

We met quarterly, on a Tuesday, in Grahamstown (Makhanda) and set up workshops, with the help of Anthea Garmen of Rhodes Journalism Department and Monty Cooper of Rhodes Photo-journalism Department, to encourage denominations and parish churches to produce newsletters.

Fr Paul Fahey of the Roman Catholic Church in Uitenhage (Kareiga) and I would take turns in driving up to the meetings. One Tuesday Fr Paul phoned to say a parishioner had just died and would I please give his apologies.

At this time there was a lot of trouble along the road I would take and I almost reneged on going to the meeting. However, I felt I needed to attend and I

prayed hard for the Lord's protection for my journey.

Along the way I became aware of a little white VW car behind me. On a straight stretch the car overtook me, but stayed just ahead of me. On the hills my Jetta was more powerful, so I overtook him (yes he was a young blond man).

This went on until near Makhanda, on a hill, he suddenly overtook me. He hooted, waved his hand, and smiled. I waved back and carried on up the hill and around the corner at the top ... and then gasped ... although the road was clear for kilometres, without roads going off to the sides, the white car was nowhere to be seen.

I began praising the Lord because I realised he had sent His angel to protect me ... and give me the peace I had had all the way as I had travelled. Yes, we do have Guardian Angels whom the Lord sends when we need protecting.

Green Piece



We have put this under the Green piece because we feel that the plight of disabled congregants is as important as saving our planet!

This is a challenge to parishes to make sure their premises are wheelchair friendly. Other concerns should encompass training someone in signing for the deaf, and loving pastors for the mentally challenged parishioners.

We trust that this letter will reach someone in your church who cares about the participation of persons with disability in your faith community.

RampUp envisions faith communities where persons with disabilities and non-disabled people can:

- Acknowledge that we need each other.
 - Experience the blessings of belonging to each other.
 - Live by a liberating biblical view of disability.
 - Accommodate the specific needs that 'differently abled' people may have.
- You and your church are invited to join in this venture and experience the blessings of being enriched by the benefits of the presence of persons with disabilities.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 declares, *All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was*

reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

Divine reconciliation serves as both a gift and a calling for all believers, inviting us to extend the same grace to one another. As we all are reconciled with Christ, we could in our church communities also practise this reconciliation among persons with disabilities and non-disabled people:

- Bridging the divides through honest dialogue.
- Showing empathy with one another.
- Listening carefully to one another and thus deepening our connection.
- Sharing our God-given purposeful lives.

We will be delighted to hear from you at Erna Möller erna@tlm.co.za

Visit our website at www.rampup.co.za

Visit our Facebook page

Upcoming events

ST SAVIOUR'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

MIXED TRIVIA

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WHERE: ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH HALL
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**Calling all our reporters
and would be reporters -
iindaba workshop**

Saturday 19 July
Registration 08h30
expected time of finishing 12h30

St Hugh's
church hall, West Street
(between 3rd and 4th Avenues)
Newton Park.

For catering (teas) purpose
please RSVP
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**Ongoing work of the
CR Sisters**



**St Neheng CR shows a visitor one
of the candles she makes at the
Community of the Resurrection of
our Lord Convent.**

Many people ordered candles from Sr Neheng CR when they visited the exhibition of work displayed to celebrate 140 years of ministry by the Community of the Resurrection of our Lord.

To order Advent, Christmas and other Liturgical (eg I am the Vine/ Good Shepherd), candles contact St Neheng on:

078 197 5936 or
srneheng@comres.org.za

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e-mail: iindaba@anglicandiocesepe.org.za Web: [www. https://anglicandiocesepe.org.za/](https://anglicandiocesepe.org.za/)
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