



The BEO writes ...

Dear Family of God,

As we usher in August as women's month, which is a special time when we pay homage to the many women who, through their selfless work and vision, have influenced politics - these are women who marched on 9 August 1956.

Women in the Bible.

Women play a very important role throughout our lives and even in the Bible, especially in Luke's writings, they play a role. Luke draws special attention to what women did in the early church.

We know of the following woman:

Mary the mother of Jesus Christ (Luke 2:34);

Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus Christ (Luke 1:57);

Martha and Mary of Bethany, sisters of Lazarus (Luke 10:38-42);

Zipporah, the daughter of Jethro and wife of Moses (Ex 2:21-22, Ex 4:24-25, Ex 18:2-6, Num 12:1);

Phoebe a deaconess of the early church (Romans 16:1-2);

A woman named Lydia mentioned in Acts 16:14.

We men all know that we cannot only by ourselves attain the highest ideals without the help of the right women whether it is our mothers, girlfriends, or a sister. They are the kind of people who sought to build others, showing kindness and tender heartedness.

No right-thinking person will deny that many women are still illtreated. There is much violence, kidnapping and the killing of women and children. We are in a country where women's and children's lives and dignity earn no respect from some men. By the looks of things, this violence is nearer to an end. I am tempted to look back and reflect on August 2024, but this will do me no good, as there is no difference.

South African police statistics.

According to SAP statistics between October-December 2024, 273 children and 957 women were murdered and 2164 cases of assault opened. It looks like churches, homes and schools are no longer places of safety as some violence and murders occurred on these grounds. Here are disturbing stories; Baby Cwecwe was raped; Baby Joshlin Smith has been missing since Feb 2024. Her mother

Women, the source of change



and her accomplices were recently sentenced to life imprisonment for her disappearance; the 14 year old girl, Likhona Fose's mutilated body was found in Roodepoort (this case happened during the child protection week, 29 May-5 June 2025; Olorato Mongale was murdered while she was on a date; the list is endless. I am fully aware that the Bible had stories of rape and murder of women and children. We are familiar with the story of Tamar (2 Samuel 13) - Amnon raped her.

The question is how did God respond? Absalom, her brother, killed Amnon. In the Bible there are chapters and verses that condemn women abuse and violence. (Ezekiel 22:10-12)

Putting right what had gone wrong.

One wonders how effective our justice system and the effort of Police officers are to get these people brought to book. Someone said we need strict implementation of the existing laws.

Where is the Spirit of UBUNTU that says my child is your child, a system that values and respects women-hood, that understands that we are all made in the image and likeness of God.

Maybe as older men we need parental skills that shape boys and teach them the best about women hood. Most of these men who kill and abduct are not at peace with themselves. One cannot be at peace with yourself if one is at war with one's neighbours (women and children) and God.

All of this does not mean God is indifferent to the women and children as He may sometimes appear to be. NO. As the church we need to continue to speak out even more against this violence.

What to do if you are a victim.

I am happy that our Anglican Church of Southern Africa and our Diocese of Port Elizabeth

have procedures in dealing with the victims. Please speak to your Priest or report to the Safe Church authorities. In our Diocese Archdeacon Claire Phelps is the Archdeacon for Safe Church and a trusted and safe person to speak to, and remember that every case is treated as confidential

Help can also be available from the organizations like RAPE WISE, LIFELINE, FAMSA, POWA (PEOPLE AGAINST WOMEN ABUSE) CHILD LINE AND POLICE STATIONS.

This is with love and prayer always,

Fumi Kula
Bishop's Executive Officer

Prayer Corner Women's Day



The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

"No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

John 8:3-11

May we care for our abused sisters as Jesus cared for this woman.

No condemnation - just love!

Help us to keep our eyes and ears open to signs of abuse and come alongside those in need with all the love of Jesus as we reach out a hand to help them.

Another plea from our persecuted family

On Saturday 21 June St John's held a Mission Tea in their hall. They had invited some missionaries who live in various parts of Northern Africa to share some of their experiences of being Christians in predominantly Muslim areas.

Before beginning to share their stories they thanked everyone who holds them up in prayer, those who support missionaries with donations and with messages of encouragement and love.

They really appreciate your commitment.

One of them (no names allowed) shared about using her art as a way to help special needs children, orphans, third culture children and refugees.

Because many of the people she works with have gone through the trauma of fleeing war and persecution, she uses painting, sculpture and various other art materials as therapy to help both adults and children to express themselves

because, very often, they are unable to speak about their horrifying experiences.

The projects, no matter how simple, help to calm them, especially the autistic children, as they have very short concentration spans - and they are always very proud of when they manage to do something.

She has had a lot of success with children with autism and with elementary and secondary school pupils.

She is also part of a care centre for the families of other missionaries in the areas she works in.

She emphasised that she is there for everyone, no matter what their race or religion is - because God still loves them. There are many groups, such as Open Doors, In Context, Youth with a Mission that parishes can support to help people in the mission field.

See page 3 for more news.

Annual clergy Renewal of Vows



Every year all clergy must attend a service where they renew their vows in front of a Bishop - in this case retired Bishop Margaret Virtue, who visited our Diocese to conduct the service.

Retired Bishop Margaret Virtue flew into our Diocese to conduct the Renewal of Vows services - the one for Cradock (photo on the left) and all the parishes further North was held on Tuesday 17 June in St James in Michausdal and the other for all the other clergy of the Diocese on Thursday 19 June in St Hugh's in Newton Park (photo above).

Excerpts from Bishop Margaret's sermon will be published as the Bishop writes (Ad Laos) in the September *iindaba*.

The view from pulpit and pew

❖ *iindaba* sends condolences to the family of retired Priest, Richard Taylor, who passed away on Saturday 28 June. May the family and friends know the peace of our Lord surrounding them as they mourn.

❖ Oops! *iindaba* has a red face (- was it a snow blond moment!) ... in the photo of Bay South Archdeaconry we got the parishes wrong: Rowan Jacobs is Rector of Twinning Parishes of St Paul's and St Barnabas; Christopher Prince is Retired Assistant Priest at St Philip's and the Cathedral and Lindelwa Mama is Retired Priest at St Barnabas. We're so sorry we confused so many people.

- Then we also got the date of Michele Werth's institution wrong - of course, it was 1 June not 1 July!

Clergy on the move

• Mark Muspratt-Williams as Priest-in-Charge of Zwartkops River Valley Parish from July.

A prayer for Women's Day

Tear Fund New Zealand

Lord, make me an instrument of peace:

Bless all women who daily strive to bring peace to their communities, their homes and their hearts. Give them strength to continue to turn swords into ploughshares.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love:

We pray for all women who face prejudice, inequality and gender disparities. Help us to see and to face the discrimination against women in all the many forms it may take.

Where there is injury, pardon:

Comfort all women who suffer from the pain of war, violence, and abuse. Help them to become instruments of their own reconciliation and peace.

Where there is division, unity:

Forgive all women and men who let differences breed hate and discrimination. Let your example of valuing all of creation help us to see that we are equal partners in the stewardship of your world.

Where there is darkness, light; where there is untruth, truth:

Comfort all women who struggle in the darkness of abuse, poverty, and loneliness. May we stand with them in light to acknowledge their suffering and strive to remove the burdens of shame or embarrassment.

Where there is doubt, true faith:

We pray for all women who live in fear of their husbands, fathers, and forces that control their lives. Help them to be empowered to be their true selves through your everlasting love and faith.

Where there is despair, hope:

We pray for all women who live in the despair of poverty, violence, trafficking, slavery, and abuse. May the light of your love bring them hope.

Where there is sadness, new joy:

Help us to see the strength and goodness in all women and men. Transform our hearts to celebrate the love and grace of all people. Amen

Living with Christians in war-torn areas

One of the speakers at the Mission Tea at St John's on Saturday 21 June spoke about working with Christians in one of the war-torn countries.

He said that even if you cannot speak their language, people will respond to you if you share the love of Jesus with them - and they will see if you are genuine through your eyes and your smile!

The other thing is to keep coming alongside them because this is an important way to show you love and care for them. With war all around us, it is this love and help brought to them that helps them to know the love of Jesus.

He spoke of various countries in Northern Africa where there is war, or killings of Christians leaving poverty and displacement in it's wake.

He mentioned places like Sudan which do not seem to be on the radar for help and yet there are 40 000 000 displaced people there, with 70% of them living on very basic food. They've lost their homes, all their possessions and often have to leave the little they still have when they are forced to move again.

In the midst of all this, there is amazing love. Displaced people in these countries see Christians loving and helping one another and slowly begin to ask questions



Ejoying tea and sanwiches with the Rector of St John's, Claire Phelps (right) at the Mission Tea were Michael, Jen and Carole Charlton-Perkins.

and some come to know the Lord.

He said, "The Lord is revealing Himself to unbelievers in many countries in very many ways, and we rejoice in the way He is working in lives of unbelievers."

His plea is for soaking prayers from his brothers and sisters in Christ for all those living through persecution because of their love for the Lord. Pray that many others will also come to know the Lord.

Tag lines!



When you have nothing to say,
say nothing!

SAVE-THE-DATE

MISSION FETE 30 AUG
8:30AM-1PM

Fundraising dedicated to those in the mission field!

St John's Mission Fete

Enlightening Cathedral tour

As part of the Cathedral's 200 years' celebrations they organised a tour of the church.

The tour took place on Saturday 21 June and was conducted by Tony Neveling and covered the history, the Gothic revival architecture, stories about the stained glass windows and many other features.

Tea and eats were enjoyed afterwards.



Eleanor Palmer (St John's), John and Zilla Abel (St Paul's), Maggie Marks (Cathedral) and Winston Weir (All Saints) were among the people who enjoyed the tour of the Cathedral.

School and church relationship continues

Sweetness Mgedezi



Keeping a long-standing relationship with Lawson Brown High School flourishing are Terry Knott-Craig, Sweetness and her husband, retired Priest Churchwarden Mgedezi of St Saviour's Church and the Principal of Lawson Brown School, Nicolette Hufkie.

St Saviour's adopted Lawson Brown High School last year and have continued this relationship with retired Priest Churchwarden Mgedezi conducting services with their Student Christian Association every Thursday.

On a recent visit to the school, Terry Knott-Craig and Sweetness Mgedezi motivated the Grade 12 learners using the theme, 'Let the main thing remain main.' After this Churchwarden anointed them with oil and laid hands on them in blessing.

Free health checks for community

Xola Nodwele



The Rector of Holy Spirit in KwaZakhele, Xola Nodwele, has his blood pressure checked, and is followed by some community members during a Health Care day.

On 8 June the Health team of Holy Spirit organised a Clinic day for their local community.

Nurses from Kwazakhele Clinic arrives with their equipment and took blood pressure, did screening for TB, STI, pregnancy, mental health and tested for HIV as well as doing cervical screening on non-HIV and HIV clients. Pregnancy tests were also done for 35 women as well as Petrogen and Nuristerate tests.

The day was a great success with 160



people being attended to:
Under 5 years old x 45;
5-9 years old x 11;
10-19 years old x 20;
20 years and above x 84.
The nurses also handed out pamphlets as well as vitamins, condoms (200 female and 6 000 male) and other health care treatments.
Many young people had lots of questions which were answered by the nurses.

Successful dress makers

Bev Sanderson



Proudly wearing their beautiful dresses are some of the St John's Centre of Concern graduates.

St Johns Centre of Concern held their Sewing Graduation Ceremony on Tuesday 17 June for the eight ladies who had completed the basic sewing course.

The St John's Centre of Concern offer two x 13-week basic sewing courses in February and July each year which are run by parishioners Bev Willemse and Cheryl Weyer. We are thankful for their dedication to this ministry which enables us to empower the community. We had 8 ladies who proudly showcased their sewn items and wore their outfits with pride at our 8th Graduation ceremony.



Also proudly wearing their African traditional outfits are the six ladies who graduated in this course.

Vicky Cengani of St John's, offers an African traditional sewing course. We had six ladies graduating and showcasing their items. This form of sewing enables them to make a wonderful income in their communities.

Christ's love shown in a time of crisis

Xola Nodwele



Assistant Priest, Nomphele Mbuzwane, with the owner of the burnt house and the Rector of Holy Spirit, Xola Nodwele.

On 11 July an urgent call was made by a family of 16 whose house had burnt down. She had lost everything in the blaze.

Holy Spirit Mothers' Union and their Anglican Youth Fellowship came to the rescue with items to help the family.

Grand old lady of the MUCFL

Veronica Kaibe



A stalwart of the Mothers' Union, Nosisa Ntuli, who is 93, is seen with the MU Diocesan President, Veronica Kaibe.

Letters to the ed

On 14 September 2025, the Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin celebrates its 200th Birthday.

Flower Festival

The Saturday before our Birthday, (13 September) we are holding a Flower Show at the Cathedral, from 09h00 to 13h00. We have already sent out letters to all the Parishes in our diocese asking for contributions towards flowers or flower arrangements to display in the Cathedral. Each arrangement will be labelled according to the parish that has contributed the flower display. All contributions will be acknowledged by the Cathedral.

200th celebration service

If you were baptised, confirmed, married or are a past member of St Mary’s, perhaps you would like to give a thank you token for all your blessings from our Lord God. Please help us to make the 09h00 Holy Communion on Sunday, 14 September 2025, a really Spectacular vision of love and fellowship and a true celebration of gratitude for present and past mercies. Archbishop Thabo will be the celebrant of this momentous 200th Holy Communion service at The Cathedral and Mother Church of Gqeberha, Port Elizabeth.

Caroline Gibson – cell 082 574 2060 / email - caroline@jfgibson.co.za

Energy issues workshop

South Africa’s Just Energy Transition (JET) aims to shift our economy away from being fossil fuel-driven. For JET to be fair and equitable for all, especially for communities that have endured decades of pollution, job losses, and unreliable, unaffordable electricity, everyone must have a voice.

So far, government energy planning continues to centre on so-called solutions such as oil and gas and nuclear energy, which are being presented as part of the JET. However, these are false solutions to climate change. A clear understanding of JET and energy planning is needed so we can collectively reject these false paths and take action for a truly just and sustainable future.

SAFCEI is excited to invite new participants to join our campaign “No Faith in False Solutions” and attend a workshop in Cape Town this August.

Applications are open for Faith Leaders and Green Champions living in or near areas impacted by oil and gas exploration and nuclear energy, specifically Cape Town, Saldanha, Atlantis, Doringbaai, and other affected coastal communities.

By applying, you commit to participating in an in-person, 3-day workshop in Cape Town, taking place from 26 to 28 August 2025.

During the workshop, you will:

- Gain in-depth knowledge and understanding about the impacts of false solutions and current energy planning processes.
- Learn how to mobilise your community and run campaigns against false solutions (oil and gas and nuclear energy).
- Be empowered to speak out against false solutions and for an effective, inclusive, and accountable JET, to call for meaningful and inclusive decision-making.

We are committed to inclusivity and strongly encourage applications from diverse South African faith leaders and active community members, with at least 50% women and youth representation. SAFCEI will cover accommodation, meals, and transport for attendees travelling.

To apply, email Mishkah Moerat at mishkah@safcei.org.za, or WhatsApp +27 73 084 3869.

Be part of this vital campaign for a just and sustainable energy future!

Applications close on 31 July 2025.

Please share this opportunity widely among your networks and help us identify who will most benefit from this training.

Yours sincerely

The Southern African Faith Communities’ Environment Institute Team



Glory to God for everything

I direct this message to the entire world and urgently call for swift intervention to stop the terrorist massacres in Suwayda.

I send this humanitarian appeal to the enlightened minds who love peace.

The ongoing war in Suwayda Governorate is a savage war, **killing both young and old.**

I raise my voice to the international community and the United Nations, pleading for help.

I pray that this cry reaches the whole world.

Issued by
The Archdiocese of Bosra, Hauran, Jabal al-Arab, and the Golan for Greek Orthodox



Sheikh Hikmat al-Hijiri. Syria - The massacre of thousands of Christians and Druze in Suwayda by Jihadists goes unnoticed. Both call for help.

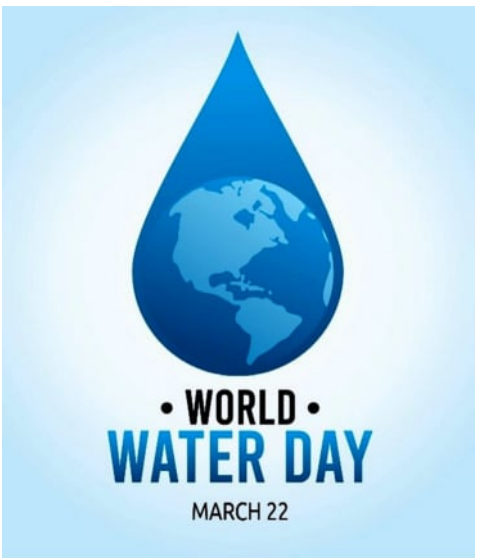


Servers at St Stephen’s hold up posters urging congregants to save water.

Mothers’ Union in our Diocese celebrated World Water Day at St Stephen’s in New Brighton on 23 March.

The MU Eco-Champs arranged water awareness activities through various events emphasising the importance of water conservation and responsible stewardship of natural resources.

They had activities with Sunday School children and young learners instilling knowledge and encouraging them to take responsibility for protecting water resources.



Flood Relief Appeal

As we applaud the MU Water Day teaching, we have to also deal with the results of climate change disasters!



EASTERN CAPE FLOOD RELIEF



HOPE AFRICA

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As members of the Body of Christ, we are reminded in Galatians 6:2 to “carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” In this spirit of compassion and unity, we humbly appeal to you and your congregation for two vital forms of support:

Prayer:

Please join us in fervent prayer for those affected — for comfort, strength, provision, and swift recovery. Pray also for the church leaders and humanitarian teams working tirelessly in these areas.

Financial Donations and Practical Aid:

We welcome any contributions toward relief efforts, including non-perishable food, clothing, blankets, and monetary donations to help rebuild lives and communities.

Should you wish to contribute financially, donations can be made to:

Account Details:

Bank name: Standard Bank
Branch name: Constantia Branch
Branch code: 5309
Account holder: GROWING THE CHURCH-TEACHING AND TRAINING
Account number: 24 337 415 1
Account type: CURRENT
SWIFT code: SBZAJJ
Reference: Relief

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