

Archbishop Thabo writes ... Celebrating 200 years

Dear Family of God,

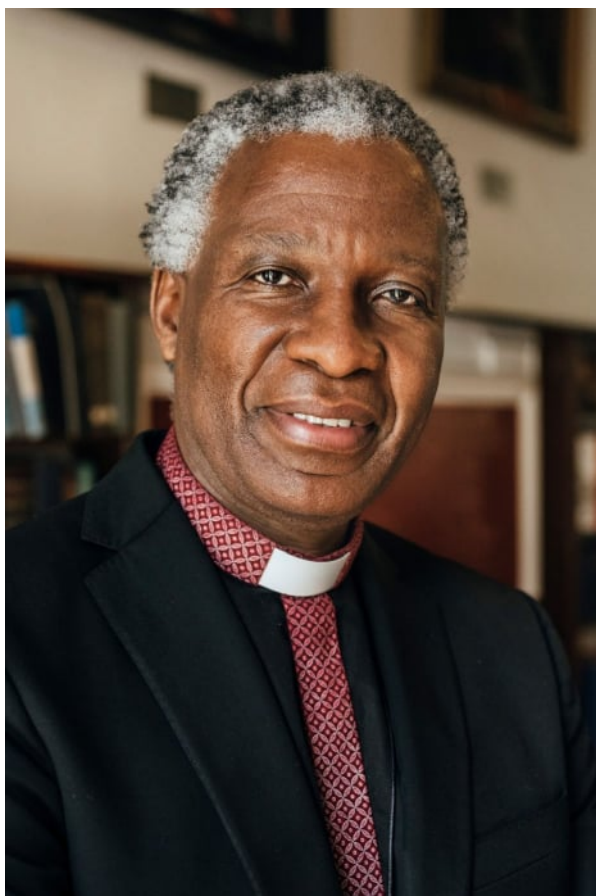
It is a great honour to have been asked to pen these words upon the occasion of your Cathedral's 200th anniversary celebrations. Wow!! 200 years is a big deal!

The little challenges we all face every day are small compared to the many faced by the founders of this Cathedral. Those who have built this church and its congregation over the past two centuries approached their tasks with hope, a hope we need to emulate today. Not hope in the sense of mere wishful thinking, but, as the theologian Denise Ackermann has said, hope which fuels a determination to bring about the fulfillment of what we hope for.

In Jesus Christ, we worship a living God, the God of the Resurrection. Quoting Jürgen Moltmann, Ackermann asserts that Christian hope is Resurrection hope, which as a component of story-based theology means hope for the divine overcoming of all that obstructs the fulfillment of God's will for us. In my book, *Faith and Courage: Praying with Mandela*, and elsewhere, I have often quoted the saying attributed to that great African saint, Augustine of Hippo: "Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are."

The Province, that is the church throughout Southern Africa, values the courage and the contributions which you, as the Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin, have brought to our common life over the past centuries, and we look forward to strengthening our mutual commitment to mission for the next!

In this milestone centenary year there is much to celebrate. Cathedrals are not just institutions of prayer which offer the Eucharist and the daily Offices, important as that is. They are also at the forefront of theological education and over the years you have been a centre for teaching, learning and leadership training for both lay and ordained for Gqeberha and across the Diocese. We give thanks not only for



the clergy education that has taken place, but for the ordinations that have been conducted here.

We give thanks to the leadership of the Diocese for ensuring that the Cathedral has been a symbol of the Bishop's teaching authority and a primary location from where the Bishop's ministry to the Diocese commences. You have provided opportunities for witness and service to thousands of individuals and families over the years, drawing them closer to God. Many started their Christian journeys here, and their individual and collective experiences have shaped your reputation as a place with a high standard of excellence in worship.

In telling the story of St Mary's, we bear witness to the stories of all who have entered the gates, who have walked the corridors and who have played, learned and grown here. Friendships have been fostered; challenges met; sweet

victory has mingled with loss and disappointment; lessons have been learned and values fostered in this place of worship and service.

A church is not an island. It reflects the complexities and challenges of the society of which it is a part. As much as it celebrates success, achievement and excellence, it also calls out and witnesses against injustice, inequity and other challenges that compromise the capacity of members of its community to experience their God-given humanity to its fullest. This has been one of your challenges of recent times; one which you are addressing and which requires greater commitment on the part of the whole Diocese to come alongside you and work with you.

As your Archbishop I am thankful for your commitment to address the deep hurts that many of our people have experienced, and to ensure meaningful and transformative change for future generations. In this way, the key principles of transformation, equity and belonging will become embedded in your life and structures.

Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu used to say: We are each made for goodness, love and compassion. Our lives are transformed as much as the world is when we live with these truths.

There is a rich resonance between his words and your willingness to make a difference in Gqeberha. May all who journey through this sacred place experience the transformation that faith and hope have embodied in it.

Congratulations in your 200th celebrations. I look forward, as your Diocesan Bishop during the interregnum, to be with you soon.

Blessings!

+ Thabo Cape Town

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba

Prayer for our Leaders



Pray for those in authority

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV)

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

- This includes all the Christian leaders, and especially all leaders and clergy in ACSA and especially, our Diocese.

Pray for leaders of the country and the Church to seek God's will.

Synod of Bishops and Provincial Standing Committee meet from 22-24 (SOB) and 24 - 26 September and need soaking prayer as they choose new Bishops to serve vacant Dioceses who were unable to elect Bishops during their Elective Assemblies.

Psalms 22:28 (NIV)

"For dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations."

Why this is important:

We all need wisdom, including our leaders. Plus, God, the giver of that wisdom, is ruler over all. Let's keep Psalm 22:28 in mind as we consider these issues.

Pray for our President

Proverbs 28:2 (NIV)

"When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers, but a ruler with discernment and knowledge maintains order."

Pray for our Diocese

Phillipians 4:6 (NIV)

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Continue to pray for the Lord to intervene and bring about a speedy outcome of the court case against the Archbishop, the Diocese and the Discernment Committee

- so that we may hold our Elective Assembly and elect a new Bishop for our Diocese.

"Thy will be done on earth as in heaven."

New reporters for iindaba



The *iindaba* workshop led by the editor, Frankie Simpson, on 17 July unfortunately clashed with Mandela Day celebrations. However, this did not detract from the fun and enthusiasm of the seven women who did attend.

The participants discussed how to write reports and what to make sure they include, and ideas of enhancing their reports with extra observations. They left knowing that certain information, such as - who, what, when and where - is important. They laughed when the editor suggested they also ask, 'so what'

The editor was so pleased to have some new reporters join the team. Those who attended were -

Sisanda Mbodkla of St Paul's; my assistant, Jill Bromiley of St Hugh's; Owan Kombela of Holy Spirit; Caryl Wakeford of St Hugh's; and Zandi Mtsewu of St Matthias.

Having a laugh are reporters Sisanda Mbodkla, Jill Bromiley, Owan Kombela, Caryl Wakeford and Zandi Mtsewu.

Ghost Stories laughter at tea



Members of Bay East Archdeaconry enjoy a laugh while having tea at the Diocesan Office.

Ghost stories caused much laughter as members of the Bay East enjoyed tea with the Diocesan staff on Monday 21 July. Which ghosts were they discussing? The ghost(s) that wander the cloisters in the Cathedral, of course.

Clergy combine for Prayer Walk

Khanti Mhlontlo



The Rector of Holy Spirit, Xola Nodwele; The Rector of St Stephen’s, Xhantilomzi Mhlontlo; Bishop of the Methodist Church, Dr William Leleki; Pastor Ngalo and Assistant Priest at St Stephen’s, Zolani Gaxamba; walking in front. Behind them is Bishop Themba Mahuwa and an unnamed Pastor.

The clergy on behalf of Churches in the Nelson Mandela Metro, together with key stakeholders such as Schools, Sport, SAPS, Community Policing Forum, Business, NGO’s etc coordinated a successful Prayer Walk and Awareness against crime in New Brighton on 24 July. They handed over a letter to the SAPS at New Brighton.

AWF supports young girls

Owam Kombela



Young learners at Ebhongweni Primary School were thrilled to receive sanitary pads from Holy Spirit AWF members.

Tag lines!



Common sense is like deodorant.
Those who need it most
never seem to use it.

On 7 August members of Holy Spirit Anglican Women’s Fellowship visited Ebhongweni primary school in Kwazakhele to hand out sanitary pads to the young girls.

Lack of money in some families often means that young girls have to stay at home and miss school when they menstruate. These young girls were thrilled to receive this life-line from caring members of the AWF.

Mandela Day St Matthias

Zandile Mtsewu



Grateful recipients of gifts of love from St Matthias on Mandela Day.

Members of St Matthias in Motherwell came together for their 67 minutes on Mandela Day by doing a great variety of activities. They painted a home; installed a sink and plumbing; installing aluminium windows; donated a wheelchair to a grandmother who was in need, and donated groceries.

Well done all of those involved – it was a great tribute to a great man.

A Royal greeting

Jill Bromiley



Bob and Josie Glover with the Hon British Consul, John Denham, who delivered a letter and card from King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Bob and Josie Glover of St Hugh’s celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on 16 July.

They were delighted to receive a congratulations card and letter from King Charles III and Queen Camilla which was personally delivered by the Hon British Consul, John Denham.

RIP Elliott Banzana

Lulabalo Cengani

Having grown up in the streets and mountains of KwaNojoli, serving at St Ninians, Church of the Ascension, Holy Spirit and St Timothy, Canon Banzana’s life was one that left behind a trace of humility, giving and building up of people.

His life continues to tell a story of humble beginnings from the semi-rural outskirts of Somerset East to Gqeberha and has left formidable marks in various parishes he has served.

History will remember him as one of the most ardent advocates for the preservation of Anglo-Catholic tradition in present day Anglican faith.

The view from pulpit and pew

❖ Gremlins creep in everywhere - in the article on Bay South Archdeaconry *iindaba* included St Hugh’s - confusion could’ve arisen with Andrea Potgieter’s presence, but she was there as Bay South Archdeacon. Bay South comprises the Cathedral, Holy Trinity, St Phillip’s and St Cuthbert’s. Hopefully not too many readers were confused.

❖ *iindaba* extends condolences to the family of Elliott Banzana who served as a priest in many parishes in our Diocese before retiring. He passed away on 20 July. May the Lord hold his family in His hands and give them peace as they mourn.

Clergy on the move

- Zola Nanana – Priest in Charge, St Andrew and St Anne’s, KwaNobule;
- Thembele Sixaba – Locum Priest in Charge, St Augustine’s, Walmer;
- Zolani Gaxamba - Assistant Priest at the Cathedral;
- Nomphele Mbuzwana - Assistant Priest at St Stephen’s;
- Simphiwe Salmaan - Priest-in-Charge Greater Karoo Middelburg;
- Kwanele Ludziya - Locum Priest-in-Charge St Ninian’s and St Paul’s Somerset East.

A Joyful Occasion

Ruby Jewell



“Receive your new Priest-in-Charge” Archdeacon Vincent Mdidimba presents Mark Muspratt-Williams to the congregation of ZRV as their new Priest in-Charge.

It was a true privilege to witness the Licensing and Institution of Mark Muspratt-Williams at St Agnes Church, Zwartkops.

It was a moment that beautifully reflected what it means to walk in God’s time. Raised in the Anglican Church, Mark’s calling to the priesthood was evident from an early age. This long-awaited milestone has come to fruition through faith, patience, and unwavering commitment.

The service was deeply moving and spiritually enriching, a testament to God’s faithfulness in Mark’s journey. His proud parents and family, including brother Paul, who had travelled from Cape Town, looked on with joy. A testimony of parents who nurtured his spiritual foundation from the very beginning. Their quiet strength and support were a powerful presence throughout the celebration.

We give thanks for Mark’s ministry and pray for God’s continued guidance and blessings as he begins this next chapter of faithful service.

Moving forward



Leaders of various working groups who met with Danie Mouton (back row 4th from left) and Trevor Jennings (back row second from right) of TCN to plan the way forward.

Stream leaders from the three workgroups who are involved in finding solutions to the crisis in various areas of Nelson Mandela Bay came together on 24 July to report back on their progress.

The three groups cover Crime and Violence, Unemployment and Poverty, and Youth. The groups have met together on a few occasions since they were inaugurated at the Centre of Public Witness Conference held on 24 March.

At present the priorities being discussed and worked on by the groups are:

Crime and Violence - Activating street-level community ownership and protection; building collaborative networks of churches, SAPS and civil society; restoring social fabric through mentorship and belonging; addressing root causes such as poverty, drugs and disconnection; promoting a culture of accountability and hope.

Unemployment and Poverty - Mobilise and empower local communities for economic participation; strengthen and connect existing initiatives; expand digital access and infrastructure; advocate for systemic and policy reform; building a culture of collaboration, accountability and sacrificial action.

Youth - create safe, supportive and youth-centred community spaces; expand mentorship and leadership development; address youth unemployment through skills and opportunity pipelines; tackle substance abuse and mental health holistically; build collaborative platforms and partnerships.

The leaders discussed their progress in these areas and the way forward and especially where progress is being made.

Any readers who may wish to join one of the groups or contribute in any way please contact Trevor Jennings on 079 504 1892

or info@tcn.org.za

Alpha journey

Sisanda (Lebo) Mbodlela



Joyful Alpha participants at St Paul's.

The Alpha Course at St Paul's in Parsons Hill ran from 14 May to 6 August.

Serving at Alpha is a life-changing journey of faith, friendship, and transformation. It's a space where strangers become friends, fears are shared openly, and faith is strengthened through honest conversations and prayer. As you serve, you not only pour into others but also grow spiritually yourself — learning the power of vulnerability, interceding for one another, and witnessing God's love at work. The greatest joy comes in hearing someone decide to follow Jesus and in the powerful testimonies of lives changed, hope restored, and hearts renewed. Alpha is more than a course — it is a family, a faith journey, and a front-row seat to God's transforming power.

Fun at AYF sports day

AYF reporter



AYF members had fun playing Pop the Balloon at their sports day.

The Anglican Youth Fellowship successfully hosted its annual Sports Day on Saturday, 26 July 2025, at St Matthias Church in Motherwell.

Despite the rainy and chilly weather, the enthusiasm of the young people could not be dampened. What was initially planned as an outdoor event was swiftly adapted for an indoor setting, showcasing the AYF's resilience and commitment.

The day kicked off at 09h00 with vibrant praise and worship, followed by a series of exciting sports and fun activities which had been creatively adjusted to suit the indoor environment. Young people from various parishes across the Diocese participated wholeheartedly, building bonds of friendship and encouraging one another in true AYF spirit.

One of the activities enjoyed by members was 'Pop the balloon' - the balloons had riddles in them which teams had to answer before popping another balloon.

The AYF Task Team would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to St Matthias Church and its parish leadership for generously opening their doors and allowing us to use their facilities. A special thanks also goes to all parish leaders, participants, and supporters who contributed to making the day a memorable success.

The event proved once again that when we come together in faith and unity, no obstacle, not even bad weather can stop the work of God.

New AYF Committee elected

During the day a new Diocesan committee was elected. Nwabisa Sizani - St Augustine's; Lutho Mkosana - Church of the Ascension; Nomaxabiso Mlilwana - St Stephen's; Entle Qhina - Church of the Ascension; Palisa Ndimba - St Stephen's; Siya Ngoma - St Stephen's; Masego Bokaba - St Peter's and Luvo Daba - St Andrew's.

Upcoming events



Nelson Mandela University

The Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences is hosting

A lecture by Bishop Dr Edward Daniels

"Sacred Rhythms, Organised Purpose: Liturgical Wisdom for Organisational Life"

16 September - 17h00 to 19h30

Ocean Sciences Campus - The Dome

Beware - visit her and you'll be put to work!



Mother Kekeletso CR (second left) peeling butternuts with Corinne Gin, Tracy Baines, Lynn Schroeder and Dawn Spence.

When Mother Kekeletso CR from the Community of the Resurrection in Makhanda stayed with Frankie Simpson recently she found she was made to work hard - especially on the Tuesday at the soup kitchen at St Saviour's Church. Mother Keke was a willing worker and said she really enjoyed the fellowship and laughter around the table.

Be warned - visit Frankie and you'll be made to work hard!

Clash of the choirs

Philani Mbebe



The winning voices belonged to St Stephen's choir - seen holding the trophy.

On 12 July St Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild celebrated the Feast of the Martyr, Bernard Mizeki, differently this year by holding the Clash of the Choirs Competition at St Cyprian's Church in Kwazakhele.

This prestigious event was the second leg of the competition; the first was held in 2024 during the Guild's Mini Conference.

With this year's leg parishes were competing for the first place prize through Men's Guild music. The event was graced with the attendance of the Guest Choir, Amadodana ase Motherwell Gospel Singers.

The adjudicator was Lwandile Gawulayo from Uniting Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa and members from our Sister Guilds.

The winner of this historical event was St Stephen's Church who were awarded the first place trophy. The other participating Parishes were awarded Certificates of Appreciation.

Soup and Sherry

Jill Bromiley



Enjoying soup and sherry at St Hugh's.

St Hugh's parishioners had a great time at the annual Soup and Sherry evening on Friday 25 July.

A variety of soups were served ... and, of course, the warming sweet taste of sherry to enhance the fun of the evening.

✍ Letter to the ed ✍

**Pray for the peace of JERUSALEM:
May those who love you be secure.
Ps 122:6**

Silence is not always golden - many of us keep quiet when we should speak out and act. The news media daily bombard us with the suffering in Gaza, but nothing about the suffering in ISRAEL, who did NOT start this terrible war. There is an orchestrated campaign by the world, of LIES against Israel and when reports are disproved, are there any loud retractions or apologies? No! And too late, as appalling harm is done and Israel vilified and demonised yet again.

Why are we all not shouting these many months past, for those cruelly abused hostages to be set free IMMEDIATELY? Please PRAY for them to be released NOW (both the living and the dead)

The most chilling aspect is the intense hatred being spewed out by so many seemingly intelligent, civilised human beings - the rejoicing and exultation over the inhuman, evil attacks of 7 October, are beyond comprehension and wildest imagination ...

For our struggle is not between flesh and blood, but against the rulers, authorities and powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:12)

Israel is NOT starving the Gazans - their own terrorist rulers are doing a good job of that! Israel is providing food and trying to deliver it safely to the civilian population & this should be positively acknowledged.

We desperately need to be INFORMED of the HONEST TRUTH, not the twisted, false, evil narrative. For some good food for thought and clear reporting, listen to MELANIE PHILLIPS; DOUGLAS MURRAY; TBN Israel and SA's Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein.

PRAY without ceasing for wisdom to discern the correct story; also for ISRAEL, GAZA and Hamas, that LOVE OVERCOMES HATE AND GOOD OVERCOMES EVIL.

But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

Josh 24:15

**Rosemary Newcombe
St Peter's, Kinkelbos**

Pray for

- missionaries,
- for the work of the Bible Society,
- for persecuted Christians ... many being killed in Africa, Syria, India and all over;
- for those starving in:

Ethiopia where there have been 74 583 malnutrition-related deaths this year alone;

Bangladesh an estimated 95 000 to 100 000;

Angola 33 000 – 35 000;

Sudan at least 520 people have starved to death in the past two years;

... Lord, Your Kingdom Come

Reporting the truth

If so many are starving in Gaza why do reportes need to distribute lies?



The poor, sick old man from Gaza whom Israel is supposedly "intentionally starving" seems to have a well-fed family. Maybe because it's not starvation he is suffering from?



"The UN has admitted that 88% of the aid trucks it brought into Gaza since mid-May were looted, or "diverted," either by Hamas and other armed groups, or by mobs of Palestinian civilians."

This is why the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation is so critical. In their food distribution centers free food is given directly to the civilians.

And this is why the UN and Hamas will make up stories of death traps and torture anyone who goes there. It takes away the control Hamas has in the civilians.

Photos and reports above -

Amir Tsefarti - Christian reporter, author of many Bible teaching books and Christian novels as well as a world-renowned evangelist living in Israel.

Green Piece

Season of Creation

The Green Anglicans Team



We are delighted to share with you the resources for this year's Season of Creation - with liturgies and sermon notes.

The theme for this year is "Peace with Creation."

The sermon notes are based on the readings from Jeremiah.

There is also an international Ecumenical Resource to be found at www.seasonofcreation.org with an Ecumenical Prayer service. The 1st of September is the World Day of Prayer for Creation/Creation Day and we are encouraged to hold Ecumenical events.

With many prayers for a blessed Season of Creation.

Please download the resource form: https://www.greenanglicans.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/SOC-2025_compressed.pdf

This year for the first time we are delighted to share a second resource with Bible Studies and ideas for youth and Sunday School

Please download it from: <https://www.greenanglicans.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/SOC-2025-Bible-Study-and-Youth.pdf>

Guild holds conference

Thembela Sixaba



Members of St Mary Magdalene Guild with their chaplain, Thembela Sixaba, holding the beautiful new banner.

The conference was held from 24 to 27 July at Waverley Hills and was hosted by St Andrew's in Kariega. We were pleased to welcome the Provincial President, Anita Somhlahlo, together with Lindiwe Nyundu from the Diocese of Highveld, the Treasurer and Marapelang Raphuting, Provincial Public Relations Officer, from the Diocese of Lesotho.

The theme was on Isaiah 40:31

The highlight was the Robing Service - the change of uniform to the Province's, as we're now affiliated to the Provincial St Mary Magdalene Guild. Our uniform now includes the purple girdle, a rosary and the Provincial gold and purple badge.

The presence and support from the Diocesan clergy that included former Chaplains of the Guild who took part during the Robing service.

We had the pleasure of being honoured by the presence of a former guild member, Noxolo Mvimbeli-Malusi, who is now married and a member of the Methodist church - who donated a new Diocesan pull-up banner.

Attendees were from as far as Alexandria, Sundays River, Humansdorp, Somerset East - 14 Parishes in total.

The activities included Bible studies, tikkieslaan/mjikelo, karaoke evening and a braai. (Waverley Hills is in Elands River Rd, Phone: 072 829 5288)

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