

Ad Clera et ad Laos

My dear People of God

Greetings, grace and peace be with you. You will be aware that it has been almost a year since Bishop Eddie retired, and that the Elective Assembly to discern his replacement, which was scheduled for 8th to 9th May, had to be postponed because the Revd Zwelidumile Tom filed a case in the Makhanda High Court on account of his exclusion from the list of candidates. After consultations between his lawyers and the Province's lawyers it has emerged that supplementary papers have still to be filed with the High Court. This means that it is likely to be months before a hearing is scheduled, with judgement coming two or three months after that. Any appeal against a judgement could delay a final resolution of the matter until the latter part of 2027.

After prayerful reflection and consultation, and for the sake of the Province and the Diocese, I have decided to include the name of the Revd Tom among candidates for an Elective Assembly to be held



from 25th to 26th November, 2025. I acknowledge that the delays have been a cause for deep concern, and for that, I

express my sincere regret. Although the legal process has not run its course, I am convinced that we must move forward in faith.

We are guided by the words of Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

It is with the assurance of this God-given peace that I affirm this decision. I now urge you all to pray earnestly for all the candidates and their families as we seek God's will and way for the Diocese.

God bless.

Thabo Cape Town

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba

From the Vicar General

Dear Diocesan family of God

God is good all the time. All the time God is good!!

You are aware that a new date has been given for the Elective Assembly, namely 25 – 26 November 2025. This is a time for the diocese to meet together and prayerfully to discern and elect a new Shepherd to lead us forward.

As we prepare for the Elective Assembly, my heart is filled with hope, with prayer and, yes, with a touch of holy fear.

Choosing a new Bishop is no small task. It's not a popularity contest or a matter of ambition. It is a moment of deep listening - to God, to the Holy Spirit and to the life of our Diocese.

I have heard questions being asked, particularly with regard to this elective assembly, namely what does it all mean and why does it even matter.

I want to say this: it matters because leadership shapes the heart of the Church. The one we elect will help carry the hopes and burdens of our people, especially in an area like ours, where faith is lived in either the busyness of city life or quietly but faithfully, in dusty roads and around kitchen tables and Sunday worship in small chapels.

We don't go to this Elective Assembly looking for a hero. We go looking for someone -

- who listens well to God's people, and even better, listens to God;
- someone who knows the weight of the Gospel and the joy of it too.

And we pray, not for our will to be done, but for God's.

And let us not be afraid. Even in the uncertainty and weight of these days of preparation, and as the Elective Assembly



approaches, we remember: God is bigger than this Elective Assembly; bigger than our anxieties; bigger than any outcome. We are held in the hands of a faithful God who sees the whole picture, even when we do not.

Please pray for your parish representatives as they prepare to attend on your behalf.

Pray for each of the candidates, who carry the weight of discernment and vulnerability.

And pray for the Diocese, that we may be bold in faith and tender in heart.

The Spirit has not finished with us yet. God is still calling, still stirring, still sending.

In quiet confidence and with hope.

Love and blessings.

Sharon

Dean Sharon,
Vicar General+

Hard at work again!

The Diocesan Advisory Committee: Frankie Simpson, Archdeacon Mark Barth, Canon Charles Qoto, Zukisa Jeyi, the Revd Xhanti Mhlontlo, Vicar General Sharon Nell, Archdeacon Claire Phelps, Canon Ulrught Fleurs, Keith Burns (Vice-chair), Wayne Tinley and Advocate Lee-Anne Ah Shene (Chair).

Within 48 hours of the announcement of the new dates for the Elective Assembly, the Advisory Committee were hard at work organising the logistics and planning the way forward.

Fortunately, as this is a postponement, clergy and lay members stay the same.



Pray for the Elective Assembly 25 - 26 November

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

Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

Eternal God, shepherd and guide, in your mercy give your Church in this diocese a shepherd after your own heart

who will walk in your ways, and with loving care watch over your people.

Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth.

So may your Church be built up and your name gloried; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For members of the Elective Assembly:

Holy and sovereign Lord, we, your church, wait in hope and trust for your choice of our new bishop.

We thank you for all you have given us through the generations. We surrender to you our own desires and fears, and pray with one heart and mind 'Your will be done'.

Give the members of the Elective Assembly humility, discernment, kindness, and listening ears and hearts.

For the sake of your Kingdom, Amen.

Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn 2018

Our clergy meet clergy in the making

Claire Phelps



With the Vicar General, Sharon Nell, and the Rector of COTT, Percy Chinganga (fourth left) are members of our clergy and final year students from the College. Clergy school was held at St Mary Magdalene on Thursday 21` August. Dr Percy Chinganga, Rector of the College of Transfiguration (COTT), brought 18 final year students to visit the Diocese as part of their Theology and Practical Course. The students were hosted in various parishes within the Diocese.

AWF Provincial President visited us



Lungsi Ntlokwana, the AWF Provincial Alternate Vice President; and the Vicar General, Sharon Nell, with Pamela Mntonintshi, the Anglican Women’s Fellowship Provincial President, who was in our Diocese to prepare the way for a Provincial Council meeting in October.

Smiles that Elective Assembly is happening at last!



Yes, these big smiles from members of the Bay West Arch-deaconry were all about Elective Assembly happening at last!

Tag lines!



Make sure you have finished speaking before your audience has finished listening.

Members of the Bay West Archdeaconry enjoyed tea and fellowship in the with the Vicar General, Sharon Nell, and the members of the Diocesan Office staff on Monday 8 September. Of course, much of the conversation centred around the letter from Archbishop Thabo announcing that our Elective Assembly will be taking place at the end of November. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship.

New Honorary Canons



The Vicar General, Sharon Nell and the BEO, Fumi Kula, with the two newly inducted as Honorary Canons, Phumla Mtila and Dudley Greenshields. Before Chapter meeting on Thursday 14 August, the Vicar General, Sharon Nell, inducted Phumla Mtila and Dudley Greenshields as Honorary Canons. Honorary Canons are retired Priests who are being honoured by the Diocese for their dedication during their tenure as stipendiary Priests. They do not form part of the Bishop’s Chapter.

Still active!



During August Black Sash celebrated 70 years of wonderful service to communities throughout South Africa. Their Advisory offices are still very busy in cities and rural areas around the country. Many members of our Diocese were active members during the struggle for freedom.

The view from pulpit and pew

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

❖ iindaba asks for prayers for Joshua Koenig, the Rector of All Saints’ in Kabega, who is recovering from neck surgery.

Clergy on the move

• Please pray for the candidates whose names have gone forward for Elective Assembly:
The Revd F Kula
The Revd R Groepe
The Revd L Ngesi
The Revd A Potgieter
The Revd Z Tom
The Revd G Walters

Two Priests licensed Lubabalo Cengani



Archdeacon Lulamile Ngezi and the clergy pray over Phakama Plaatjies at his licensing service on 9 August at St Matthias, Motherwell.



Zola Nanana (left) with members of St Andrew’s in KwaNobuhle at his licensing on 23 August. On the right is Archdeacon Lulamile Ngezi.

RIP Dr James Dobson



Dr James Dobson Jr passed away on 21 August. He was an evangelical Christian author, psychologist and founder of Focus on the Family, a series of teachings used by many of our parishes.

Liturgical dance appreciated

Luvaine Brandt



The St Paul’s liturgical dancers ministering to members of St Barnabas congregation.

On Sunday 17 August, the congregation at St Barnabas was blessed with a special visit from the St Paul’s Dance Group. Their presence added a vibrant spirit to our worship as they ministered through the beauty of dance.

The group shared a powerful spiritual dance, reminding the congregation of the joy and freedom we find in expressing our faith through praise. Their performance was not only artistic but also deeply moving, leaving many touched and uplifted by the message carried in their movements.

The St Barnabas family extends heartfelt gratitude to St Paul’s and their dedicated dance ministry for joining us in worship and blessing our congregation. May the Lord continue to use their gifts to inspire hearts, build unity, and spread the message of His love.

We look forward to more moments of fellowship and shared worship as we journey together in faith.

Feeding the elderly

Philile Lobese



Some of the Enthembeni old age home who received lunch from members of St Timothy’s in Motherwell on Thursday 21 August. The Parish also collects food, clothes and detergents for the Ethembeni elderly.



Members of the MU and senior citizens of St Timothy’s enjoying some singing and dancing before their lunch.

St Timothy’s in Motherwell held a lunch for the senior citizens of our parish on Thursday 21 August. This was made possible by a few members of the Mothers’ Union, who normally arrange this annually.

In this fashion the MU show the elderly of the Parish appreciation, love and care.

There was lots of nice music, singing and dancing and delicious food was served and enjoyed by all.

We look forward to the next one, thank you MU.

St Hugh’s has been very busy

Jill Bromiley

A gift of Bibles



Assistant Priest, Quinton Blignaut, presented the St Hugh’s Sunday School teachers and children with some new Good News Bibles on Sunday 31 August. These were blessed during the service and proudly shown to the congregation.

Ladies enjoyed tea and fun



Guests at the St Hugh’s ladies’ tea watching the special entertainer, Lola le Roux, on Saturday 6 September.

The tables were laden with delicious goodies for the Ladies’ Tea at St Hugh’s on Saturday 6 September and Lola le Roux brought laughter and fun to enjoy.

Welcoming Spring with the taste of wine

Morne Van Der Schryff



A big crowd enjoying the various wines on offer.

On Saturday 6 September, St Paul’s in Parsons Hill hosted a wine tasting fund raiser, welcoming Spring. Over 140 guests attended to sample, and hopefully, order the nectar of the vine and to enjoy a sociable afternoon.

There were 15 wineries from which to sample their varieties, and wow! did we sample, sometimes going back just to double check if we indeed did enjoy certain vintages. We began with bubbly, then moved on to white wines and finally the reds. Needless to say, it all started off quite restrained with low levels of chatter, but by the end of the afternoon the laughter and conversation and giggles were at an all-time high.

Thank goodness for the ladies of St Paul’s who were prepared and ready with a delicious basket of snacks and treats. After that, if you were still famished, there were sizzling boerewors rolls made by Jan Brand.

Our thanks to Ursula Williams and the team for putting together such a wonderfully memorable afternoon. We look forward to the next tantalizing event on the calendar.

Secretary appreciated



St Hugh’s Parish Secretary, Carolyn Webber, was presented with a food hamper on 3 September in celebration of Secretaries’ Day and in appreciation of all her hard work. This took place during tea after the midweek, Wednesday, service.

Successful clothing sale



Four happy male helpers, John Clark, Errol Johnson, Hilary Pritchard and Ernie Verrall at the clothing sale. The two on the right are 90!!

A very successful clothing sale was held at St Hugh’s on Saturday 30 August.

When looking at the photo someone remarked, “Thank goodness they are looking at the MALE clothes and not the FEMALE clothes.”

Robust discussion at community engagement



Listening intently to a speaker at the meeting are some of the community members and Christian leaders.

A robust discussion was the remark made by Dr Bukelwa Hans when she summed up the afternoon’s proceedings on Thursday afternoon 11 September, at St Stephen’s.

The meeting had been called by the Christian leaders of the Nelson Mandela Bay to hear input from the community on the meeting they had recently with the Premier of the Eastern Cape and the NMB Executive Mayor - this being the President’s reply to a letter of concern sent to him.

Some speakers challenged the content of the letter, or just a few points, whilst others were in full agreement asking that ongoing dialogue take place - especially between the Church leaders and the NMB Council.

Predictably, there were those who accused the Church of meddling in politics, but they were reminded that it was this involvement of the church during the struggle that helped to bring about change.

Further discussions will take place as the leaders seek a way forward.

Practising your faith 24/7

Mike Smith



Alex Msutu, Grace Boshoff, who is our regular prayer warrior, Ryno Van Dyk, the Technical Consultant at Proservices, Graham Gosh with Mike Smith in the garden at Shalom Way.

I am passionate about Worklife Ministry, or as Glynn prefers, Frontline Ministry as used by the LICC - London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, whose vision is “Empowering Christians to make a difference in daily life”, founded by John Stott.

That is anyone you come across in your day to day life wherever you find yourselves. My aim is to encourage Christians to practise their faith 24/7. Excuse the cliché.

Because I do not work in an office any more, nor a factory for that matter, I resolved to practise what I preach on anyone with whom I might have regular contact. Such an occasion arose when the Diocese engaged a firm of painters to paint all the cottages at Shalom Way. The painting took some time, probably at least a month and a half.

Since part of the vision of the community living here at Shalom Way is that we each have a ministry, we resolved that we would bring a message and pray for the painting team on Monday and Friday mornings before they started work - with the permission of the manager of the division. Because this seemed to be well received, we also started doing it with the garden service people who cut our grass twice a month, again with the permission of the owner of the business.

The painters did such a good job, that I got them to quote to paint the wooden window frames and garden gates, which quote was accepted. The manager popped in one Thursday, I thought to confirm their starting time on the Monday, but he told me that two of the team of five painters had begged him to be allowed to come back to Shalom again, hence would we be happy to delay another week? They particularly wanted to connect with Grace Boshoff who usually did the prayers and provided some hospitality on occasion.

Although we were not expecting recognition in any way, but rather to recognise the people whose jobs are often overlooked and under appreciated, it was certainly good to get this feedback. Even if we were not preaching a specific gospel message, there was obviously something in the environment that they found attractive.

So if you find you have similar circumstances where your frontline is, I would encourage you to do the same. We usually use one of the devotionals that St Nicholas sends out twice a week, adapted for the circumstances of the audience.

If you would like to find out more, you are welcome to contact: Mike Smith on 083 452 7005, or visit us at Shalom Way, Walmer.

Christmas candles made to order



One of the projects of the Community of the Resurrection of our Lord in Makhandia is the making of candles. These are a few examples. Contact Sr Neheng CR on 078 197 5936 for pricing and orders.

Green Piece



A not so green piece!
Vandals tried to get into Holy Trinity grounds in central during last month. They cut the special (vandal-proof fencing) wires but did not get in.
We need prayer covering for all our Diocesan properties as they are being hit.

Celebrating a baptism

Sisanda Mbodlela



Some of the families with their babies and children that were baptised at St Paul's during August.

On Sunday 10 August, St Paul's was filled with joy as families and parishioners gathered for a beautiful baptism service led by the Rector, Rowan Jacobs.

With heartfelt prayers and gentle blessings, he welcomed Jordan, Lazola, Jessi, and Lisakhanya into the family of God, creating a deeply moving and personal moment for each child and their loved ones.

The service, rich in tradition and love, brought the congregation together in celebration, reminding all of the grace, hope, and unity we share as a church community - the Body of Christ.

St John's Mission Fete a great success



Nicky and Finn Willemse admiring some jewellery on sale at one of the stalls at the St John's Mission Fete. Veronica van Rensburg, the convenor of the stall, looks on.

As always the St John's Mission Fête was a great success.

It was held on Saturday 30 August and the place was buzzing from the moment the doors opened at 08h30.

There was lots to buy, lots to eat and many games to keep the children happy.

There were also raffles with fabulous prizes - one of which the editor won!