



WELCOME

The Diocese welcomes you, Bishop Grant, as our new shepherd.
iindaba presents a photographic memoir of the day.



Newly consecrated Bishop Grant - having received the anointing of oil, a Bible to guard the faith, his cross to remind him whom he serves, his ring to remind him to be merciful in his exercise of authority, and as Bishop Grant receives his mitre, Archbishop Thabo says, "in the strength of the Holy Spirit lay hold on the crown of everlasting life."



Top left - Bishop Mcebisi Pinyana of Grahamstown and Bishop Stafford Moses of False Bay present Grant Walters to Archbishop Thabo.

Above - With their families are Archbishop Thabo with Lungi and Bishop Grant with Abigail and Zia.

Left - At the end of the service they process to the front door of the Church of Christ the King, and Archbishop Thabo holds the service book for Bishop Grant as he blesses the City of Port Elizabeth and the Diocese.

Lent 2026



Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Matt 4:1-11 NIV

This Lent we pray:

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Matt 6:13

Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer, and perfecter of our faith, who, for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Heb 12:2

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

The Bishop writes ...
Dear Family of God,

The ashes traced on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday were not for decoration; they were a declaration that we are fragile and fallible human beings, falling short of God’s glory, and in desperate need of God’s love, grace and mercy. This declaration, however, is meaningless if our hearts remain closed.

Into this sacred moment, God speaks with urgency: *“Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.”* – Joel 2:13.

Receiving the ashes is a pressing invitation to turn away from sin and believe the Good News. Turning away from sin, not in a vague or general sense, but personally and honestly. It calls us to turn from the habits and addictions that numb us, from the grudges and unforgiveness that confine our hearts, and from the distractions and envy that quietly hold us captive.

Believing the Good News means knowing that God is not waiting to condemn you, but to restore you. Believing that God truly is “gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.” The ashes remind us of our mortality, but the Good News, the Gospel, reminds us

Why ashes?



Bishop Grant and Abigail with Archbishop Thabo and Lungi celebrate with some of the bishops and their spouses after the service.

of God’s unconditional love and enduring mercy.

Lent is the season in which God draws us into an intimate and sacred space, a place of quiet surrender, where hardened hearts are softened.

May this Lenten journey be a time in which we truly render our hearts, turning away from sin, returning to the Lord, and believing the Good News. It is never too

late; now is the time.
Then we could all say, To God be all the glory for the great things God has said and the great things God has done.
Amen

+ GRANT PORT ELIZABETH.

**The view from
pulpit and pew**

❖ *iindaba* congratulates Canon Dean Sharon Nell on being the first person in our Diocese to be instituted as an Honorary Canon of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa - a well deserved honour bestowed on her by the Synod of Bishops.

❖ *iindaba* sends condolences to the families and friends of:
- Hon Canon Ben Botha who passed away on 15 February;
- Team Rector, Canon Philile Lobese, on the passing of his mother;
- Assistant Priest Bulelwa Gogo on the passing of her brother.
May they know the peace of Jesus surrounding them as they mourn.

❖ *iindaba* asks readers to pray for retired Bishop Bethlehem recovering from time in hospital and for Sr Neheng CR who is recovering from an operation.

Clergy on the move

- Duma Caluza, moved from the Karoo to be the Assistant Priest at St John the Baptist, from 8 February 2026.
- Congratulations to Pakama Plaatjies on his election as President, St Bernard Mizeki Men’s Guild.

**Called to point to
the one who is real**



“Is He real?” - Archdeacon Claire Phelps brought a very challenging message to our new Bishop and the congregation.

From the beginning of her homily through to the end Archdeacon Claire Phelps challenged the bishops, clergy and congregation to declare the glory of the real Jesus in all we say, live and do wherever we are.

She said the church is called to point to the one who is real. We are sent, not to debate theology but to bring peace, to be a blessing, to heal and to eat with those who invite us in.

She went on to say, “Let the real Jesus be seen in our lives,” and that the world needs to see who Jesus is in our society; as we bring the good news; as we declare His glory to those who meet us. Our mission to show Jesus is not something that is added on to our other work - it is what we are called to do. We need to go out and let the real Jesus be seen in our lives, in how we interact, in how we conduct our churches.

Before closing she addressed Bishop Grant by saying, “Bishop Grant, keep us accountable for what we are really showing the world. Help us not to offer a comfortable Christ.”

Our Dean, Sharon Nell, was honoured by the Synod of Bishops when they conferred on her the very first Provincial Honorary Canon of our Diocese.

Part of the citation handed to her by Archbishop Thabo reads: We hereby duly and canonically institute you, in whose fidelity, morals, learning, sound doctrine and diligence we fully confide, in the office of the Provincial Honorary Canon of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

ACSA Honorary Canon Sharon Nell receives her certificate from Archbishop Thabo.



Blessing those who come to ask

After the service Bishop Grant blesses Archbishop Thabo.

An Anglican tradition is that those who wish a blessing kneel at the foot of the newly consecrated clergy/Bishop.



Tag lines!



You don’t get a second chance to make a first impression.



Synod of Bishops 2025

Diocesan Day of Prayer

Jill Bromiley



Members of St Hugh's praying in groups during the Diocesan Day of Prayer.

St Hugh's is part of the Bay West Archdeaconry which hosted their 2026 Diocesan Day of Prayer on 3 February.

Hoping to encourage many to attend the combined prayer session it was held from 17h30 to 18h30. It was a bit disappointing to have only 28 folk attending, but many did set aside time to pray at home.

The congregation split into groups to pray for Leadership, Youth, Parishes and Mission.

Ding dong merrily it rings again

Mark Muspratt-Williams

If you ask many Christians, they will say there is nothing like hearing the sounds of church bells ringing, reminding us of the importance of starting off our week by going to a place of worship.

Sadly this was not the case in October 2024 at St Agnes in Swartkops. When it was time to ring the bell and the bell-rope was pulled, there was silence with only the cut rope tumbling down. Thankfully no one was injured by this near miss. Some parishioners decided to investigate, and, as they were walking the grounds around the church, they noticed the church bell had been stolen off the roof.

Now having to replace the stolen bell was no easy task as to try and purchase another bell was very expensive and it is even more difficult to find an old one.

As a result, as the South African saying says, 'n boer maak n plan', we had to make do for several months with a hand-held school bell, but as many will attest to, there's something about the sound of a 'clonk' that didn't quite sit right.

Then months down the line the Lord heard our prayer for, when the daughter of a late parish council member, Maureen Taylor, came to visit our parish for a Sunday service, she left hearing that



St Agnes churchwarden, Gail Ehbel, ringing the new bell at St Agnes.

'clonk' we had all endured for months. Next thing' we as a parish knew, we were gifted with a new bell. It is mounted on the wall just inside the church entrance.

With this blessing, St Agnes can once more, as the Advent hymn says, "Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!"

In the beginning

Wayne Asher (then *iindaba* editor), Priests Christopher Holmes and Ben Durham and Astri O'Healey watch Frankie Simpson opening the first Media computer in the Diocesan office.

At the beginning of December 1993 our first Media computer arrived at the Diocesan office. This was a gift from Trinity Church, Wall Street.

Trinity had paid for Frankie Simpson, then reporter, to attend a ten day crash course in journalism at PenTech in Cape Town in the January. She then trained as a cub-reporter under the ACC journalists



during the Primates/ACC meeting in January 1993.

By March 1994 our first *iindaba* done completely on our Desk Top Publishing program was printed.

MU Excom held positive retreat

Philile Lobese



At the MU Executive retreat were - Andiswa Mzamo, Nokuzola Tukani, Vuyelwa Mankonti, Nokuzola Vumazonke, Buyiswa Mtsulwana, Nomsa Mtila, Veronica Kaibe, Philile Lobese, the Team Rector of St Timothy and St Cyprian's, Yoliswa Lupondwana, Zodwa Yotsi and Pumeza Sume.

The Team Rector of St Timothy's and St Cyprian's, Philile Lobese, conducted a retreat for the Diocesan Mothers' Union executive committee on 23 and 24 January at Amery House in Summerstrand.

MU President Veronica Kaibe said of the retreat: The retreat was a game-changer. It was this beautiful space where we could disconnect from the chaos and focus on our spiritual growth, leadership, and personal development.

The sessions were super insightful, with amazing speakers who shared stories and teachings that really hit home. We had time for reflection, prayer, and even some fun activities that helped us bond as a committee. One of the highlights was a session on leadership - it made me think about how I can lead with more humility and compassion. It was a great opportunity to recharge and refocus on what's truly important.

The facilitator was truly amazing and he highlighted that we should remember that we are in leadership to be able to advance the Kingdom of God and do everything for the Glory of the Lord.

Successful Karoo AYF electoral weekend

Kwandiwe Ludziya



Kwandiwe Ludziya, Locum Self-Supporting Assistant Priest at St Ninian, with the Karoo Archdeaconry AYF at St Ninian's.

The Karoo Anglican Youth Fellowship Archdeaconry Election Weekend, hosted by St Ninian's Church in Somerset East, was a spirit-filled and uplifting gathering. Delegates arrived on Friday, 6 February, ready for a weekend of fellowship, worship, and leadership.

Although it was an election weekend, the atmosphere felt more like a revival. The joy, vibrant praise, and powerful music led by our young people created an energy that filled the church with excitement and unity.

The elections were held on Saturday in the presence of the Rector of the Church of the Ascension, Zweli Tom, representing the Archdeacon of the Karoo, Relton Groepe. On Sunday, Kwandiwe Ludziya, Locum Self-Supporting Assistant Priest at St Ninian, officially inducted the newly elected executive committee during a meaningful and celebratory service.

The newly elected executive committee is as follows:

Chairperson: Sinentlaha James; Deputy Chairperson: Nandipha Malane
Secretary General: Siphosethu Memese; Finance and Administration Secretary: Lisa Gocici; Treasurer: Abenathi Klass; Media and Communications: Bayolose Naki; Gender and Health Officer: Kamva Mvezo; Events and Projects Coordinator: Kamva and additional Members: Somila Salman and Asisipho Naki.

The weekend was a true reflection of unity, renewal, and the vibrant spirit of the Karoo Archdeaconry. It was not just about electing leaders, but about celebrating faith, service, and the future of the church.

✍ Letters to the ed ✍

Prayer on Persecution - Sunday 31 May

For six months, you joined us in praying for our family of faith in sub-Saharan Africa. Thank you so much for your prayers and support for our family in the region. It means so much to them as they face increasing persecution as seen in places like Nigeria, Somalia and Sudan. Today, we invite you to join us again for a time of prayer and studying God’s Word. Persecution Sunday, a day of dedicated prayer for our persecuted family, not only in sub-Saharan Africa, but across the world, takes place on 31 May 2026. In the lead up to the event, we will be going through a study on Loving Your Neighbour from 25-29 May. Join us as we walk through Romans 12:9-21, which teaches about love in action. Through this inspiring study, you’ll:

- Hear testimonies from our persecuted family who’ve put love into action under severe persecution.



Open Doors

- Learn how you can pray for them.
 - Be challenged to put this love into action in your “neighbourhood,” be it church, work or your community, and closer to home among family and friends.
- Visit our website to register for Persecution Sunday 2026 and be part of the study.
United in Christ
Open Doors Africa

A letter from a former Priest in our Diocese

From time to time, I download some of the back issues of iindaba to catch up with news of the Diocese. I am always impressed by the quality of this monthly publication and just wanted to thank you for the way you have sustained it over so many years. Though it’s 30 years since I was a priest in the Diocese, I am encouraged to read of how people and churches I knew have flourished. I’m now retired - from Manchester Cathedral. We like the NW of England and so have retired to New Brighton (just over the River Mersey from Liverpool) in the Diocese of Chester and I have ‘permission to officiate’ in my local parishes. Tonight it’s our latest Alpha Course with the session on the Bible, and I’ll be drawing (lightly) on the Biblical Studies I did at UPE while an assistant priest at St Hugh! With good wishes in our Lord
David Holgate
Thank you David for your encouraging remarks. It’s always good to hear from our former clergy and members - ed

Upcoming event

MUSIC TRIVIA EVENING
AT ST SAVIOUR'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
WALMER

PRIZES
LUCKY TICKET DRAWS

WHERE: ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH
2 VILLIERS ROAD, WALMER

WHEN: FRIDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2026

TIME: 18H30 FOR 19H00

COST: R80 PER PERSON

BOOKINGS: DESRE 083 330 5922

TABLES OF 8

BRING YOUR OWN EATS AND DRINKS

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.

Please pray for the Middle East and the genocide in Iran to stop.

SOS 4 IRAN

ICHR International Centre for Human Rights

SINCE DEC. 28, 2025
OVER 10,000.00 BLINDED
OVER 43,000.00 KILLED
OVER 350,000.00 INJURED

According to a recent human rights report, the Islamic regime in Iran is responsible for the deaths of approximately 43,000 citizens during the wave of protest suppression. This is a regime that maintains power solely through shooting, torture, and mass intimidation.

International silence is not neutrality – it is complicity.

Green Piece

Tearfund encourage door-size vegetable gardens to sustain families

Many homes, particularly in urban areas, have little room for growing crops or vegetables. However, outside nearly every house is an area of bare ground. The soil may be hard or infertile and people often do not consider using it for growing vegetables. But here is one way of using this unused space for a tiny garden. The system works best if a number of families agree to work together, building one garden each week. The idea may also be useful in refugee camps.

Mark out a space the size of a door (about 1m x 2m). Dig out the soil until it is nearly knee deep. If the soil is very hard this will not be easy! Lots of people working together will help. Be careful to keep the top soil (darker colour) in a separate heap from the subsoil (lighter colour and usually with more stones).

Line the hole with grass and other organic material. Encourage all the families to bring their organic household waste for that day and tip it into the hole – vegetable peelings, waste paper and egg shells. If you can find any animal manure, add this.

When the pit is half full, pour on water to soak the waste. Then add the subsoil, followed by the topsoil.

Plant rows of vegetable seeds and herbs. Useful plants which will add flavour and vitamins to the household diet include tomatoes, spinach, traditional leafy vegetables, peppers, beans, carrots, onions and all kinds of herbs. Try to plant taller plants such as tomatoes and climbing beans in the middle. Cover with a mulch – a thin layer of grass, straw, rice husks or similar – and water well. Household wastewater is ideal if not too soapy.

If possible, find an old broken basket and sink this into the centre of the plot. Over several weeks, fill this with vegetable waste and weeds. Water mainly through this basket once the young plants are established. This will wash more plant nutrients into the soil.



Steps 1, 2 and 3 - images copied from Tearfund website.

Now decide whose home will have the next door-sized garden. If there is space you may be able to build several of these.

ACAT in South Africa have used this idea in KwaZulu-Natal with great success. Many people have been amazed at how easy it is to produce their own vegetables. One lady said she thought she could only grow traditional crops like maize. But now she can grow cabbages, spinach and onions. Her husband is very impressed!

ACAT (Africa Cooperative Action Trust) is a long standing Tearfund partner working in KwaZulu-Natal. PO Box 943, Howick 3290, KwaZulu-Natal.

Faith Communities and MPs Speak with One Voice

A significant moment unfolded in Parliament when, on 11 February 2026, faith leaders from across Christian, Muslim, and African traditional spirituality communities addressed the Portfolio Committee that oversees the Cultural, Religious and Linguistic (CRL) Rights Commission, the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (PC COGTA) regarding the CRL’s Section 22 process.

The message delivered was clear and unanimous:

There is no mandate for State regulation of religion. Importantly, the Members of Parliament present were part of this unanimous agreement. While abuse and criminal conduct must be addressed decisively, there was shared recognition that this must occur through existing law – not through new legislation regulating religion. FOR SA framed the matter as a constitutional issue, reaffirming that any limitation on religious freedom must meet the Constitution’s “least restrictive means” requirement – a threshold not met by the CRL’s proposals. Parliament has indicated that it will continue engaging the matter seriously, including seeking legal opinion and further consultation. This moment reflects unity, clarity, and constitutional resolve. Thank you for standing with us in defending faith and freedom.
Michael Swain Executive Director Freedom of Religion South Africa (FOR SA)

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Please send contributions and photos to the editor. Deadline: 6th of the month prior to publication.
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Layout / design : frankie

