



The Bishop writes ...

Dear Family of God,

As I reflect on the first few weeks in office, I feel excited and joyful to get to know the people and parishes in the Diocese of Port Elizabeth. It is during the parish visits that I also experience why the compassionate and friendly people of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth are so admired.

However, I am also fully aware of the great and weighty responsibility of the episcopal ministry. I am steadfast in the commitment I made at my consecration, when the Archbishop, in his charge to me, called me to live a life of prayer, and to seek God's blessings in all I do. This charge calls me to baptise and confirm; to preside at the Eucharist, leading God's people in worship, and to intercede for them – especially those who are weak, who will be my special concern.

I am called, with a shepherd's love, to exercise, with wisdom and mercy, the authority and oversight entrusted to me by Christ our King. It is both my responsibility and joy to ordain deacons and priests, and to send forth ministers with guidance and encouragement in our collective endeavour to build up the people of God.

No one is sufficient for these tasks; thus, as I encounter the faithful people of God in the diocese, the lyrics of one of my favourite hymns come to mind: "Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if You lead me; I will hold Your people in my heart." As we are called to press on toward Easter with eager faith and love, we read in Scripture how Jesus' disciples, His followers, and even those who once persecuted Him were radically transformed after encountering the risen Christ.

Here I am, Lord ...



When Bishop Grant and Abigail visited St Nicholas in Redhouse they received gifts from Mark Muspratt-Williams, the Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Zwartkops River Valley.

Peter denied Jesus three times, yet after meeting the risen Lord, he became willing to give his life for his faith. Paul, who once persecuted the followers of Jesus with great zeal as Saul, came to follow Christ with even greater zeal and commitment after encountering the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus. Scripture records many stories of people whose encounter with the risen Christ led them to a deep and lasting commitment to follow and serve God.

It is my prayer that, as you encounter the risen Christ each day, you will embrace

the moment created by that encounter, through the work of the Holy Spirit, and remember that Jesus Christ came so that we may have life, and have it in abundance

To God be all the glory, for the great things God has said and the great things God has done.

+ GRANT PORT ELIZABETH.

Archbishop Thabo appointed new chair of UK's Christian Aid

<https://anglicanchurchsa.org/archbishop-appointed-as-new.../>



In the announcement, Christian Aid's CEO, Patrick Watt, said: "Throughout his ministry he [Archbishop Thabo Makgoba] has walked alongside people who are poor and marginalised, and strived for a just world in which everyone has life before death.

"Archbishop Thabo's leadership will be invaluable as we work with partners across the world to tackle the root causes of poverty, in a fast-changing landscape."

The Archbishop will chair a Board of Trustees whose principal responsibilities, says Christian Aid, "include determining the overall strategy, policies, direction and goals of Christian Aid; protecting and promoting the identity and values of the charity; and fulfilling its statutory responsibilities."

The new CEO of Christian Aid, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba at Bishop Grant's consecration service.



The editor, media team,
Bishop Grant and Abigail
and the Diocesan staff,
wish all our readers
a very blessed
celebration
of our risen Lord!

Easter 2026



On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them.

In their fright, the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'"

Then they remembered his words.
Luke 24:1-8

Christ is Risen: The world below lies desolate;

Christ is Risen: The spirits of evil are fallen;

Christ is Risen: The angels of God are rejoicing;

Christ is Risen: The tombs of the dead are empty;

Christ is Risen indeed from the dead, the first of the sleepers;

Glory and power are his forever and ever.

St Hippolytus of Rome

Blessed are you, Lord our God, creator of heaven and earth and Father of all your people: we give you glory for your goodness as we rejoice in the risen Christ.

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

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday



Left - After Sunday service coffee and pancakes at Holy Trinity in Central. An early Shrove Tuesday to keep parishioners safe.
Above - Yvonne Ward-Able of St Saviour's was one of a big team who made hundreds of pancakes for those who were able to sit and have fellowship and for the many who had ordered take-aways.



Bishop Grant's first official service was Ash Wednesday at St Hugh's. Here he is seen imposing the ash cross on one of the congregation.
The first Wednesday after his Consecration, Bishop Grant presided at the morning and evening Ash Wednesday services at St Hugh's in Newton Park on 18 February.
Both services were very well attended and were followed by fellowship in the hall while enjoying Hot Cross buns and tea or coffee.
The episcopal couple were warmly welcomed and were presented with a gift at the morning service and a signed card of welcome after the evening service.

Bishop Grant visits the river

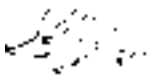


Members of the Zwartkops River Parish welcomed Bishop Grant and Abigail when they visited St Nicholas at Redhouse.

Bishop Grant's first Sunday service was at St Nicholas' in Redhouse, which is part of the Parish of Zwartkops River Valley.
Members turned out to welcome him and Abigail, his wife, and after the service they presented the couple with gifts and a welcome card - signed by all who were present.
There was also tea and a spread of eats in the beautifully restored garden afterwards where members were able to meet informally with our new Episcopal couple.

In his message Bishop Grant used both the New Testament and the Gospel readings. He reminded us that when we pray (not 'if' we pray), something changes inside as well as outside of us - as seen with the changed Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration - because heaven and earth meet.
Not only do we need to 'take it to the Lord in prayer' but we need to remember to thank Him afterwards.
He said that knowing about Jesus is not enough - we need to know Him intimately as the risen Christ. Once you have encountered Him that intimately, you'll be able to say, "God is good," because you'll be able to take all your worries to Him in prayer.
He ended by encouraging everyone to go and minister in the valleys - as the disciples had to do when they came down from the mountain and began having to minister.
He ended with a reference to the Collect for the day, "Keep us on this holy path."

Tag lines!



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

And the winner is ...



The Rector of St Saviour's, Sharon Nell, presents Frankie Simpson with a wonderful hamper which she won at the Trivia evening.

Looking good at 90



Is it still cricket season? Well, here's a '90, not out!' Bridget van Soelen of St Paul's.

The view from pulpit and pew

- ❖ iindaba congratulates Archbishop Thabo Makgoba on being appointed the new chair of UK's Christian Aid.
- ❖ iindaba sends condolences to the family and the many friends in the Diocese and abroad, of Joan Evans who passed away on 3 March. We mourn a wonderful matriarch who was part of our Diocese when her husband, Bruce, was our second Bishop.
- ❖ iindaba asks for prayer for:
 - Zola Nanana, Priest-in-charge of St Andrew's, KwaNobuhle, who has had a mild stroke. Pray that he has a speedy recovery to full healing;
 - Retired Priest Theo Thomas who is struggling health-wise at present.

RIP Joan Evans



Joan and Bishop Bruce Evans who was the second Bishop of our Diocese 1975 - 1993.

The Diocese mourns the death of Joan Evans who returned to Port Elizabeth in 2019 to stay with her daughter Karen and son-in-law Khusta Jack in Walmer.
During her time in the Diocese, Joan was a member of the Anglican Women's Fellowship Executive and arranged, and sometimes led, Bible Studies, Quiet Days and weekends, a Winter School on the work and power of the Holy Spirit and a one-act plays competition. Joan was well equipped for this because when she and Bruce married she had done a two year course at a Bible College for Christian Ladies in the UK.
She also became an ex-officio member of the Mothers' Union.
On her return to Gqeberha, Joan joined St John's and has faithfully worshipped there until she became too ill to do so.
Our condolences to Michael, Gavin and Karen and their families as they mourn their loss.

What a joy it was to celebrate a truly special milestone in the life of one of our St Paul's beloved parishioners!
Bridget van Soelen recently marked her 90th birthday with a beautiful gathering at Rose Garden, surrounded by family and dear friends. The afternoon was filled with laughter, warm conversation, and heartfelt gratitude for a life richly lived and generously shared.
Bridget has been a faithful and much-loved member of our parish community for many years. Her quiet strength, gracious spirit, and steadfast faith have been a blessing to so many. Reaching ninety is a remarkable gift, and it was wonderful to see her so radiant and deeply appreciative of the people who came to honour her.
We give thanks to God for Bridget's life, witness, and the love she continues to share. May the year ahead be filled with peace, joy, and the assurance of God's constant presence.

They fathomed the clues



The Trivia Champion mugs went to the Sartinies. Seen with Desré Foaden who organised the evening, they are Jani Haley, Lettie Peo, Kareen Breytenbach, Emily Halvey, Donovan Peo, Wouter Pretorious, Peter Peo and Bobby Parker.

As always, Desré Foaden’s Trivia evenings are great fun and St Saviour’s had a full hall on Friday 27 February. Teams were challenged with picture clues of songs and artists’ names, as well as musical clues such as animals, numbers and body parts in the tunes. There were ticket prizes and ‘Heads or Tails’ as well as a raffle which meant that many people went home with a gift.

A very special welcome

Jill Bromiley



Cody Welsford thoroughly welcomed the Rector of St Hugh’s, Andrea Potgieter, when she did a pastoral visit on 26 February.

Asked if he has given permission for his picture to appear in the iindaba he gave a resounding “Yes” bark and a big wag of his tail.

WWDP ‘Come, I will give you rest’



Rose Clarke of St Hugh’s, Madeleine Potgieter of Mater Dei, Barbara Byerley of St Hugh’s and Lesley Beyburgton of Newton Park Methodist Church enjoyed fellowship over tea and eats after the service.

This year the annual Women’s World Day of Prayer service was written by the women of Nigeria and was titled ‘Come, I will give you rest’. Mater Dei Catholic Church hosted a service on Friday 6 March which had nearly 200 women attending.

Nigeria is a country where women are oppressed, where there is religious persecution and abductions (by Islamist groups such as Boko Haram), and where women suffer from poverty and despair, During the service the congregation heard testimonies from three women who know the reality of living where this is the norm.

iindaba asks readers to pray for the many persecuted Christians in sub-Saharan Africa.

Karoo MU elect executive committee

Kwandiwe Ludziya



The newly elected members of the Karoo Archdeaconry MU are seen with Kwandiwe Ludziya, Locum Priest-in-charge of St Ninian’s.

The Karoo Archdeaconry Mothers’ Union elections were successfully held at St Ninian’s in Somerset East. The proceedings ran smoothly and were well attended, reflecting the strong sense of unity and commitment within the Archdeaconry.

We warmly congratulate Nomsa Mtila on her re-election as Presiding Officer. We also extend our sincere appreciation to our Diocesan President, Veronica Kaibe, and her team for their invaluable guidance and steadfast support throughout the process.

The following members were elected to serve on the new committee - Presiding Officer: Nomsa Mtila; Deputy Presiding Officer: Nomzi Beja; Secretary: Madikane; Deputy Secretary: Nomaza Abraham; Treasurer: Vuyiswa Nabo; Action and Outreach and Social Issues: Niva Johnson; Human Resource Development: Fikswa Mnyakama; Finance and Administration: Andiswa Mzamo; Marketing Coordinator: Pumeza Dywili; Prayer and Spirituality: Xoliswa Jack.

We wish the newly elected committee every success as they undertake their responsibilities in service to the Mothers’ Union and the wider community.

Working hard



Gail Smith and Lindy Green preparing delicious starters for the monthly Wednesday Lunch at St Saviour’s on 13 March.

Protecting windows



A worker cleans and reinforces the precious stained glass windows at St Cuthbert’s.

Thanks to a generous donation, the precious stained glass windows at St Cuthbert’s are being cleaned and restored.

The single girls enjoyed the celebration



Clergy enjoying the celebration after the Consecration of Bishop Grant were - Florika Brooks, Julie McDonald, Michelle Werth, Ntsiki Memese, Lindelwa Mama, Nomphele Mbuzwana, Bulelwa Gogo and Thembeke Sixaba.

Letters to the ed

Bishop's diary needed in Intercessions

During the time of Bishop Bethlehem, the Intercessions included a clearly stipulated section indicating the church where the Bishop would be exercising his Episcopal ministry on a given Sunday.

My request is, therefore, to reinstate the Bishop's diary in the Intercessions.

Thank you,

Zonwabele Bangani

A Karoo thank you

I just, once again, want to thank you for an amazing *iindaba*. I think I have mentioned before that we seem so far removed from what is really happening all over the Diocese as we struggle along at St Peter's. So I really look forward to receiving the *iindaba* every month.

I very much enjoyed your article re the beginnings of this publication - 32 years ago. A lifetime!! Excellent work.

May our new Bishop be blessed and so too you, as you carry on bringing parishes together through the *iindaba*.

Kind regards and God bless

Alet van den Berg

Cradock

Persecuted for their faith

This International Women's Day, 8 March, we remember persecuted Christian women who are being silenced around the world. They face a dual burden – targeted for both their faith and their gender – and yet their stories often remain invisible.

In closed countries, female converts and women connected to church leadership endure specific threats such as violence, trafficking, and systemic abuse.

Mexico: Christian wives under threat

In Mexico, pastors' wives are increasingly targeted due to their association with church leadership – often facing threats, violence, trafficking, or social pressure.

Beatriz*, a missionary in Mexico, recalls a terrifying moment:



"I don't know where the strength came from; it had to be the Holy Spirit, but I looked at [my husband] and said, 'Even if our baby dies, we will stay, because God called us here.'"

Her daughter had nearly died after playing with their dog that a neighbour had poisoned, yet Beatriz and her family remained faithful in the midst of danger.

Afghanistan: Christian women isolated

Meanwhile, in Afghanistan, Christian women endure systemic abuse, including domestic violence, and many are left widowed as their husbands are killed for their faith.

Zakie*, a Christian refugee from Afghanistan, shared a message she received from a friend:

"Dear Zakie, don't message me anymore. Don't call me. I can't continue anymore because my husband has warned me, 'I will cut off your ears and nose, and I will take the children and throw you out of the house.'"

Despite the dangers, women like Zakie and her friend continue to cling to faith and hope, often in isolation.

Persecuted women's names and voices are being erased. Yet they're resilient, faithful, and vital to the Church.

Join us over the next two months as we share stories, insights, and ways you can stand with these women in prayer and support.

Watch this space for more info in the coming weeks.

United in Christ

Open Doors Africa team

**Names changed for security reasons.*

Communiqué from the ACSA Synod Of Bishops (edited)

23 -27 February 2026

"Take this staff and watch over the flock of Christ"

In a significant step, we spent most of our mornings devoted to theological reflection, spiritual formation and leadership training. We did this on the initiative of our Archbishop in order to nurture the ministries of new bishops, and to prepare for the election of at least seven more bishops, including the Archbishop, in the next 18 months.

His Grace the Archbishop introduced the week of reflection by sharing his wisdom on what it means to be a shepherd in the Church of Christ, starting with Acts 20:28 and using the language of the doctrine of the atonement on how we are called to think and to engage theologically with the issues we face. We were called not to exercise authority in order to control, but rather to serve, and to act with justice and mercy.

Bishop Brian Marajh, Bishop Jemuel Ngombane, Bishop Dan Kgomoosotho and Bishop Raphael Hess shared insights which empower us to exercise episcopal oversight with compassion, mercy and goodness.

Provincial Liturgical Committee

A sub-committee was formed to consider proposals for new Eucharistic prayers and give feedback to Synod. Lent liturgies for experimental use in dioceses will be circulated to bishops. The Provincial Liturgical Committee will meet in May 2026 and present material to the next meeting of Synod.

Youth Ministry

While there is much that is happening, much still needs to be done, and we need to focus on how we engage with young people in a digital age.

Hope Africa

Canon Delene Mark reported on their social programmes in the fields of health, agriculture, food security, disaster relief, economic development, job creation and HIV/Aids, as well as their work on gender issues and with adolescent youth. In the light of United States government funding cuts, dioceses are being asked for financial support for this outreach ministry.

Growing the Church and Anglicans Ablaze

Major engagements have taken place in the Dioceses of Namibia and St Helena. Pretoria continues to model effective leadership in GtC ministry and other dioceses have received training in discipleship and on courses developed by Alpha, Bible School on Wheels and Langham Preaching. About 1,200 people attended Anglicans Ablaze in person, joined by 800 online.

Mothers' Union and Anglican Women's Fellowship

The worldwide Mothers' Union will hold its 150th Anniversary celebrations in our Province, from 30 September to 3 October, in Durban. The AWF is supporting students at CoTT.

Advisory Board on Theological Education

Amendments to Canon 18 and Act 6 of our Canons requiring that bishops should have at least a Bachelor's Degree

in Theology or an equivalent NQF 7 Theology qualification was suggested; also that transitional deacons should have a BTh from an institution recognised by Synod; and that qualifications for permanent deacons should be set in consultation with the Commission for Permanent Deacons. Such amendments would need to be submitted for Provincial Synod to consider. Individual exceptions to new requirements would need to be approved by the Metropolitan in consultation with his Executive.

College of the Transfiguration

Student numbers have increased to 50 for 2026, with 21 female and 29 male students. The Revd Nosipho Ngewu has been appointed interim Bursar of the College.

South African Anglican Theological Commission (SAATC)

Archbishop Thabo urged dioceses to nominate scholars to assist the SAATC in addressing pressing doctrinal and ethical questions, including technological change, artificial intelligence and global security concerns.

Persons with Disabilities

The improved inclusion of persons with disabilities in church life was warmly received. Bishops will undertake audits of accessibility in dioceses and encourage their inclusion in liturgy, infrastructure and ministry.

Safe and Inclusive Church

In the year to February 2026, 28 cases were registered, in categories including cyberbullying, clerical misuse of authority, and matters more properly addressed through diocesan structures. There is an increased use of digital platforms in harmful ways. Lay Anglicans are engaging with SAIC processes in significant ways. Synod emphasised the importance of training, clarity of jurisdiction, safeguarding structures, and diocesan response teams. Synod underscored that safeguarding is integral to the Church's integrity and cannot be secondary to other concerns.

Botswana and Canonical Processes

A task team has engaged the leadership of the Diocese of Botswana on their request for re-incorporation into our Province under Canon 21 and Article XIV of the Constitution.

Canon Law

The Provincial Registrar, Mr Lloyd Fortuin, gave extensive input to help bishops implement the Canons and secure the best professional legal advice.

Vision 2030 – A new vision for mission and ministry

In a survey of dioceses during the Vision 2030 consultation process, most respondents supported retaining the current Vision Statement, while calling for clearer communication and wider engagement. After further analysis of the matter, a motion will be brought to Provincial Synod.

Other matters

Synod also received reports on various organisations.

Upcoming event!



**The Bible Society
of South Africa
Cotswold Port Elizabeth
Fruit Market
at the Bible House**

Come and pay us a visit.

The market will take place over three days, during which delicious apples and pears, fresh from the Langkloof, will be on sale.

Thursday 26 March (08h00-16h00)

Friday 27 March (08h00-16h00)

Saturday 28 March (08h00-13h00)

NOTE: Vegetables will ONLY be available on Saturday 28 March.

Bibles for sale at special prices.

Credit card facilities will be available.

Any queries, please contact us at Tel. 041-364 1138.

Venue: The Bible House, 31 Cotswold Ave, Cotswold, PE



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iindaba is the vehicle for sharing your parish news with the rest of the diocesan family.

Please send contributions and photos to the editor.

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