



The Bishop writes ...

Dear Family of God,

As I write to you, we find ourselves in the blessed season of Eastertide, the forty days between Easter Sunday and the Feast of the Ascension. This is a sacred time in which the Church rejoices in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and reflects on the many ways He revealed Himself to His followers after rising from the dead.

Throughout these forty days, the risen Christ appeared to many, and each encounter transformed their lives and deepened their faith. What had once been uncertainty, fear, or hesitation became conviction, courage, and joyful witness.

Each follower came to recognise the Lord in a different way. Mary Magdalene knew Him when He called her by name. Thomas came to a deeper faith when he saw the wounds in Christ's hands and side. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus recognised Him in the breaking of the bread. In every case, an encounter with the risen Jesus moved them from casual faith to committed, living faith.

This remains true for us today. Faith becomes real and enduring when we encounter the risen Christ personally in our own lives.

So I invite each one of you to reflect: *What would it take for you to recognise the risen Christ in your own walk of faith?* Where is He already present, waiting to be seen?

As we continue our journey through

A Pastoral Reflection for the Diocese during Eastertide



Bishop Grant with his Chapter members, showing some of their interesting creations, at the end of a team building module during their three day meeting.

Eastertide toward the Feast of the Ascension, my prayer for our diocese is that every heart may be opened to Christ's presence. You may recognise Him in the reading of Scripture, in an encounter with a stranger, in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, in a conversation with a friend or loved one, through a word spoken in a homily, or in the beauty and stillness of creation.

However, the risen Christ comes to you.

May your eyes be opened to see Him, your ears attentive to hear Him, and your heart ready to receive Him.

May this holy season renew our faith, strengthen our hope, and draw us ever closer to the risen Lord who walks with us each day.

With every blessing in Christ,

+ GRANT PORT ELIZABETH.

Building the Church - One Shoebox at a Time

Claire Phelps

Members of Bishop's Chapter recently spent three days at The Willows for an extended Chapter Meeting. Alongside the important work, thoughtful discussion, and shared discernment that shaped our time together, there was also space carved out for something a little different - a time of creativity, laughter, and team building.

Chapter members were divided into four groups and began by engaging a simple exercise to reflect on personality, strengths, and gifting. What followed, however, was far from predictable. Each group was presented with a shoebox filled with an eclectic mix of materials: glue and scissors, marshmallows and toothpicks, candles, pebbles, ribbons, pompoms, and even a few "gold" chocolate coins. The task? To build a church.

At first, there was some uncertainty. Where to begin? What should this "church" look like? Yet it wasn't long before ideas began to flow. Conversations sparked, laughter followed, and soon each group was deep in the process - experimenting, negotiating, adapting, and creating. What emerged wasn't only a collection of wonderfully imaginative "churches," but a vivid reminder of how community itself is formed.

Each group presented their creation, explaining the thinking behind their design choices. There were stories of welcome and hospitality, of foundations carefully laid, of spaces for worship, beauty and joy. Some models were structured and symmetrical; others more organic and expressive. All, in their own way, reflected the people who had built them.

In the time of reflection that followed, a number of insights emerged. Discernment proved essential: not every material was equally useful, and choices had to be made about what would best serve the vision taking shape. So too in the life of the Church, where wisdom is needed in how we use the resources entrusted to us.

There was also recognition that while the outward expression of church may differ from parish to parish - shaped by context, personality, and local need - the core values that underpin our life remain shared. Our Anglican ethos, our commitment to worship, service, and community, continues to bind us together.

Perhaps most significantly, we were reminded that the Church isn't simply something we attend, but something we

build together. Each person brought a voice, a perspective, and a gift to their group's creation. No single individual constructed the church alone; it was the result of collaboration, listening, and shared purpose. In the same way, our parishes are shaped by the people who gather within them - their faith, their experiences, their generosity, and their willingness to participate in God's work.

There may also have been a rediscovery of something else along the way: a willingness to play, to imagine, and to create. Surrounded by craft sticks, plasticine, ribbons, and a generous amount of glue, Chapter members perhaps reconnected with a childlike openness that isn't so far removed from faith itself.

It was, in every sense, a joyful exercise - but one that carried a gentle and lasting reminder: that God continues to build His Church through us, with all that we are and all that we bring.

PS Not one group submitted a Faculty Application for their building!

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life."

ASCENSION DAY 14 MAY



Jesus said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Act 1:7-11 NIV

Celtic Ascension prayer

Risen, ascended Lord, you came down to lift us up

You descended to earth that earth might ascend to heaven

You descended to the dead that the dead might rise to life

In our struggles lift us up

In our tiredness lift us up

Lift us Lord out of darkness into light, out of despair into hope

Lift us Lord out of sadness into joy, out of failure into trust

Lift us Lord out of anger into forgiveness, out of pride into humility

Lift us Lord out of doubt into faith, out of loneliness, into community

Lift us Lord out of death into life.

Lift us into your heart to be with you for all eternity.

Amen.

Adapted from Liturgies from Lindisfarne

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



Easter around the parishes

Good Friday to Easter Day



St Margaret’s: Above - the crown of thorns. Right - the spilt blood.



St Mary Magdalene:
Shirmell Newman
Left above - the body in the tomb;
Above - The angel proclaims, “He is not here, He is risen!”
Left - Lighting the Easter fire.
Easter Sunday Sunrise Service followed by Baptism and the Eucharist. The Cross on the church wall was illuminated as a witness to the community that Christ is our light.



St Margaret’s: The empty tomb depicting the glory of the Risen Lord.

Tag lines!



It’s crazy how some people need no proof
to believe a lie,
but need endless proof to accept the truth.

Parish photos submitted by:
St Paul’s - Carol Brand; St Margaret’s - Pam Berning; St Hugh’s - Jill Bromiley.

Cathedral - Pickled fish tradition

Fumi Kula



The rector of the Cathedral, Fumi Kula, encourages the recipients of pickled fish and bread.
Easter period is a time many Christian dishes are made of fish.
On Maundy Thursday and Holy Saturday members of the Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin and the Parish of St Philip’s, Richmond Hill, collected tinned fish and bread. These were distributed to many unemployed and homeless people in the Metro.

Clergy on the move

- Retired Priest Rory Middelcote returns to his former parish of St Barnabas in Middelburg for six months from 1 May.
- New chaplains have been licensed:
 - Patric Nodwele as the Mothers’ Union chaplain;
 - Ernest Cingani as the Bernard Mizeki Guild chaplain.



St Paul’s:
Above - Good Friday;
Below - the Resurrection cross.



St Hugh’s: the Resurrection cross.

Easter Sunday Service Illuminates Gqeberha’s Historic Cathedral

Bonani Anda Nanana



Bishop Grant presiding at the Eucharist at the Cathedral on Easter morning.

The Cathedral of Saint Mary the Virgin, standing for over two centuries in the heart of Gqeberha, became a beacon of light and faith this Easter Sunday, 5 April.

The 201-year-old cathedral hosted a deeply symbolic service led by Bishop Grant, who was the Concelebrant of the Eucharist alongside the Rector Fumanekile Kula.

The liturgy began in solemn darkness, a ritual that prepared the congregation for the lighting of the Easter Candle for 2026. As the flame was kindled, it spread through the Cathedral, symbolising Christ as the light of the world. Congregants lit their own candles from the Easter flame, creating a sea of flickering lights that embodied the Christian belief in Jesus’ illumination of all lives. The moment was both reverent and visually striking, reinforcing the Cathedral’s role as a guardian of Anglican tradition.

Bishop Grant delivered a sermon that resonated deeply with worshippers. He emphasised that faith must be greater than sight, urging believers to trust in Christ’s power to transform their circumstances even before witnessing miracles. His

words carried a message of hope and perseverance, offering encouragement to those facing challenges.

The service continued with the Eucharistic feast, marked by the breaking of bread and sharing of wine, a solemn reminder of Christ’s sacrifice.

The cathedral choir, accompanied by organist Justin Stone, elevated the liturgy with hymns that filled the historic space with harmony and joy. Each hymn seemed to breathe life into the celebration, drawing the congregation into the spirit of resurrection.

By the close of the service, clergy and worshippers alike departed with a renewed sense of spiritual fulfilment.

For many, the service was more than a ritual; it was a profound experience of unity, light, and renewal. As candles dimmed and the congregation dispersed, the cathedral stood as a symbol of continuity, a place where history, tradition and faith converge to illuminate the present. It was not only a testament to the endurance of Anglican traditions, but also a vibrant reminder of faith’s power to inspire and sustain.

Thankful for the soup



Waiting patiently in line for soup outside the Salvation Army building in Central are some hungry people.

It may be very hot weather, but if one is hungry a bowl of soup and some bread are a gift from God.

Every week, at about 11h30, members of the Salvation Army collect buckets of nutritious freshly made soup from the soup kitchen at St Saviour’s in Walmer. They then distribute it in central, in New Brighton and in Motherwell where it is very appreciated. Thanks to the hard work of the ladies who make the soup.

Attaining 90

Jill Bromiley



Clyde Attwell receives a Simnel cake from Rector Andrea Potgieter. His wife Jill is with them.

Mothering Sunday in our Anglican calendar falls in the middle of Lent. This year it was 7 March.

As parishioner Clyde Attwell’s 90th birthday fell on Mothering Sunday the Rector of St Hugh’s, Andrea Potgieter, took a Simnel cake to him for his birthday.

It is an English tradition to eat Simnel cake on Mothering Sunday. It is a fruit cake with two layers of almond paste, one on top and one in the middle. It has 11 balls of marzipan icing on top representing the 11 disciples. (Judas is not included).

A holy hug of love and thanks

The whole service on Sunday 12 April at Holy Trinity in Central felt like a ‘Holy Hug’ from Bishop Grant.

The Gospel reading was Jesus’ appearance to the disciples in the upper room after his resurrection. He greets them with, “Peace be with you” ... and later breathes on them to receive the Holy Spirit.

Bishop Grant spoke on our receiving God’s peace, his Holy Spirit and allowing others to see that we believe ‘in our hearts’. His sermon was followed by a call for those needing a touch from the Lord to come forward. Most of the congregation came forward to be anointed with oil and prayed over by Bishop Grant. This was when so many felt the hug of the Lord’s love flowing over them.

At the end of the service a pot plant was presented to Bishop Grant and Abigail and then the children came forward with a message of thanks - and received a group holy hug.



A group hug - Bishop Grant gives a group hug to some of the young members of Holy Trinity.

Easter reunions with former friends

St Paul’s former organist Carol Brand



Former St Paul’s organist, Nicholas Luffin, with Margaret Hollins.

It was a joy-filled reunion recently when former St Paul’s organist, Nicholas Luffin, returned to visit after eight years of living and working in China.

Nicholas served at St Paul’s for a number of years, faithfully accompanying the choir and congregation, enriching our worship through his musical gifts and quiet dedication. Many will remember his sensitivity at the organ console and his deep love for Anglican liturgy and hymnody.

During an informal gathering with members of the choir and parish, he shared something of his experiences abroad - the challenges, the cultural discoveries, and the ways in which faith continues to sustain him far from home.

There was much laughter, storytelling, and reminiscing about Sunday services, choir practices, and the many seasons of ministry shared together. It was clear that, although miles and years separate us, the bonds formed through music and worship remain strong.

Nicholas’ visit was a beautiful reminder of the enduring connections within the Body of Christ. We give thanks for his ongoing journey and pray God’s continued blessing upon him as he settles back into his routines in China.



Irish virtual parishioner Anne Thomson



Anne Thomson and Lorraine Strydom enjoying lunch and fellowship at St Saviour’s.

St Saviour’s in Walmer is known for their delicious monthly three course lunches. April’s lunch was no exception, and was really enjoyed by Lorraine Strydom, a long-standing member of the parish before relocating to Ireland some years ago.

Lorraine joined Anne Thomson at the Fairhaven Table on Wednesday 15 April and enjoyed meeting up with some of the parishioners she left behind when she moved to live in Ireland.

She also told us how much she appreciates watching our Sunday morning livestream services, as she feels very much ‘at home’ during these times of worship.

IMO Ted and Pam Derry

Mark Derry



The bench in memory of Mark Derry’s parents, Ted and Pam, in the Garden of Remembrance at St Francis in Jeffrey’s Bay. They were very involved in the parish for many years

✍ Letters to the ed ✍

Urgent prayer request for NMBM

Linda Le Roux, Case Manager for rape victims (State Prosecuting Authority), is asking for Intercession as she's overwhelmed by the number of cases of rape of children by their fathers, uncles and grandfathers, that are submitted in Gqeberha.

On Wednesday 15 April she was sitting with 20 of these dockets.

Remember that some family rape cases are not reported!

May God strongly arise in defence of our children.

Report back on CRL meeting

We, along with Freedom of Religion SA and other stakeholders, had the opportunity to address the Parliament Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) regarding the ongoing concerns around the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL) and its proposals to regulate the

Church.

It was a constructive and fruitful engagement, with meaningful dialogue around protecting religious freedom while addressing areas of concern. We are encouraged by the openness of the process and will be sharing detailed feedback in a document soon.

South African Community of Faith-Based Fraternals (SACOFF) - 2 April

From Open Doors

We're proud to have an amazing group of fund raisers who use their unique talents and passions to support the persecuted Church.

Recently, a number of our "4Them" athletes took up the challenge to raise support for Christians who dare to share the hope of Jesus in the most dangerous places.

In early March, a group of five friends from Cape Town did 10 laps around the well-known Lion's Head (5.3km/lap), each time for a closed country on the World-Wide List Top 10. The team did a total of 53 km while praying for our persecuted sisters and brothers.

St Hugh's jail birds?

Jill Bromiley



Are Caryl Wakeford, Elizabeth Bronkhorst and (sitting) Sandi Majikija out on parole?

Caryl Wakeford, Elizabeth Bronkhorst and Sandi Majikija attended the Wednesday morning service on 15 April at St Hugh's dressed in striped tops. At tea they were teased with the question of whether they were 'out on parole?'

Parish events

Please send *iindaba* notices of parish events which are open to the public, so that members of other parishes can support them.

Remember that they need to be in by 6th of month for the following month.

In fact, the earlier the better!

Upcoming events!



A call to prayer on 1 November

This is an early notice of a call to all Christians in the Nelson Mandela Metro.

You are urged to embrace the call of worshipping together as Christians on that day

at Nelson Mandela Stadium.

We humbly request that you join us to be united in worship irrespective of our doctrines, worship styles and traditions.

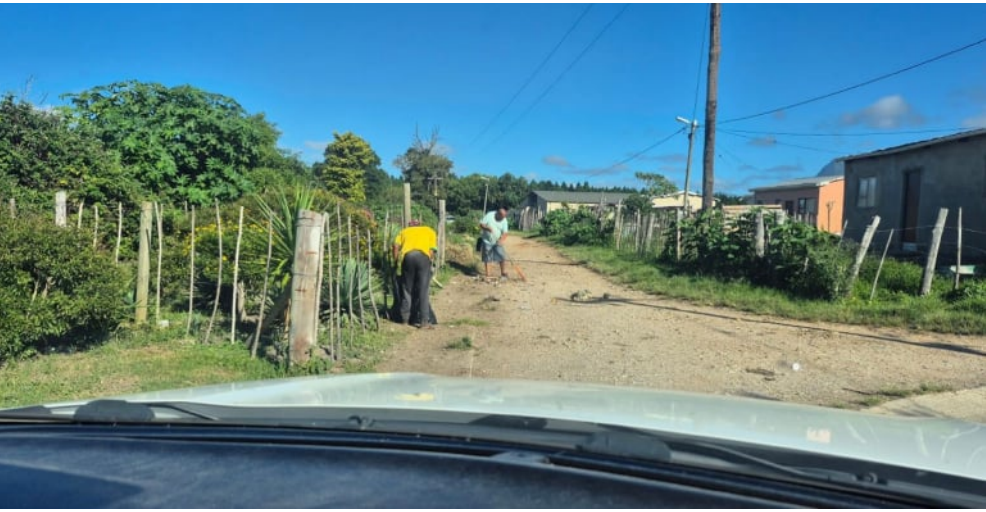
An organizing committee is being put together - feel free to sponsor your suggestions as leaders of the Church in the Nelson Mandela Metro.

Trevor Jennings 079 504 1892

Green Piece

Commitment to a cleaner area

Rob Behrens



What does commitment look like?

The Churchwarden, together with parish helpers, get up early on Sunday mornings to clean the road on their way to church at All Soul's in the Parish of the Good Shepherd.

Thank you for making your area a cleaner place to live in.



St Hugh's water project Jill Bromiley

In celebration of World Water Day on 22 March, for two Sundays (15 and 22 March) St Hugh's collected bottles of water for those in need.

On the Sunday of World Water Day the ladies of the congregation carried the bottles from the back of the church to the front where they were blessed.

Left - Two of the Lay Ministers, Errol Johnson and Roy Bowman, with some of the bottled water.

Frail Care ministry

Errol and Roy also minister at the Maranatha Frail Care twice a month. They take it in turns to lead the service, which is much appreciated by the Frail Care and Village residents.

Easter at St Paul's Carol Brand



St Paul's in Parsons Hill, celebrated Easter 2026 with a warm and meaningful programme that brought the community together.

Throughout Lent, the parish followed the ACSA 'Learning and Teaching for Life in all its fullness' Lenten Course, offering a helpful guide for reflection and growth.

The journey continued into Holy Week with a moving Maundy Thursday Eucharist, including the Foot Washing, reminding all of Christ's love and humility.

Good Friday was marked by a solemn three-hour devotion, while children enjoyed activities in the hall. Afterwards, everyone gathered for coffee and hot cross buns, sharing in fellowship. On Holy Saturday, parishioners pitched in to clean and prepare the church—many hands truly made light work.

Easter Day was a joyful celebration. The church was beautifully decorated and the service included the lighting of the new fire, the blessing of the Paschal Candle, and the renewal of baptismal promises. Together, all rejoiced in the resurrection and the hope of new life.

If we're in each other's dreams, we can be together all the time.

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