



The BEO writes ...

Dear Family of God,

Jesus said to His Disciples, "I was hungry you fed me; I was thirsty you gave me drink..." Matthew 25:31-46

On Sunday 3 May members of the Women's fellowship of the Cathedral visited Holy Spirit Church in KwaZakhele (which means a place to build yourself). The township was built in the early 1950's and most of the people in the area were from Korsten. Holy Spirit Church was built in 1960.

The women of the Cathedral donated and handed out vegetables, soup, cooking oil, spices, tinned fish, water and other food items to be used by the Holy Spirit Church feeding scheme.

Tembi Kula spoke on behalf of the Cathedral women and gave the Holy Spirit congregation the background of what inspired the support for their feeding scheme. She said that she was at the funeral of a relative on a Tuesday when a group of school children were in the church yard, queuing for a plate of food. She shared the incident with the ladies of the Cathedral who were filled with pity and out of their pockets they decided to collect food items to help Holy Spirit Church. She further explained that their donations are in line with the Mothers' Union's objective number 5, which reads, "to help those whose family life has met with adversity."

In Holy Spirit church building, important political activities were held during the struggle years before 1994, and I was told that the vestry was used to hide well-known political cadres.

The church is now sandwiched by shacks, and service delivery is nonexistent and crime is high. South Africa is regarded as a rich country with high unemployment. In Africa it rates number 1 followed by Egypt and Nigeria. The social ills we are facing in South Africa are caused by the failure of all our political parties, who base their politics on their desire for personal gain. We are now under the Government of National Unity, but there is no change and no better life for the ordinary citizens. In parliament opposition parties chair committees, and yet they are still not creating a better life and there is no change in service delivery and the fight against hunger.

In 2 Kings 5:15-27, is the story of Naaman, a Syrian military commander who had leprosy. We read that Elisha, the prophet told Naaman how to be cured of leprosy. Elisha refused payment from him but Gehazi, Elisha's servant, decided to get the payment for himself (verse 26) and Elisha condemned what Gehazi had done. Elisha rebuked him and said, "Naaman's leprosy will cling to you and your descendants forever" (vs 27).

We need to pray so that those who serve in the government will realise they are serving the people of God - not self-serving and not self-enrichment like Gehazi.

Eastern Cape Province is known as one

I was hungry ...



Sharing a light moment with the BEO, Fumi Kula, in the midst of work is the Dean, Sharon Nell.

thank the ladies of the Cathedral, "that the parish of Holy Spirit KwaZakhele is blessed to receive such donations." She reiterated the

with the highest rate of poverty. Most people are living below the poverty line. It is common to see women and children in the streets of Gqeberha begging for money or bread. In the scriptures, God commanded us to give to those who are poor. In Deuteronomy 15:7-11 we read, "You shall not harden your heart, or your hand, from your poor brother or sister. Open your hand wide to him/her and willingly lend him/her sufficient for his/her needs." We fully know that when Jesus Christ was here on earth how he cared for the less fortunate people and the heart he had for them. As followers of Christ, we cannot ignore the plight of the poor. We have the same responsibility to the poor and downtrodden as the laws of Israel and Jesus Christ had. Maybe you ask why should we be of help to them. Someone said, "Giving is simply changing your focus from yourself to others. When we are occupied with helping others, there is little room for selfishness."

In her response and receiving the gifts, the Holy Spirit Mothers' Union leader, Nomhle Malgas, conveyed her gratitude and she highlighted some of the challenges their feeding scheme faces - insufficient food supplies as there are sad days when they don't have anything to give the needy. In the area they feed hundreds of school children as well as adults from the community.

Zodwa Nodwele also added her voice to

words of parish leader, Nomhle Malgas, that their feeding scheme is costly to run because of the volume of those who are in need in the area. "The vegetables and other food items donated will make a huge difference in the fight against hunger," she said.

This reminded me of former Archbishop Njongo Ndungane who in the early 2000's campaigned and lobbied the United Nations and Christian leaders around the world in the fight against poverty and hunger, saying that it must be declared an evil and inhumane.

The women of the Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin were so proud to have made such a contribution in a fight against hunger.

Tata Mandela said, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." In this month of July, to celebrate his birthday (18 July), we are called to show the love of God, to show Ubuntu, goodwill to the underprivileged for the sake of improving their living conditions. The UBUNTU philosophy says you are because of other people, and you must live for others if you wish to live for yourself. AAH! DALIBHUNGA (Tata Mandela's praise name)

If you can assist, please call Revd Xola Nodwele of Holy Spirit on 083 542 4258.

Fumi

Colleagues bid our DTS farewell

Archdeacon Andrea Potgieter, with Busi Gwentshu from the Diocesan Office and Bishop Grant, presented Yolande Wolmarans, our former Diocesan Treasurer-Secretary (second left), with farewell gifts.

Members of the Diocesan Staff and Bishop's Chapter gathered at St Saviour's on Tuesday 4 June to say farewell to Yolande Wolmarans who resigned as our Diocesan Treasurer-Secretary from the end of May.



July Social concern



What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

James 2:14-18 NIV

On-going prayer and help are needed for the people who have been displaced through the two lots of floods.

As they rebuild their lives during this cold weather they need building materials, furniture, clothing and food.

We, who have much, can share with our brothers and sisters who have lost so much.

World Health Organisation says that:

If you have food in your fridge, clothes on your body, a roof over your head, and a place to sleep, you're richer than 75% of the entire world.

If you have money in your wallet, and can go anywhere you want, you are among 18% of the worlds most wealthy people.

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

Newly licensed ministries



With Bishop Grant and the Dean, Sharon Nell, are those who were licensed for various ministries or positions.

Before Bishop Grant’s Chapter meeting at St John’s in Walmer on Thursday 21 May, he licensed various clergy and lay members of the Diocese for various ministries or portfolios.

An Honorary Canonship was conferred on retired Priest David Grobbelaar.

The following were licensed:

Revd Pakama Plaatjies - President of St Bernard Mizeki Mens’ Guild;

Revd Rob Penrith – Director FOV (Fellowship of Vocation) and VDC (Vocational Direction Conference);

Revd Zolani Mqoqi – Chaplain AYF (Anglican Youth Fellowship);

Revd Patrick Nodwele – MU (Mothers’ Union Christian Family Life) Chaplain;

Andiswa Mzamo - MU Deputy President;

Revd Ernest Cengani - Chaplain St Bernard Mizeki Mens’ Guild.

Shanghai Steak and more for dinner



Larry and Leona Pow Chong, and Bev Son Hing were hard at work as people arrived to collect their orders of Chinese food, while Lorraine Date Chong, and Judy Forlee came to check if more orders needed to be made.

When the news goes out that St Francis Xavier members are having a Chinese Food Take-Away, the orders flow in - because they are known in Gqberha for their delicious food- some of their members being in the catering business.

On Friday 29 May the front desk was very busy with the many people who were arriving to fetch the orders they’d placed for 16h00 collection. Meanwhile, other members of the parish were busy preparing the meals for those who had requested a later pick-up.

On offer was a delicious meal of Shanghai Steak, vegetable Chow Mein and a large vegetable Spring Roll. As one person said later that evening, “Wow! That meal was so delicious and filling. Please let me know when St Francis Xavier are having another take-away meal because I’d definitely like to order for the family again.

RIP Hon Canon Anna Plaatjies



When Bishop Grant visited the Karoo area, he included a visit to retired Priest Anna Plaatjies on 16 May and licensed her as an Honorary Canon. Anna, since deceased, was house-bound and was honoured for her work in Middelburg and particularly the planting of St Thomas, Midros.

In 1984 Anna and her family moved to Midros, Middelburg, and began worshipping at St Barnabas.

St Thomas started around the kitchen table in her home, where Anna held services and Bible study. The congregation grew and a church was needed and, with assistance of the Silver Jubilee Fund from the diocese, St Thomas was birthed - the corner stone being laid by Bishop Eric Pike on 26 October 1996.

During her tenure as a self supporting Priest, in conjunction with the stipendiary clergy, they kept the congregation together. Anna gave herself in service to God’s people with faithfulness and dedication. She also promoted unity between churches in Middelburg through the formation of the combined prayer group for ladies of the different churches in Midros.

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Anna Plaatjies – the results which, live on at St Thomas, Midros.

The view from pulpit and pew

❖ iindaba is sad to report the passing of:
- one of our newly licensed Honorary Canons, Anna Plaatjies on 29 May;
- Peter Hopper, a former Diocesan Secretary-Treasurer, who stayed on in an honorary capacity to help with getting all the building sites registered correctly ... and much more.
May their families and friends know the peace of our Lord Jesus surrounding them as they mourn.

❖ At the service at St John’s on 21 May Andiswa Mzamo was licensed as MU Deputy President.

Clergy on the move

- Newly licensed for ministries were:
- Retired Priest David Grobbelaar - Honorary Canon;
- Pakama Plaatjies - President of St Bernard Mizeki Mens’ Guild;
- Rob Penrith – Director FOV (Fellowship of Vocation) and VDC (Vocational Direction Conference);
- Zolani Mqoqi – Chaplain AYF (Anglican Youth Fellowship);
- Patrick Nodwele – MU (Mothers’ Union Christian Family Life) Chaplain;
- Ernest Cengani - Chaplain St Bernard Mizeki Mens’ Guild.

Talented artist



Retired Priest Gill Bowman, with husband Roy, displayed her beautiful art works for sale at the St Hugh’s Festival.

Blessed by combined Pentecost service Karen Groepe



Clergy and servers during the combined Archdeaconry Pentecost service.

The Bay North Archdeaconry held their annual combined Pentecost Service at St Matthew’s, KwaMagxaki, on 24 May. Having begun the tradition in 2017 at Christ the King in Gelvandale, the parishes have moved the service around to parishes within the Archdeaconry each Pentecost Sunday.

At the service our diversity is experienced in a unified manner, as we totally experience the power of the Holy Spirit, who unites us. The liturgy is expressed in our different languages, English, IsiXhosa, and Afrikaans. There is freedom within the liturgy to express our diverse spirituality. Each parish brings their unique gifting of spoken word, song, prayer and dancing to life, within the framework of the liturgy.

The clergy and laity in attendance look forward each year to this service. A blessed experience indeed!

Tag lines!



It is easy to dodge our responsibilities, but we cannot dodge the consequences of our responsibilities.



The Role of Churches in the Upcoming Local Elections

Nelson Mandela Bay Church Leader Network



Some of the church and NPO leaders who recently met at Bible House to discuss the need for voter education.

As South Africa prepares for the upcoming local government elections, churches and church members have an important role to play in strengthening democracy, justice and ethical leadership.

Voting is not only a constitutional right, but also a sacred responsibility. Christians are called to participate responsibly in shaping society and promoting good governance.

The church's role is not to support political parties or candidates, but to encourage informed, prayerful and ethical participation in the electoral process. Churches should help congregants understand:

- why voting matters;
- how to register and vote;
- how to handle ballot papers correctly;
- where to vote; and
- the importance of protecting the secrecy of every person's vote.

As Christians, we note that leadership should be chosen carefully, based on wisdom, integrity, understanding and service to the community. Prayer for the elections and for ethical leadership remains an important responsibility of the church.

At the same time, churches are encouraged to remain non-partisan. Church leaders should not endorse political parties or candidates, and political campaigning should not take place during worship services. Instead, churches should speak clearly about moral leadership, justice, accountability and service delivery.

In a time when many communities experience corruption, poor service delivery and public frustration, the church can help encourage responsible citizenship, hopeful participation and ethical leadership rooted in the common good.

Fun and food at the Festival



Above - Breakfast and books for all.

Right - Singing along as Elam Tshungu plays the trombone are Bradley and Lunadile.



St Hugh's festival on Saturday 6 June had lots of stalls to keep one busy ... and spending ... and a variety of entertainment for visitors to enjoy.

100 and still going strong!

Karen Groepe



Holding Aunty Ollie's birthday cake are her grandson Nigel and his wife Arlene Niekerk.

Our birthday girl, Sybil Niekerk (affectionately known as aunty Ollie), celebrated her 100th birthday on 9 June 2026.

At her party to congratulate her were two of the remaining MU members at Christ the King, Natascia Cuyler and Beaty Kohl.

Ollie was a dedicated MU member for many years.

Bringing health support to the parishioners and community

Sweetness Mgedezi



The Rector of Holy Spirit, Xola Nodwele, Nozibele Mancapha of the Health desk, Sweetness Mgedezi flanked by two students, Nokuzola Tukani of the Education desk, and retired priest, Churchwarden Mgedezi, Chaplain for Health and Welfare, who attended the service.

On Sunday 24 May, the Rector of Holy Spirit, Xola Nodwele, invited retired priest Churchwarden and his wife Sweetness to attend services and speak on CCMDD (Central Chronic Medicine Dispensing and Distribution) which has been introduced by Churchwarden as part of the Health and Welfare chaplaincy. Also invited were students, with special focus to Grade 12s, who attended wearing their school uniform, who were motivated by Sweetness.

Graduates, in their academic regalia, met with Churchwarden to discuss Health desk follow up in partnership with the nearby clinic. They looked

at identification of chronic medicine defaulters and CCMDD. They discussed delivery of chronic medication in church as this takes away the waiting in long queues at clinics. The Department of Health has introduced this programme for patients to get chronic medicines in Churches or anywhere convenient. The medicines are delivered to the churches once the Health Desk has identified people listed in the submitted lists.

Churchwarden's duty is to meet with Health Desk to get reports and lists of people needing chronic medication to be delivered to Holy Spirit, which are then submitted to the Health Department.

Giving joy on Mother's Day

Carol Brand

Residents of Adcock Old Age Home enjoying the uplifting talk before tea was served.



The hall was beautifully decorated, and the guests enjoyed tea, treats, fellowship, fun and laughter, as well as an uplifting message from Glenis Jacobs. Small gifts and thoughtful table settings added to the joyful atmosphere as residents were celebrated and appreciated ahead of Mother's Day.

The morning was filled with laughter, smiles and meaningful connections across generations. St Paul's is grateful to everyone who contributed towards making the event such a blessing and a memorable occasion for the residents and staff of the home.

Stationery Drive brought joy

Karen Groepe



Receiving the stationery from Charlise Barry of Christ the King are Amelia Michaels and her secretary Caron.

Thanks to the incredible response to their stationary drive the youth of Christ the King were able to supply lots of stationery gift parcels to the pupils at Ithemba Special Day Care Centre in Windvogel.

The Centre provides care, support and therapeutic programmes for children with intellectual and multiple disabilities. This helps the children reach their full potential in a loving and nurturing environment.

✍ Letters to the ed ✍

Why change the name of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth?

A name is more than a tag to identify a person, an organisation or an institution! A name is pregnant with memories, emotions and associations.

Think of the name of your High School. As you do, feelings and faces come flooding back.

To change its name - especially if it were one of the more prestigious Church schools - would sadden tens of thousands of past pupils and staff, create a sense of disassociation, and a feeling of no longer belonging. It would affect attendance at school reunions and, perhaps, significantly reduce Alma Mater Funding. A name change, of anything that is important, creates disruption and confusion so unless there is something scandalous in the past that needs forgetting or something offensive in the name itself, why change it?

Why change the name now, when the Church seems to be battling to preach the Gospel effectively? One hears of twinning parishes to save costs, of "unviable churches" closing down and once contributing parishes now unable to pay their clergy, never mind the diocesan assessment.

Will one of the three names that we have been asked to choose between somehow bring people to church or improve the financial position of parish or diocese? No! But it is going to cost tens of thousands of rand to change the name. Think of all the sign boards, notice boards, stationery, ink stamps, clergy and lay minister licences that will need to be changed.

Covid closures of the church has seen many staying away. Will a name change not have a similar effect?

We have seen in the changing of names of cities and towns (sometimes, it seems to be a way of diverting attention from the lack of service delivery) the difficulty of relating to unfamiliar names - to the point where one cannot watch the national news without referring to Google maps. But why change the name at all?

We have been told that the country districts feel excluded? But is that true? The wool farmers to the north and the citrus farmers to the west and east all depend on, what was once called, Port Elizabeth for the export of their goods. Will a generic biblical name help anyone to feel included? At least the current name of our Diocese gives it, for another one or two generations, a geographical location. Should we not preserve a little of the rich and kindly history of our area?

Port Elizabeth has no political or even colonial overtones. Its roots lie in a lovely romantic story of a decent and upright human being.

Rufane Donkin was a civil servant retuning heartbroken from the east to his home in England. His wife, in what had been an arranged marriage but had become a deep and loving relationship, had insisted on traveling to the East with him. There she had died. Rufane carried her heart in a lead-lined box, intending to bury it close to him.

But when he arrived at the Cape, however,

he was persuaded to interrupt his sad journey to assist the Cape Government in the absence of the Governor who was on extended leave.

The settlers, whom Donkin had no part in inviting, were about to arrive. Inadequate preparation had been made for them. They believed they were traveling to an idyllic destination. No one had told them that they were to become a buffer between two feuding groups.

Donkin spent most of his 22 months as acting Governor at Algoa Bay and the Frontier region, settling the ill equipped settlers and making whatever arrangements he could for their safety and survival. And he did it with kindness and respect for all; there were no serious conflicts along racial lines in his short term as Governor.

In gratitude the people of Algoa Bay named the town after the wife and great love of Rufane Donkin's life.

A small pyramid was built on the hill above the town. Upon it is inscribed "TO THE MEMORY OF ONE OF THE MOST PERFECT HUMAN BEINGS WHO HAS GIVEN HER NAME TO THE TOWN BELOW."

Even before the Diocese of Port Elizabeth was created in 1970, the city had an honourable history, and there is nothing sinister or offensive in its name.

That name has now been lost in the city's name change. Would it not be a service to the history of our area to retain the name, Port ELIZABETH, in the Church that was planted here over 200 years ago?

Please don't change the name.

Hon Canon Ruthell Johnson

Your vote counts

- make our city prosper!

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will. Jer 29:7

Green Piece

MU eco-champs at the Green Anglicans conference

Phumla Koltana



Mothers' Union Eco champs from Southern Africa gathered in Cape Town from 30 April to 3 May for an inspiring and deeply meaningful conference which focused on climate justice, adaptation and community transformation. A major focus of the conference was the increasing reality of climate disasters across the region.

The Provincial President Meisie Lerutla and the Vice President, Anna Mangaliso, were present to encourage and inspire

the Champs. Also present were partners from South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, and Mozambique who reminded everyone of the strength of regional and global Anglican partnerships.

The Eco champ initiative is already changing lives by equipping women to lead climate action in churches and communities, strengthening resilience, and nurturing hope for future generations. They are becoming beacons of faith, courage and transformation.



The Mothers' Union Diocese of Port Elizabeth

Invites applications for the position of the office secretary.

The office days: Tuesdays and Fridays 08h00-16h00

Remuneration: Honorarium (R2 660.00 per month)

Requirements: • Committed Christian who upholds and shares the values and ethos of the Anglican Communion; • Proficient in Microsoft Office, Word, Excel Power Point and Outlook; • Strong administrative computer skills, discretion, reliability and ability to work with confidentiality; • Previous secretarial or office experience preferred; • Preference will be given to active members of Mothers' Union; • Verbal and written communication; • Building Relations.

Submit your CV and a brief letter of motivation with contactable references including your church membership details to: mothersunion@pediocese.org.za

Contact Person. Mrs Vuyelwa Mankonti 041 365 2163

or hand deliver to: Mothers' Union Office, 52 Hurd Street, Newton Park

Closing date: 30 June 2026

Upcoming 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!

CARNIVAL FETE
SATURDAY 25 JULY 2026
08h00—12h00
ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH
2 Villiers Road, Walmer
*Cakes, *Sweets, *Books,
*Curry bunnies, *Pancakes,
*Boerewors Rolls, *Music,
*Tea Garden, *White Elephant
And so much more!
COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN

DON'T MISS OUT!
SA NATIONAL SEW AWARENESS 2026 QUILT FESTIVAL
WWW.SEWAWARENESS2026.CO.ZA
7-11 JULY 2026 | GQEERHA / PORT ELIZABETH
COLLEGIATE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

SAVE-THE-DATE
ST JOHN'S MISSION FETE
Fundraising dedicated to mission!
29 AUG 8:30AM-1PM

Editor: Frankie Simpson Tel/WhatsApp +27 84 742 5514

e-mail: iindaba@anglicandiocesepe.org.za Web: www. https://anglicandiocesepe.org.za/

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Please send contributions and photos to the editor.

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