



The Ad Laos for the Diocese of Port Elizabeth, together with parish news

Vol 37 No 7

August 2026

The Bishop writes ...

Compassion in Action: Honouring Women, Serving the Vulnerable

My dear people of God,
As we celebrate **Women's Month**, we honour the courage, resilience, and great contributions of women to the life of our nation and the Church. We remember the more than 20,000 women who marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956 in courageous protest against the extension of the Pass Laws to women. Those unjust laws attempted to control women's lives, deny their dignity and freedom, and reduce them to a position of dependence and subordination.



In August, we also observe the Church's **Month of Compassion**, in which we are called to look with the eyes and heart of Christ upon the ongoing suffering of immigrants, refugees, the oppressed, the poor, and the vulnerable, especially the many women and girls in our communities. Gender-based violence, poverty, discrimination, and inequality remain painful realities that diminish the dignity of those created in the image of God. Our response cannot be merely one of sympathy. It must be one of compassion expressed in action. As the Church, we are called to be communities of welcome, healing, and hope, where every person is respected, heard and affirmed.

My prayer is that the Diocese of Port Elizabeth may increasingly be recognised as a community of care and compassion. We strive to be a diocesan family in which those who encounter us experience the love,

grace, mercy, compassion, justice, and hospitality of Jesus Christ. Being Christ-like is not simply an aspiration; it means walking alongside those who suffer, defending the dignity of every person, welcoming the stranger, seeking reconciliation where there is division, and becoming instruments of God's healing in a broken world.

"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience... Above all, clothe yourselves with love."

Colossians 3:12-14

The compassion of Christ was never passive; it restored dignity, challenged injustice, embraced the forgotten, and brought hope to those on the margins. This is the Gospel we are called to embody.

As we look ahead to South Africa's local government elections on 4 November 2026, our participation in public life is an expression of our Christian discipleship. We are called to engage prayerfully, responsibly, and with genuine concern for the common good. Our decisions should be guided not by fear, prejudice, or self-interest, but by Gospel imperatives that uphold justice, truth, transparency, integrity, compassion, and care for the poor and vulnerable.

May the Diocese of Port Elizabeth be known for its great compassion, its courageous fight for justice, a generous welcome, and service that

Contd on page 2

August - Celebrating the iindaba



As we celebrate our birthday of the first edition of *iindaba* - we give thanks to God for:

- the late Bishop Bruce Evans who had the vision of a paper where we can share our diocesan family news;
- the many people who have been part of our journey over the 37 years - including our first editor, Wayne Asher.

Our journey began in August 1990 with an A3 size folded into 4 x A4 pages and distributed to the parishes. We enlarged to 4 pages of A3 size in December 1999. When Covid caused Lockdown we went digital and have stayed digital as printing is too costly.

Now we have heard the cry from seniors and Gen Y and Z to become more printer and IT friendly - hence our new format.

The Bishop writes - contd

reflects Christ's unconditional love. As we honour the women of our nation and our Church, let us do so not only in word but also in deed, by living lives that build safer homes, stronger communities, and a society

in which every person is treated with dignity, respect, and love.

With every blessing,

+ GRANT PORT ELIZABETH.

Why the changed format?

We heard the cry to *iindaba* from our seniors and from Gen Y and Z.

For the seniors who received printed copies on A4 paper the font became too small to read - and for Gen Y and Z, they find it difficult to read the present format on the small faces of their phones. So this month we are producing *iindaba* in an A4 format and also in a single column format. We'd appreciate feedback.

Generation Y (1981–1996): More commonly known as Millennials. They are the transitional generation that bridged the analog and digital worlds. They value work-life balance, flexibility, and are the first generation to integrate heavy technology, like social media, into their young adulthood.

Generation Z (1997–2012): Colloquially known as "Zoomers," they are the first true digital natives. They grew up entirely with smart phones, high-speed internet, and social media. They are generally characterized by their connectivity, digital literacy, and strong focus on social activism.

IT to the rescue at HTC



Oh, my word, what are the HTC congregation doing looking at their phones during a service?

During June Holy Trinity had problems with their overhead projector and the words for the service, and all the spiritual songs, could not be displayed. However, the music could play, so IT came to the rescue - the words of the songs were sent to everyone via their cell phones - and the singing burst forth with joy.

Tag lines!



Is what you are holding onto
worth the space it's taking -
physically and mentally?



The view from pulpit and pew

❖ *iindaba* extends condolences to:

- Busisiwe Gwentshu and her family on the passing of her mother, Ellen, on 15 July, her sister, Nonkhosi, on 3 July and her aunt, Patricia, on 24 June.

Ellen was the wife of the late Ronald, who was a priest in our diocese for many years. May Busi and the family know the peace and love of Jesus enfolding them as they mourn this triple loss.

❖ *iindaba* asks that readers begin praying for Synod of Bishops 17 to 19 September, followed by Provincial Synod 20-23 September. This is the highest decision making body of ACSA and needs to be covered with soaking prayer.

St Hugh's bids farewell to their verger

Jill Bromily



Robin Jacobs gets a farewell hug from the Rector of St Hugh's, Andrea Potgieter.

Robin Jacobs has been the verger of St Hugh's for almost five years and now feels it is time to retire from this very busy job.

On Wednesday 1 July a surprise farewell tea party was held for him where he was presented with a gift.

Robin's wife Unette was a churchwarden and our new verger, John Clarke, is the husband of Bernie, a churchwarden!

What a wonderful High Tea

Michelle Werth



Above - Guests enjoying fellowship and food. Left - guest speaker, Neil O'Brien with MC, Michelle Beneke.

On Saturday, 27 June, parishes from across the Diocese of Port Elizabeth gathered at Christ the King Church for the Diocesan Benevolent Fund (DBF) High Tea. It was a truly joyful occasion, bringing together people from across our Diocese with a shared purpose - to enjoy fellowship while raising funds in support of the

Diocesan Benevolent Fund.

The hall looked absolutely spectacular. Beautifully decorated tables reflected the creativity and generosity of the hosts, while an abundance of delicious sweet and savoury treats ensured that everyone was thoroughly spoiled. The atmosphere was warm and

welcoming, filled with conversation, laughter, and the joy of reconnecting with familiar faces while making new friends along the way.

Guests were entertained by Neil O'Brien from the Scouting Association of Gqeberha. His enthusiasm, humour, and fascinating insights into the work of Scouting captivated everyone present, leaving us not only better informed but greatly inspired by the difference that committed service can make in the lives of young people.

The excitement continued with an array of wonderful lucky draw prizes, as well as a deluxe hamper, that ensured many left with a little surprise.

Beyond the beautifully set tables and enjoyable entertainment, the High Tea was a wonderful reminder of what can be achieved when we come together in fellowship and service, supporting the ministry of the DBF, whose work quietly and faithfully assists our retired clergy.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone who contributed to the success of the afternoon. It was a glorious celebration of generosity, community, and the shared calling we have as God's people to care for one another. May God continue to bless the work of the DBF, and may occasions such as these continue to strengthen the bonds of fellowship that unite us as one Diocese, serving one Lord with joyful and generous hearts.

Studying the Lectionary

Karen Groepe



Bishop Grant with the lay minister's chaplain, Karen Groepe (in front) and some of the diocesan lay ministers who attended the training.

Bishop Grant delivered a powerful training session to the lay ministers at their training held on 13 June at St Hugh's in Newton Park. He spoke on Module 1: The Lectionary - Understanding scripture readings and their significance.

Diocesan lay minister training is for all lay ministers, whether a seasoned or new lay minister. All are encouraged to get the year programme from their Rectors/Priests in Charge/Locum Priests.

Modules 2 to 5 are to follow on the dates and venues set out in the year programme.

Diocesan Training does not replace parochial training, so parishes are encouraged to continue their own programmes.

Because of the cost of travelling in from the country parishes in the Karoo and Tsitsikamma, Charles Qoto and the lay minister chaplain, Karen Groepe, will disseminate the Diocesan Training Material to the respective Archdeacons.

TCNCLN discuss the unemployment crisis



Danie Mouton, Bishop William Leleki, Sue Hagemann, Pastor Ruben Africa, Bishop Vincent Zungu and Bishop Grant attended the meeting.

Among those attending an important TCN meeting of the Christian Leaders' Network on Thursday 9 July were our Diocesan, Bishop Grant, together with Roman Catholic Bishop Vincent Zungu, Methodist Bishop William Leleki, and Executive Director of the Dutch Reformed Church in the Eastern Cape, Danie Mouton.

They were there to discuss the unemployment crisis and listen to input by two NPO's who train youth in work ethics and behavioural change so that young people become employable and are able to keep their jobs. Statistics show that a very large number of young people do not manage to hold onto their jobs for very long because they do not understand what is required of a worker.

Harambee Work Readiness Programme

Sue Hagemann spoke on the Harambee Work Readiness Programme - Design Solutions to Unlock Youth Employment and Enterprise Opportunities. This programme provides insights on youth pathways in the economy that help them to reduce the barriers that exclude youth from the labour market.

Sue said that nearly 9 000 000 young people are not in employment, education or training at present. Of these 53% have not finished Matric and many of our job seekers are not fit for the available jobs. Because of

this they need training in how to keep their jobs or how to stream the money they receive from doing short term contract jobs into funding for self-employment.

She presented the key issues between what employers expect and the work-ready skills and behaviours young people have. So the content of their programme is designed to address these key issues and is rooted in behavioural change methodology which helps young people in becoming more aware of the choices and actions that will help them survive in the work place.

They offer a 'Train the Trainers' module which could be embraced by the churches to enable them to run courses within their churches and communities.

Contact - www.harambee.co.za

Work 4 A Living

Pastor Reuben Africa spoke about the Work for a Living course which also embraces a mind-set change of the youth seeking employment. They aim to equip and empower people with employability through a 14-Day Job Excellence Programme.

This course is Bible based and also covers work ethics, professionalism, work excellence and personal presentation. They also offer specialized skills' training (like admin, cashier, or barista training).

At present the course is being run at Harvest Church and a few other areas.

Reuben is willing to do a presentation at churches who feel they'd like to offer the programme to their youth groups and community members.

Over 80% of the people who successfully complete a WORK 4 A LIVING programme get employed, start businesses, upskill themselves, or continue their education.

Contact - WhatsApp 067 877 8402.

Bishop Leleki spoke on 'There is no holiness but social holiness' -

This emphasizes the importance of accountability, which encourages people to unite and help each other to grow.

Social holiness is not just about social justice and political activism but about knowing and loving one another.

Accountability is very important as it prevents corruption, temptation and arrogance.

At the centre of holiness there is the importance of coming together to hold each other accountable in the spirit of love.

John Wesley believed that social holiness encompasses aspects of the Christian life, not in isolation but with one another.

The notion of 'mission beyond walls' emphasizes the fact that the church is not about being confined within the four walls of our worship buildings.

Christianity is not just a personal matter but also a social one.

Leaders of today must be schooled into understanding the transformative power of loving accountability.

One elected into a position of power must understand that power is not of that individual, but it is the power of the people and must guard against abusing the power of the people.

A leader in the context of social holiness is the servant of all to serve them not to be served.

We are in need of leaders who are putting the needs of others above their own ambitions. Leaders we must promote to be elected in November 2026 are those who focus on developing people, empowering them and fostering personal and professional growth.

Health Desk Open day

Oyintanda Kombela



Many Holy Spirit parishioners and members of the community visited the information tables at the Health Day initiative.

Holy Spirit Church in KwaZakhele hosted an open day on 29 July to provide health services to the community and to our church family. Proceedings began at 10h00.

As a Youth Month initiative, Holy Spirit provided services and general education about intimate protection and contraceptives to the youth in general. Condoms were distributed to the community and we kept some at church for member requests.

As part of the Initiative we offered HIV tests and information guidance as to what can be done to help the Health Department spread information. We

also donated sanitary towels to the community and to young members of the community, as a reward for contracepting and decreasing South African teenage pregnancy.

This initiative was created to provide assistance to the disadvantaged children and young females.

The sanitary towels donation will be a yearly contribution for the Health Desk Team to provide excellent support to the previously disadvantaged girls Church, and to ensure the "Keep a girl child in school and church" slogan is spread across the Bay.

Health check at St Saviour's



A health worker, Viwe Gxagxa, gives Lorna Barkhuizen a flu injection.

Lorna Barkhuizen took time out from the kitchen to visit the health desk at St Saviour's on Wednesday 24 June.

Churchwarden Mgedezi, the Diocesan Health Desk chaplain, arranged for health workers to set up a table at St Saviour's during their pensioners' lunch. People were encouraged to have their blood sugar and blood pressure tested and to receive a flu vaccine.

They could also be screened for TB or HIV if they had wanted to do so, but not many of the senior citizens felt a need to do so.

The initiative was well received and many people were screened or visited the table for information.

The importance of Christians' voting discussed



Church and NGO leaders discuss the need for everyone to vote.

With the Municipal elections taking place of 4 November, Nelson Mandela Bay Christian leaders and leaders of Non-Profit Organisations gathered at Bible House, and via Zoom, to discuss the need for every eligible voter to make a stand and be heard through the ballot.

They emphasised the need for Christians to discern whom they vote for - the need for integrity, honesty and a heart for their people should be the criteria voters need to look for in the candidate they choose. Their vote is a God-given privilege and must be used to choose godly people to rule.



Also taking advantage of the opportunity for a health check was the rector, Sharon Nell, who was also checked by health worker, Viwe Gxagxa. With them are Sweetness and Health Chaplain, Churchwarden Mgedezi, and Sister Adele Meyer.

Something caught our Bishop's eye

Jill Bromiley



After the Confirmation service at St Hugh's, everyone went to the hall for tea. Something ... no, perhaps some little person, caught Bishop Grant's eye and made him smile while he was waiting for his coffee.

1855 Bible on display



Martie Gouws shows Trevor Jennings, of Transformation Christian Network, the old 1855 German Bible which is part of a display at Bible House.

iindaba reminds readers that the Bible Society has a wonderful array of Bibles, Sunday School materials and children's Bible based story books for sale.

Churches receive a special discount when they purchase for use in their parishes.

Contact Bible Society at:

041 364 1138

salesec@biblesociety.co.za

You're welcome to visit at 31 Cotswold Ave, Cotswold.

Winter warmth with jeseys

Parishes have heard the cry for the need for warm jerseys to help those in need.

St Hugh's

Jill Bromiley

St Hugh's members have been busy knitting madly and made enough jerseys and baby clothes to help two needy organisations.

Des Goodwin of Giving Gifts to Newborn Babies was thrilled to receive the baby clothes, and residents of Gelvan Park Frail Aged Home residents are enjoying the warmth of the beautiful jerseys they received.



Showing off some of the jerseys are Lyn Johnson, Thurle Burns, retired Deacon, Denise Rae, with Des Goodwin.

St Francis Xavier

Leona Pow Chong

Members of St Francis Xavier JACK (Jesus at Crocheting and Knitting) group were also very busy with needles and produced five bags full of beautiful garments and blankets for the Winter Woolly Drive.



Seen with Selwyn Willis (centre) of WWD are some of the members of JACK who proudly show off some of the garments they had made.

67 minutes well spent packing food

Jill Bromiley



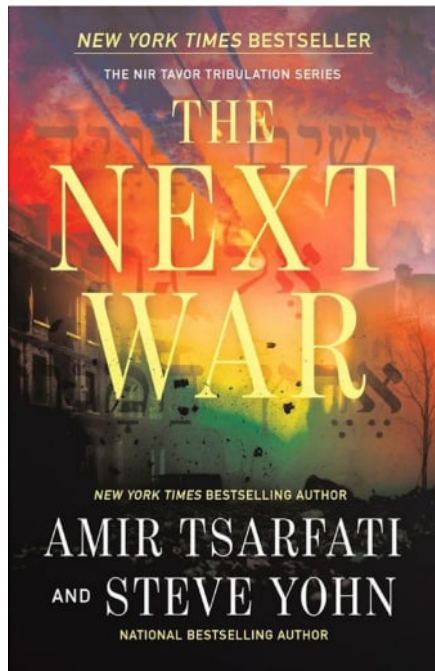
Some of the Junior City Council members and volunteers who packed food parcels. The JCC asked St Hugh's parishioners to help pack parcels for 67 Minutes for Nelson Mandela Day.



Book review

The Next War

By Amir Tsarfati and Steve Yohn



This Bible-based novel is set in Israel, with the world in upheaval after the disappearance of millions of people into thin air, which has caused social and economic collapse of countries.

Mossad agent Nir Tavor and his team are called in to take down the greatest threat Israel has ever faced - the build up of evil nations who hate Israel and who have come together to finally annihilate her from the face of the earth.

It is based on the prophecies of Ezekiel, of a great gathering of nations coming against Israel, and is a real thriller. Worth the read.

I bought my copy from Cum books for R320.

What's Your Generation?

1. Lost Generation:	1883-1900
2. Greatest Generation:	1901-1927
3. Silent Generation:	1928-1945
4. Baby Boomer:	1946-1964
5. Generation X:	1965-1980
6. Millennial:	1981-1996
7. Generation Z:	1997-2012
8. Generation Alpha:	2013-2024
9. Generation Beta:	2025-2039

According to Google these are the various generations beginning with the lost generation of 1883-1900.

This years' winners



The members of Rent a Crowd who won the Music Trivia mugs this year are Mr T, Sally, Eduard, Vanessa and Alan.

Music Trivia at St Saviour's is always fun - and has become very competitive as the years go by with many of the same groups competing for the beautiful winners' mugs.

Friday night 19 June was no exception with Desré Foaden providing challenging music quiz sets, such as having to give the colour named in the title of the song or the name of the singer; plus some AI generated picture inserts to add some brain-teasing. She also ran a Bingo card, for extra points, which ran alongside the quiz.

As always the evening was great fun with much laughter - and many spot prizes along the way.

Why you must vote on 4 November

Our city is in crisis and NMB Church leaders have urged everyone to vote.

We have the second highest unemployment rate in the world;
NMB is the eighth most violent city in the world;

Our electricity and water systems regularly fail due to neglect;
Business does not want to invest in NMB because of our city government;
Our road network is collapsing due to neglect;

Our city regularly loses funds from national government because of poor administration.

They noted that, if you do not vote, you are jointly responsible for the breakdown of our city!

On 4 November 2026 at the local government elections you can turn the tide by voting for the party -

- that holds to Biblical values regarding honesty and lack of corruption;
- that has a record of attracting investment and business;
- that has a plan to curb crime;

- whose policies support and encourage business and entrepreneurs;
- who has a record of good governance;
- who is the party future orientated and has a vision for our city.

Do not vote for the party that -

- represents special interest groups or only some of our citizens;
- has a record of corruption and mismanagement or has leaders who face legitimate accusations of corruption.

The group agreed to the following guidelines for churches:

- * They must be apolitical;
- * There must be no criticism of the government;
- * And no criticism of a specific political party;
- * No self-promotion;
- * Only multi-network, city or national prayer events will be advertised;
- * Prophetic words from recognised prophets over South Africa will be shared;
- * Prayer for a Godly and Capable Government.

A call to prayer on 1 November

Please diarise:

this 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

Bishop Grant has agreed that all our members should try to attend this meeting - after your service has ended.

Wanting a gap year?

Why not sign up to join the African Enterprise FOXFIRE team.

JOIN OUR FOXFIRE YOUTH TEAM
A YEAR OF YOUR LIFE
FOXFIRE IS THE YOUTH MINISTRY OF AFRICAN ENTERPRISE (EST. 1961)

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083 795 1766 | ZSOKHELA@AE.ORG.ZA

Upcoming events

Send your parish events to **iindaba** so that members of the Diocesan family can support them.

ST JOHN'S MISSION FETE
Fundraising dedicated to mission!

29 AUG 8:30AM-1PM

Saint Francis Xavier Church 1
BINGO DRIVE for our SUNDAY SCHOOL
INCLUDES A CHINESE MEAL
When: Saturday 1 August 2026 @ 12 noon
Where: St Francis Xavier Church
19 Jade Road, Morningside
Gordon Loyson Memorial Hall
PRICE: R120 includes 9 single games + full house
+ free tea & coffee available
plus lucky draw prizes
Bring your own refreshments and glasses
TICKET TO BE PRODUCED WHEN MEAL IS SERVED

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

Out of the mouths of babes

Carol Brand

Anyone who thinks children are not paying attention during church has obviously never stood near them during Communion. While the adults were quietly and reverently participating in the sacrament on Sunday, a group of young observers were busy asking some wonderfully honest – and highly entertaining – questions.

Their curiosity provided a reminder that children notice everything.

Among the questions overheard were:

- “Why do they wear those costumes up there?” (Referring to the robes);
- “Do they wear pants under their costumes?”
- “Why are the cups all silver but everything else is gold?”
- “Why do they have medals and what did they do to win them?” (Lay minister medallions);
- “Why does Rowan like the wine so much?” (during the ablutions);
- “How do they get the wafers so thin? And how do they get the picture on the wafer?”

• And perhaps the best of all: “Are Carmelia and Jan getting married? Because they are standing where you stand to get married!” (Sides people presenting the offertory);

Moments like these remind us that church is a place of wonder and discovery for our younger members. Their questions may make us smile, but they also show a genuine curiosity about what happens in worship and why we do the things we do.

Jesus himself reminded his disciples of the importance of children when he said, “Let the little children come to me.” Their honesty, humour, and fresh perspective often help us see familiar things in a new way.

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

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