



The Beo writes ... Dear Family of God,

Introduction

Our Anglican prayer book of Southern Africa (1989) describes baptism as a Sacrament and a means of admission to the church of God and to the body of Christ. The word Baptism means dipping and soaking in a gift of God called water. This gift of God in our country South Africa is a constitutional right, but we are in a water crisis in most of our municipalities including our Nelson Mandela Municipality. There are areas where taps are dry and people doubt the quality, and how safe it is to drink from our taps. Our infrastructure is not in good shape. We experience low water pressure, or no water at all after the heavy rains of June 2026. Water is not to be understood in terms of baptism only but as a fundamental thing for human life.

Baptism in the New Testament

In its early years of life, the church was influenced by its environment, as a result there is a relationship between baptism and the Jewish practice of washing, or to that of John the Baptist. Tertullian writes, "Jewish Israel washes daily because it is defiled daily" (Tertullian was an African theologian and Early Church Father around 200 AD who coined the term Trinity.) We find in Mark 7:4, "When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions such as washing of the cups, pitchers and kettles." The Hebrew passage reiterates this, "they are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings..." (Hebrews 9:10). In the Ancient world, the Jewish influence baptism was meant for the

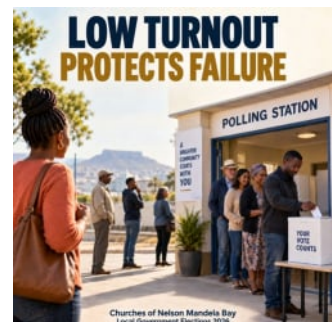
This and that on the doctrine of baptism



initiation reserved for women, as circumcision was for men. So right from the beginning, the Jewish point of view baptism was sacramental, as it was an admission into the Jewish community. Water was a scarce thing in Israel.

In the New Testament it also symbolizes the old life into new life, the crossing over the Jordan river by the Israelites from the wilderness to the promised land. As well, St Paul tells us that we are baptized in the death and rising of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3). Someone will say, 'Is not this old life and new life contrary to the Baptism of infants, as we know they are born innocent without the old life of sin?' Tertullian said, 'Why hurries the age of innocence to the remission of sins'. In Judaism, children were admitted to the old covenant by circumcision. (Luke 2: 21 and Philippians 3:5). In the church baptism took the place of circumcision. There is nothing in the New Testament that speaks about the delay of baptism until the person reaches the age of adulthood, but we know that in Acts 16:15,33 and 1 Cor 1:16, we read "the whole family
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Elections 4 November



In Paul's teaching on prayer in 1 Timothy 2:1–4, one of the major thrusts is praying for those in authority. According to Paul's reasoning, we want good government that allows us to live "peaceful and quiet lives" - ultimately freeing us to evangelize those who are lost.

Pray for the process of vote casting -

- That it will be safe, fair, and accessible to all;
- That God will protect polling stations and make them places of peace;
- That every vote will be counted and accurately reported;
- That election workers will be filled with peace, surrounded by safety, and able to work with efficiency and integrity.

Pray for peace -

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace
Isaiah 9:6

BEO's letter continued

was baptized." Ancient era families included children as well as the slaves and any concubines. So, we can say with confidence that children were baptized, but it was not the rule to do so, until in the 12th Century when children were named at Baptism.

It is through this act of baptism that the new believers tell the church family that we belong to Christ, and the church responds by saying, 'We welcome you into the Lord's family. We are members together of the body of Christ.' (APB, page 385) Then we give them our love, support and ministry of the church. When you are part of God's family, it is your responsibility to protect the unity of the church family.

St Paul's theology

Paul teaches that a newly baptized person's life is a new life in Jesus

Christ and we receive his Spirit to serve him. *"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ"* (Galatians 3:27) Paul further says that baptism is a symbol of unity. *"For we were all baptized by one Spirit to form one body whether Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free and we were all given one Spirit to drink"* (1 Cor 12:13). So when we are part of God's family our responsibility is to protect the unity of the church family. In Romans 14:19 we read, *"Let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony and on the growth of our fellowship,"* not on less important things called by St Paul, 'stupid things' (2 Timothy 2:23), not on our own personalities, or our low or high church style of worship.

The last other thing all of us who are Baptized in the name of Jesus Christ are to surrender and consecrate our

lives to Christ, to his church. As Christians we are always to keep in mind that Jesus Christ is the giver of the life-giving water. Those who draw water from him find satisfaction. His water is not polluted and is forever. John 6:35, Jesus said *"... He who comes to me will never go hungry and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."*

Baptism is authorizing us to be his messengers in a world of violence, corruption, bullying by the superpowers and injustice. We are called to enter God's mission. Our Church speaks of the five Marks of Mission which include: To teach, baptize and nurture new believers, so we are called to take our proper place into the mission of the church. May God richly bless you and your families.

Fumi

Lay ministers need to be ethical



Charles Qoto (front row, third from left) with a full house of lay ministers at St John's.

Diocesan lay ministers filled the pews at St John's on Saturday afternoon 22 August to hear teaching by Charles Qoto, a lay Canon.

Charles then said that leaders need to emulate Christ who is:

- the bread of life - do we, as leaders, pass that bread on to our congregations?
- the light - do we pass that light on to others?
- the way, the truth and the life - we are given this life in abundance, so we need to share it with others;
- the true vine who provides our every need, so are we there for those who need our help?

Tag lines!



You can tell whether a person is clever by their answers.
You can tell whether a person is wise by their questions.

Charles said he would not be touching the subject given as Bishop Grant had covered that at the first training session. Instead, he spoke on the ethics of being a leader - as lay ministers are leaders in their congregations.

He said that first of all they need set an example by:

- giving - their tithe and their time;
- praying - God blesses those who pray so that they can bless others;
- actions - people observe leaders who live good lives and will emulate them;
- humility - people need to see leaders as repentant, who ask for forgiveness if they have strayed.

The view from pulpit and pew

❖ *iindaba* extends condolences to the family and friends of (retired Priest) Carole Meyer on her passing to be with the Lord on 13 September. May they know the peace and love of Jesus surrounding them as they mourn.

❖ *iindaba* asks healing prayers for Bennie Gallant who has had a stroke. He is the husband of retired Priest, Jogra.

Clergy on the move

- The BEO, Fumi Kula, takes over the position of Dean from 1 October.

Learning financial management

Philile Obese



Members of executive committees listen carefully as Thoko Ngqangeni from Old Mutual explains good financial stewardship to them.

On 15 August St Cyprian parish in KwaZakhele hosted a Financial Management Workshop for the executive committees of our guilds.

The workshop was facilitated by Nomonde Qoto, our former parish treasurer, and Thoko Ngqangeni from Old Mutual. Various aspects of financial management, from both a parish and a personal perspective, were covered. The aim was to equip participants with practical knowledge and skills to manage financial resources responsibly and effectively.

An invitation had also been extended to Holy Spirit parish, and some of their parishioners also attended the workshop.

This initiative forms part of the parish's ongoing capacity-building programme, which seeks to strengthen the skills and leadership capacity of our members and ministry leaders.

We are grateful to Nomonde Qoto and Thoko Ngqangeni for sharing their knowledge and expertise, and to all those who participated in making the workshop a success.

Even a wedding dress for sale



Arty, Louise and Anne displaying the beautiful wedding dress for sale.

As always at the St John's Mission Fête, people were queued up outside the door from very early morning - doors opened at 08h30.

The first port of call for most of the early-birds was the white elephant stall - well a large room to display the fantastic array of items. By the looks of the long lines of visitors, the coffee and the bacon and egg rolls seemed to be a go-to first by many of them. But, the cakes, books, plants and many other tables had their fair share of buyers too.

Once again it was a wonderfully supported morning.

Spring fun at St Hugh's

Jill Bromiley



Some of the Spring ladies with MC, Keith Burns, in a very colourful Spring shirt, at a Spring Tea.

St Hugh's held a very successful Spring Tea on Sunday 6 September. The ladies were asked to dress in Spring outfits and some wore beautiful floral hats.

No charge was made for the tea but each lady was asked to bring items for the Rape Crisis project which St Hugh's supports each year.



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A Statement by Nelson Mandela Bay Churches on the 2026 Local Government Elections

Executive Summary

This statement presents a shared Christian perspective on the Local Government Elections taking place on 4 November 2026. Churches in Nelson Mandela Bay do not endorse any political party or candidate. We call on citizens to make informed and responsible choices based on biblical values, reliable information and concern for the wellbeing of the whole city.

Christians are called to be salt and light and to seek the wellbeing of the communities in which they live. Voting is one way of accepting responsibility for our neighbours and helping to shape the city's future. Our concern includes people in townships, informal settlements, suburbs and rural communities, across every race, language, income group, gender, age and physical ability.

Voters should look for leaders who are wise, honest, competent, accountable and committed to service rather than status or personal gain. Candidates and parties should be assessed by their character, experience, record of service and ability to fulfil realistic promises. This includes their ability to oversee municipal finances, infrastructure, planning and the delivery of basic services.

A metropolitan council must provide dependable water, sanitation, electricity, refuse removal, roads, transport and other municipal services. It must also maintain safe public spaces, support local development, manage public money responsibly, prevent corruption and involve residents in decision-making. Services must be delivered fairly, especially to communities that have experienced long-standing neglect.

Municipal failure affects everyone, but its heaviest burden often falls on poor households, unemployed young people, women, older persons and people with disabilities. Voters should therefore examine whether ward candidates understand local communities and whether party PR lists include trustworthy and capable women and men with the knowledge needed to govern effectively.

Every voter in Nelson Mandela Bay receives two secret ballots: one for a ward candidate and one for a political party. Both votes help determine the composition and quality of the municipal council.

Many residents have lost confidence after years of broken promises and poor services. Their disappointment is understandable, but staying away leaves the choice of future leaders to others.

We therefore call on every eligible voter to become informed, use both votes carefully and participate freely and courageously.

The future of Nelson Mandela Bay will be shaped by those who show up and vote.



Seen here are some of the NMB Church and Civil Society leaders who met to ratify the Christian Public Witness Statement for release.

A message from Bishop Grant

On the eve of our Local Government Elections in South Africa, we should remember that we won the right to vote at great cost. Many people, known and unknown, sacrificed greatly so that all South Africans might participate freely in democratic elections.

Some paid the ultimate price with their lives. Others suffered physical, spiritual and psychological harm. Some were imprisoned, while others were forced to leave their loved ones and their homes and live as exiles and refugees in foreign countries. Their sacrifices remind us that we should never take the right to vote for granted.

Scripture reminds us: *"Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream"* (Amos 5:24). Our Christian commitment to justice cannot be separated from the conditions in which our people live.

Poor or inadequate service delivery affects our congregants because they live in communities where basic municipal services often fail them. Financial mismanagement and corruption affect us because our people live and work in places where public resources intended for the common good are sometimes misused. Appointing public servants who are unqualified, ill-equipped, or unable to fulfil their responsibilities has consequences for ordinary people who depend on municipalities for reliable and competent public services. These are not distant political matters. They affect our homes, our congregations, our workplaces and the communities in which we minister.

For this reason, we should not treat voting lightly. I encourage every eligible South African to exercise the right to vote. Inform yourself about those who seek public office. Consider their record of service, competence, integrity and commitment to the communities they seek to serve. Pray for wisdom and discernment, and then cast your vote according to your conscience.

Continued page 5

Bishop's message continued

The prophet Jeremiah instructed God's people to "*seek the welfare of the city*" in which they lived and to pray to the Lord on its behalf (Jeremiah 29:7). Exercising our democratic right responsibly is one way in which we can seek the welfare of our cities, towns and communities.

Voting is a democratic right and a solemn civic responsibility. We honour those who sacrificed for our democracy when we participate in it responsibly, peacefully and with respect for the dignity and freedom of others.

Let us pray for peaceful, free and fair elections; for integrity in the electoral process; and for the election of women and men who will govern with honesty, competence and accountability, and who will place the needs of the people above personal or political interests.

Some notes from the meeting

Choose wisely because the cost of failure causes:

- electricity outages which affect jobs, safety and more;
- water failures which mean health issues, school closures, burdens on families having to fetch water.

Voter apathy:

- staying home helps nobody;
- low turnout is a corrupt politicians dream.



Churches of Nelson Mandela Bay
Local Government Elections 2026

There are 30 parties for one to choose from. Everyone has two votes and both make a difference. One for a candidate and the other for a party - so use both wisely.

Yes, it is a secret vote and the ONLY ones who will know who you vote for are yourself and God. Make sure God will be happy with your choice.

The ones who run the office



The clergy and their secretaries with Bishop Grant before enjoying their lunch in celebration of Secretaries' Day.

The Diocesan clergy spoilt their secretaries with lunch on Monday 31 August at Thatchwoods in KraggaKama as they celebrated Secretaries Day.

A delicious three course meal was served by the restaurant during which there was much talk and laughter, especially during the long intervals between courses. Before everyone went home Bishop Grant thanked all the secretaries for their hard work behind the scenes in the parishes and some of the clergy spoke of the special secretaries they have.

Everyone felt it was good to have this special day celebrated once again after a very long interval.

Thanksgiving lunch after Confirmation service

Sisanda Mbodlela



Confirmation candidates stand before Bishop Grant as they make their vows.

St Paul's joyfully celebrated the confirmation, by Bishop Grant, of nine young people in a well-attended service on Sunday 19 July.

The service was followed by a fellowship lunch where the parish welcomed Bishop Grant on his first visit to the parish. This brought together families and congregants in a spirit of faith, unity and thanksgiving.

Dealing with disabilities

Rowan Jacobs



Ann Roos and the Rector of St Paul's, Rowan Jacobs, who took part in Wheelchair Wednesday.

The Association for the Physically Disabled (APD) NMB - Wheelchair Wednesday Challenge was held on 2 September at Humewood Spar.

The Rector of St Paul's, Rowan Jacobs, and one of his parishioners, Ann Roos, took part in the awareness campaign.

The challenge is not a race but an awareness campaign whereby teams are given six tasks to complete while in a wheelchair or other simulated disabilities. Twelve teams of two took part in the challenge, and each person had a chance to experience the challenge of having a physical disability while fulfilling everyday tasks like shopping or drawing money from an ATM.

Thank you to Marie Sin Hidge and Brian Bezuidenhout for inviting us and running a well-organised awareness campaign.

It was challenging, exciting and enlightening.

APD does wonderful work among the disabled.

Contact them here:

Association for the Physically Disabled (APD)

55 Paterson Road, North End, Gqeberha

Tel: 041 484 5426

info@apdnmb.org.za

ACSA cares for people with disabilities

In light of the Wheelchair Wednesday report iindaba reminds parishes that ACSA offers resources on their website.

In the past few years, the Anglican Church of Southern Africa has established the Disability Justice Commission.

The following aims are some that will enhance the participation of persons with disabilities in the church:

- Addressing the needs, dignity and full humanity of persons with disabilities.
- Serving as the advisory body for all spheres of the church, regarding the implementation of guidelines for the full inclusion of people with disabilities.

- Develop resources, do training and liaise in all matters relating to the full inclusion of people with disabilities.

The work of this advisory group is taking shape in a Bible study on disability, a liturgy for Disability Awareness Sunday and developing a training manual for Disability Inclusion Champions for Anglican Parishes.

Parishes can look up resources on the ACSA website, under the ACSA news and notices tab.

www.

<https://anglicanchurchsa.org/>

Another great resource is RampUp

RampUp envisages churches to be places where everybody feels welcome and finds a place of belonging.

We believe persons with disabilities and those without, can interact and mutually serve each other on equal footing.

RampUp (www.rampup.co.za) is a resource



to help churches understand persons with disabilities.

Always a hit

Jill Bromiley



Looking to purchase some sportswear at the clothing sale is Kazim Langeveldt.

On Saturday 29 August St Hugh's once again held a very successful pre-worn clothing sale. As always, the clothing was of high standard and in great demand.

ACSA Media Team spells out POPI Act

Over the past two months the ACSA media team have been connecting with diocesan media personnel via Zoom to discuss new ideas and make sure everyone is aware of new developments with the POPI Act.

All our parishes who have any social media platforms such as Face Book and Instagram need to know that they are not allowed to load any photos of children under the age of 18 without WRITTEN permission from their parents. They also need to make sure that adults in photos are aware that the photos are going to be used on social media and that they have given their permission.

ACSA Compass Rose

ACSA are also requesting that all media, and any pamphlets for events for parishes or organisations, display the compass rose (as iindaba is now doing on our Masthead) so that anyone seeing these will know that the parish or organisation is part of ACSA.

Music of Life High Tea



Left - Niqui Cloete-Barrass singing 'Mid-life Crisis'.

Above - Winners of the Best Decorated Table ... well, after the show was over!

Fourteen tables, with eight people at each, were crowded into St Saviour's hall for the Music of Life High Tea on Saturday afternoon 12 September.

As always this year the Tea was a fund raiser for the soup kitchen and food parcels.

Niqui had almost everyone up and

dancing to 'Mamma Mia', and singing along to other favourites such as 'All about that Bass', 'Ever seen the Rain,' and 'Cabaret' which had all been chosen by the guests.

There were prizes for each table and Debbie Abader's 'Disco' table won the prize for the best dressed one.

Green Piece



"But you, mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home." Ezekiel 36:8

The more trees that are planted in an area the cleaner the air; the healthier the ground is made from the falling leaves decomposing; the quieter the surroundings as the leaves absorb sound; and more rain falls.

Those are the facts.

This has been proved in Israel where, as they have planted trees, the Lord has honoured his promise:

"I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs."

As the Jews have returned to the promised land (Gen 35:12), they have planted thousands of fruit trees and forests of indigenous trees. The agriculturalists consulted the Bible and planted in the areas where those plants and trees are mentioned.

They also obey the laws on leaving the ground fallow every seventh year and every year of jubilee (50 years) and the Lord has blessed them with abundant crops.

They also obey the law of giving of a tithe of their first fruits of their crops to the Levites (the priests) as their portion - a reminder to us that our tithe to the church is the first portion of our income and not the left over amount.

Happenings at St John's

Charles Qoto



Members of the staff at St John's sing 'God be with you 'til we meet again' to their Rector, Claire Phelps, as she goes on sabbatical. With her is retired Priest, Rob Penrith, who will have oversight of the parish while she is away.



Left - Assistant Priest Duma Caluza with his family when St John's bid him farewell on 23 August. He has moved to St Andrew's with St Anne's, KwaNobuhle and Xaba.

Upcoming events

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

THE CONCERNED CHURCH LEADERS IN THE NELSON MANDELA METRO
CALLS AND LEADS A

PUBLIC WORSHIP SERVICE

OF ALL CHURCHES IN THE METRO

VENUE:
NELSON MANDELA
STADIUM

1
NOVEMBER
2026
10H00

Contact us
BISHOP DR LELEKI AND BISHOP
NTANZANA
0834932539 AND 0833571165

As stated in the August *iindaba*, Bishop Grant encourages everyone to attend this important service after they have attended their parish service.

It will be great to have as many of the Body of Christ come together for worship and lift intercessory prayer for our Metro and the elections that will take place on 4 November.

St Paul's
Anglican Church's
Christmas Fete
Save The Date!
28 November 2026
9am to 2pm

16 Tucker Street,
Parsons Hill
Contact Rowan
082 997 4846

Arrive early for coffee and a
bacon and egg roll or boerie roll;
be first to get the bargains
at the variety of stalls.

Buy lunch of curry and rice or
pancakes ... and much more.

Lectonaries now available for order

ACSA Publishing

The Lectionary for 2026-2027 is now available from ACSA publishing department as our Diocesan Office is no longer handling orders.

It is available in two formats:

1 Lectionary 2027 - Soft cover printed edition @ R40 per copy

Available in English only

2 e-book edition at R30 per copy.

For the electronic book you need to order via the ACSA website –

www.anglicanchurchsa.org/publications

click on Lectionary 2027

choose e-book option,

complete all the details needed

place order

send an EFT in payment (use your surname as a reference)

and the e-book will be emailed to you.

Note: You need to have an e-reader programme on your computer to read this electronic copy.

Please place your order now - send an email to

orders@anglicanchurchsa.org.za

We will send a quote for the amount due and send the order on receipt of payment.

Beloved evangelist to visit Gqeberha

Since 1967 many in our Diocese have sat at Michael Cassidy's feet and listened in awe to his brilliant teaching and positive messages ... and bought his books. This great evangelist and teacher is visiting Gqeberha: Tuesday 13 October at 17h30 at Joy to the Nations.

You are cordially invited to be part of a significant and timely gathering where faith, leadership, and the future of our nation intersect.

Join Dr Michael Cassidy as he shares a powerful message of hope for South Africa, calling leaders, churches, and communities to unite in bringing transformation to our nation.

This is more than a meeting, it is a matter of urgency and national

importance.

We would highly appreciate your attendance and also ask you to please extend this invitation to friends, and fellow business and church leaders who share a heart for the restoration and spiritual renewal of South Africa.

Danica Dorasamy

Partnership and Relations
Manager | AE South Africa

danica@ae.org.za

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

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

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