

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Dear friends

We thank God for the season of Lent which allowed us to be spiritually nourished by Him. Our experience is that it is also a time of awareness of all kinds of temptations and challenges that we will have to endure. We thank God that we are still standing!

On Wednesday, 20 March, the Provincial staff at Bishopscourt and the diocesan staff at Braehead House had our annual quiet day led by Reverend Fred Hendricks.

The above-mentioned 2 verses stuck with me and became my focus. 'Now unto God who is able to do immeasurably more than what we can ask or imagine...'
Sometimes we worry too much about mundane and unchangeable things, we forget that our primary focus should always be to glorify God and uplift one another. Our worries at times do not allow us to see the wonders that God is already doing in our lives and in the lives of our communities. That same God can and will 'do immeasurably more than what we can ask or imagine according to his power that works in us, ...'. It is with that in mind that we give thanks to God.

Most congregations had their annual Vestry meetings, so allow me to thank the outgoing churchwardens and parish councillors for your contributions in the life of your parish and diocese. We now welcome the newly elected churchwardens and parish councillors as we wish you well for the road ahead. Be assured of my prayers for you.

We give thanks to God for the Synod of Bishops who met from 26 February to 1 March in our diocese and the privilege that some parishes had to have a bishop worshipping with you on Sunday 25. We pray that whatever we have decided will come to fruition.

It was so good to worship with the parish of Hout Bay on Sunday 17 March and to license Rev. Mzwabantu Magadla as the diocesan Church Men Society chaplain. After the service, we marched through the Hangberg community, praying with them for an end to Gender Based Violence.

As we approach Holy week, I want to invite you to join us as we will be marching through the streets of Hanover Park. We remember Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and pray for his triumphal entry into Hanover Park and other communities which are ravaged by gang violence and crime. The march is on Sunday March 24 at 3pm from the parish of St Dominic's, Hanover Park.

On Maundy Thursday, we will gather at St George's Cathedral at 10am for those ordained to Holy Orders to renew their vows and receive holy oils. Come and support your clergy.

From the evening of Maundy Thursday to Easter the church celebrates the Tridium, which we should see as one service - therefore, no dismissal until Easter - starting with washing of the feet and the last supper. On Good Friday we remember Jesus's suffering and crucifixion. Saturday evening or early Sunday morning we will be celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord. May you have a blessed Easter.

Remember, our Diocesan Mission Season starting on 7 April and ends on Pentecost with a diocesan Thanksgiving service 3pm at the Church of the Resurrection, Bonteheuwel. We've had a very good meeting with diocesan clergy and it was well received. We hope to have all the resources ready for distribution by next week.

I am looking forward with much excitement to our annual Diocesan Soccer tournament on 1 May 2024. Please make sure that your parish team is registered. If you don't have enough players in your parish, then join with your neighbouring parish or register as an Archdeaconry team but be there. This has always been one of the highlights of the year and it is not about who wins, but about spending time together as a diocese. So please, make a very special effort to be present.

As we move forward in faith to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, may we put the past in ashes and be renewed to do His work and will, remembering that God can do immeasurably more than what we can ask or imagine.

Christ is risen, we are risen.
Have a blessed Eastertide!

+Joshua