

***"Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ...Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord."
(John 20:19b-20)***

Dear Friends

A blessed Eastertide to you all.

We are journeying through the great 40 days when the resurrected Christ continues to appear to his disciples with a greeting of peace - shalom, salaam. This greeting and appearance is important, because it means that Jesus is no longer dead but has arisen from the dead; that though they deserted him on Good Friday, he has forgiven them and wants them to continue with this ministry long after he leaves them.

Dr. Allen Boesak said that Jesus's resurrection from death is God revolting against death, sin, evil and Satan. The darkness of sin is overcome by the light of Christ, where hope, justice, peace and love reigns.

It must have been difficult for some of the residents of Mfuleni, Langa and Du Noon to have hope in this risen Christ when, during this high festival of Easter, many found themselves homeless as their homes were ravaged by fires. We want to thank the 'Gift of the Givers', the City of Cape Town and others who came to aid and give new hope to the affected 1000+ people. We know that the plight of our informal and underprivileged communities is huge particular in this wintertime. We can expect more fires which will leave more people destitute, it is only the start of what could be a very cold and wet winter. This will bring its own challenges to many. It is in anticipation of this, that our newly formed Diocesan Social Responsibility Task Team is calling for your help so that we, as church, can reach out to the destitute. Parishes will receive communication regarding this initiative in the next week.

I was privileged to be part of a Diocesan-Hope Africa delegation who visited two schools in Hout Bay and blessed a few children with school shoes. This really brightened up the faces of those learners. Some of us were reminded of cold winters endured and the joy of having decent shoes during the cold winter months. Thanks to Reverend Miseka Mapukata, rector of St Peter's, Hout Bay, for arranging this visit and the donors for their generosity.

It is National and Provincial election season and though it is predicted that the voter turn-out will be low, it does not deter political parties from campaigning. My experience on Tuesday evening, at a live broadcast panel discussion on Crime and Violence in Hanover Park and on the Cape Flats, indicated that in such a discussion involving political parties the focus gets lost. They quarrel with each other at the cost of the plight of communities for an end to gang violence. It is gatherings like these which might help you decide whom to vote for. Who of these parties are concerned about the plight of all God's people, especially the marginalised. Let us, as church, be the constant presence who work for a better tomorrow.

I once again want to thank all those who have worked on 'the season of Mission' material as it is such a great resource for the diocese. If you are not yet using it in your parishes, then I want to encourage you to start using it. It focuses on the 5 marks of Mission for the Anglican Communion using the Sunday lectionary readings, give small group Bible study material as well as sermon

notes, etc. Don't miss out!

It was such a special occasion to accompany our Diocesan Mothers' Union as we, together with the dioceses of False Bay, Saldanha Bay and George could celebrate Lady Day and 120th anniversary of the MU – in George. Thanks to the diocese of George for their hospitality and for the wonderful atmosphere displayed by all present. Cape Town MU made me very proud. Well Done!

On Sunday, 21 April, Dean Michael Weeder will be retiring as dean of the cathedral and senior priest of the diocese. We thank God for his ministry at the Cathedral for the past 13 years and wish him well on this new journey of retirement. Thank you, Bonita, Chiara, Andile and Khanyisa for sharing Dean Michael with the church for all these years and may you now have him for yourselves. Our prayers are also with the Cathedral church as they enter a period of interregnum. We pray for the parish leadership as well as for those who will be conducting services there during this period. We also pray for the discernment process to find a new Dean, praying for God's wisdom on Archbishop Thabo and the advisory committee.

We are extremely happy because Reverend Kevin David and his family has finally arrived from Mauritius. He will be instituted as rector of St Aidan's, Lansdowne on Wednesday, 24 April at 19h00.

Reverend Philip Donald, the curate at the Church of the Resurrection, Bonteheuwel, has been appointed as rector of All Saints, Lansdowne and the Chapelry of St Patrick, Crawford. He will be instituted on Saturday, 1 June at 2pm at All Saints, Lansdowne.

Please keep these families in your prayers.

Our Diocesan Synod is less than 2 months away. Please keep it in your prayers as preparations are now in full swing. Pray for Archdeacon Terry Lester, the Synod manager and for the Synod Advisory Committee.

Let us be part of God's revolt/revolution against the forces of darkness to bring about God's kingdom of justice, peace and love.

***'In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'* (Matt 5:16)**

God bless!

+Joshua
Table Bay