

‘The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.’ (John 10:10)

Dear Friends

We have journeyed through the Great 50 days – from Easter to Pentecost – which has always been to me a period of preparation and growth for the rest of our liturgical year. As we journeyed from Easter and proclaimed that Christ is risen, we are now challenged to live this life in abundance and help others to do likewise. Remembering that we will never be able to experience abundant life until all God’s people experience it, and that is what we must strive for.

Our Diocesan Soccer Tournament, now known as the Diocesan Soccer Festival, was on 1 May, Workers Day. It is just becoming bigger and better. We want to thank Reverend Basil Davids, Steven Adriaanse and George Cozett for years of committed service to make the tournament to what it is today. This year, they also brought on board some younger members, whom we are confident will take this festival to even greater heights. The fellowship and camaraderie experienced on the day makes us all proud to be part of this diocesan family and therefore winners. We want to congratulate the Church of the Resurrection, Bonteheuwel, who were crowned winners of the under 14 and Youth competition. Well done! I know that our organizing team are already busy planning for something bigger and better which might go beyond the soccer festival as we know it now. Watch this space!

Our **Season of Mission** was from Easter to Pentecost and we want to thank Reverend Shaun and the Mission Team for preparing the liturgical and Bible Study material for us. I hope that all parishes were able to engage with it in one way or another. We’ve ‘concluded’ this step of our journey with a Praise and Worship service on the afternoon of Pentecost Sunday. Judging from the sharing of Archdeaconry representatives it was clear that people valued the initiative and are looking forward to more Bible Studies, etc. Please send your comments to Reverend Shaun so that the team can work on the way forward.

Our **National and Provincial elections** are days away and we are asking you to pray for a free and fair election. Please familiarize yourselves with the voting ballots, because, unlike other elections, when we had two ballot papers, National and Provincial, this time there will be three, an added Regional ballot. The regional ballot ensures that all provinces are represented in the National Assembly. This year, for the first time, we will also have independent candidates contesting. Please make it your civil duty to find out more and educate others before the elections. Let us make this election a topic of earnest prayer as we are aware of the potential chaos, which we don’t want. Our vote must be able to steer our country in the right direction away from poverty, joblessness, lack of infrastructure, lawlessness, etc. to a land of freedom, prosperity, quality education, good infrastructure, equal opportunities,

justice for all and true democracy. Your vote can make that difference, so please go and vote on 29 May 2024.

On Sunday, 2 June we will be gathering at St Saviours', Claremont to participate in the **diaconal ordination service of Keegan Davids and Avron Flowers**. Please keep them in prayer as they will be on retreat from Wednesday 29 May to Sunday, 2 June 2024. Pray also for Reverend Moeketsi Motojane, our retreat conductor and preacher. Keegan will serve as deacon at St Saviour's, Claremont and Avron at St Cyprian's, Retreat.

Every three years the diocese gathers in Synod to reflect on the last 3 years and to discern the will of God for us as we move forward. This is a very important gathering for us as **Diocesan Synod** is the highest decision-making body in our diocese and all parishes and clergy are represented there. We ask for your earnest prayers as we will meet from 13-15 June 2024 at St Cyprian's, Retreat. The opening service is on Thursday, 13 June at 19h00 and it is open to everyone to attend. So be there. The first Agenda book is with your parish representatives so feel free to peruse the matters that we will be dealing with.

Our theme is: **"WITNESSING TO AND WORKING TOWARDS GOD'S NEW CREATION"**

We have sent the Synod Prayer to all parishes, so make sure that it is part of your daily prayers as well as your parish corporate prayers whenever you meet.

Please prayer for **Reverend Philip Donald**, now assistant at Resurrection, Bonteheuwel as he will be instituted as the next rector of the Parish of All Saints, Lansdowne and the Chapelry of St Patrick's, Crawford. The service is on Saturday, 1 June at 2pm at All Saints, Lansdowne.

Please pray for **Reverend Jeremy Smith, on his appointment as Diocesan Young People's Ministry chaplain**. Also, keep in prayer the appointment process of our next YPM convenor as we are busy with the final interviews before making the appointment.

So friends, we have much to give God thanks for and we are also confident that God will bless us as we reach out to bring about his kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

God Bless!

