

Dear friends

So much has happened since our last edition and I just want to encourage us with Paul's words to the Phillipians.

***"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you."* (Phillipians 4:8-9)**

It is so easy to be drawn into the negative but Paul asks us to focus and do that which is life-giving, with the assurance that God is with us.

We've had a successful national and provincial election with no outright winner. A Government of National Unity is being negotiated and our prayers are that the needs of all the people of this country will be the primary motivation when deals are being struck. The month of June is Youth Month and it is my wish that the young people and children will be high on the agenda of our new government. We pray for our President, Parliamentarians and Premiers of all our provinces that they may govern justly. We all deserve a better tomorrow.

We give thanks to God for a very fruitful synod – first in-person, in one venue synod, since the beginning of covid. Our last one was a hybrid one where people met in hubs. All the resolutions can be found in this edition, it is now our responsibility to implement these decisions. I hope that those who attended for the first time, left there with a greater appreciation of how the Diocese operates at the highest level. Thanks to all who worked so hard behind the scenes to make this synod a memorable experience.

Congratulations to the recipients of the Diocesan Award: John Solomons of the Church of the Reconciliation, Manenberg, for his contribution at parish level and Cameron Benjamin who has served the diocese faithfully as the chairperson of the Diocesan Finance Committee for the past 10 years. John Gardener was made a member of the Order of Simon of Cyrene, for his contribution in education and as a hymn writer. This is highest honour for a layperson in ACSA.

On Saturday, 22 June, we had the joy of instituting Reverend Oswald Cloete as rector of the Church of the Resurrection, Bonteheuwel, after he had been priest-in-charge for almost a year. We pray that the parish will grow wonderfully under his leadership.

On Sunday, 23 June, I had the wonderful privilege of leading the 'Soil Breaking' service at Eluvukweni, Crossroads. This is a congregation that has been in existence for the past 44 years and will finally get their permanent church building. For years, they have been worshipping in an informal structure, that didn't always protect parishioners against the forces of nature. It is our hope, that in a few months' time,

they will be able to move into their new building. This is not the complete structure that we had envisaged but, due to financial constraints and pressed by the desperate need, we are able to erect enough of a secure building, with the hope that this will motivate parishes and individuals to pledge financially for the church building and hall/educare centre to become a reality. Once off or monthly contributions will be most welcome. The amount doesn't matter. For banking details, please contact Lay Canon Charleen Van Rooyen, our diocesan administrator or Canon Rachel Mash. I want to reiterate that this was the only informal church structure in our diocese, let us put shoulder to the wheel to help the congregation of Eluvukweni, Crossroads to have their church building and hall/educare centre.

As we are in Youth Month, I can announce that after a long process, our new YPM co-ordinator is Siphe Nyhaba and he will be starting on the 3 July 2024. We pray that this will be a wonderful time of building upon what there is and into the future. We pray for the Chaplain, Rev Jeremy Smith, the YPM council and the parishes with whom Siphe will be working. The young people are our investment, may this ministry grow from strength to strength.

I will be on sabbatical leave from 1 July to 31 August. In my absence the Archdeacons will deal pastoral matters and the office of the Diocesan Administrator will deal with administrative and financial matters. It has been a while since my last sabbatical, so my intention is to enjoy it thoroughly.

As we journey forth may we continue to follow the voice of God amidst the noise of the world by following the advice of St Paul and live positive lives as individuals and Christian communities.

God bless!

+Joshua - Table Bay