

Dear Friends

"Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering."

Hebrews 13:1–3

The month of June is filled with occasions of both celebration and remembrance. Among them are:

- **29 May – 5 June:** National Child Protection Week – Protecting and valuing children.
- **5 June:** World Environment Day – Caring for God's creation.
- **15 June:** World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – Honouring and protecting the elderly.
- **16 June:** National Youth Day – Encouraging and empowering our young people.
- **20 June:** World Refugee Day – Welcoming and caring for strangers.
- **21 June:** Father's Day.
- **26 June:** International Day Against Drug Abuse – Choosing life, health and wholeness.

Often it is only when we are asked to commemorate or celebrate a particular cause that we pause to recognise its significance and the impact it has on our communities.

As winter sets in with its cold and wet weather, the struggles of those who are homeless, elderly or ill become even more evident. I give thanks to all our churches that faithfully operate soup kitchens and food banks, offering practical care to those in need. This is also an opportunity to observe Jolly Jersey and Elder Awareness Sunday, reminding us to stay connected with our elderly neighbours and parishioners so that none experience loneliness or neglect. We must also continue to raise our voices in support of affordable housing for those who are homeless or living in overcrowded conditions.

The wellbeing of our children must remain a priority. We should do everything within our power to ensure that they are safe, protected from harm, and know that they are loved, valued and included.

On 16 June, South Africa marked the 50th anniversary of the Soweto Uprising, when students courageously protested against Bantu Education. Their actions spread across the country, inspiring widespread resistance that ultimately paved the way for our first democratic elections in 1994.

I would like to thank the Diocesan Young People's Ministry for holding a dialogue on Youth Day. They reflected not only on the struggles of the past but also on the challenges facing young people today, while seeking meaningful responses to those challenges. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Someone wisely observed that while adults often want young people to understand the journey that led to our freedom in 1994, it is equally important that we listen to the realities and struggles they face today. I encourage every congregation to foster intergenerational

conversations so that we may truly live as one family, supporting one another and recognising that no one is more important than another.

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:2)

These words are especially relevant as we witness increasing xenophobic actions across our country. It is deeply troubling to see South Africans turning against fellow Africans, accusing them of being in the country illegally, engaging in crime, or taking away opportunities. While there are legitimate concerns about immigration, we know that sweeping accusations are often untrue and that vulnerable people are frequently used as scapegoats.

Our frustration should be directed towards those responsible for addressing these challenges, while we continue to extend Christian hospitality and compassion. I urge us all to welcome and support our African brothers and sisters, many of whom worship alongside us in our own parishes. Around 30 June, when protests are anticipated, I encourage churches to be places of refuge and protection where possible. Please support affected parishioners or connect with organisations assisting those who are displaced or in need.

As we celebrated Father's Day, we gave thanks for fathers and all those who faithfully fulfil fathering roles in our families and communities. The men's ministries within our parishes have an important role to play in nurturing faith and supporting families. I invite representatives of all men's fellowships to meet with me on **Saturday, 4 July 2026, at 09h30**. For further information, please contact Brigitte.

Please also keep the **Revds Ryan Baatjies and Sithembiso Mbuqe** in your prayers as they are ordained to the priesthood on **Saturday, 27 June, at 10h30 at St George's Cathedral, Cape Town**. Parking will be available at Cape Town High School, with a shuttle service provided for those who require assistance.

Our first IEC voter registration weekend has now passed, and I trust that many of you have already registered for the upcoming local government elections in November. If not, you may still register online. Let us value the democracy that so many sacrificed to achieve by exercising our responsibility to vote. Together we can help shape a better future by electing leaders who will serve our communities faithfully and ensure that citizens receive the services they deserve.

Finally, I ask that you keep our upcoming Diocesan Synod in your prayers—especially our Archbishop, who will preside, those working tirelessly behind the scenes, and all parish and organisational representatives who will attend. May the Holy Spirit guide every conversation and decision as we seek God's will for our Diocese.

As we continue our journey together, let us remember that in God's household there are no strangers. May we love one another as Christ has loved us.

God bless.

+Joshua