iindaba

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The Bishop writes ...

Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, I want to extend my heartfelt greetings to every one of you. The turning of the calendar is not just a change in time but an opportunity for new beginnings, renewed hope, and deep reflection.

The year that has passed – 2023 - brought with it many challenges, but it also revealed the incredible strength and resilience of our faith community. Together, we faced adversity with unwavering faith, and our unity as a diocese has been a source of inspiration for me and countless others.

The New Year is a time for resolutions and fresh starts. It is a time when we set goals, both personal and spiritual, and strive to be the best versions of ourselves. Let us resolve to deepen our relationship with God and with one another, to be more compassionate, and to seek opportunities for service and love.

As we move forward into 2024, let us remember that we are a family of faith, bound together by the love of Christ. In times of joy, we celebrate together, and in times of difficulty, we support one another. This spirit of community is a testament to the strength of our faith.

Let us also take a moment to pray for those who are suffering, whether from illness, loss, or other hardships. May we be instruments of God's comfort and healing in their lives.

The New Year is a blank page, waiting for the story of our journey together to be written. Let it be a story of love, hope, and a deepening of our faith. Let us be beacons of light in the darkness, exemplifying the teachings of Christ.

I encourage you to reflect on the past year, give thanks for the blessings we have received, and look forward to the opportunities that await us. May the Lord's grace guide our steps and fill our hearts with love and peace.

In the coming year, I pray that the diocese continues to grow in faith, in love, and in service to others. Let us be a source of hope for our community, and may our actions reflect the profound love of Christ.

I wish you and your loved ones a blessed and happy New Year. May 2024 be a year of joy, growth, and spiritual fulfilment for each one of us.

Yours in Christ,

+Edward Port Elizabeth

An opportunity for new beginnings



Enjoying a laugh with Bishop Eddie after the Ordination Service are the Dean, Sharon Nell; new Deacon, Sharon Kleinsmidt; new Priest, Christopher Prince; new Deacons, Robert Falconer, Patience Gogo and Thembela Sixaba; and Archdeacon Nicolette Leonard.

Lives must emulate a Holy God

On Saturday 16 December four Deacons and a Priest were ordained by Bishop Eddie: to the Priesthood - Christopher Prince and Deacons - Robert Falconer, Patience Gogo, Sharon Kleinsmidtand Thembela Sixaba.

In her sermon to the newly ordained clergy, Nicolette Leonard, Rector of St Mary Magdalel, reminded them of the words from the Isaiah passage that had been read, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty." (vs 6) She said that Isaiah realised that he was called by a Holy God and confessed his sinfulness, and was cleansed. She then reminded everyone to realise their own sin and wretchedness and confess to the Lord in order to be cleansed.

She went on to challenge the new clergy to live Holy lives, to love God, to serve Him, represent Him without faking their commitment and to be Holy in speech, conduct, marriage and finances. They must also be willing to go wherever He sends them and to do everything without discrimination and at any time when called upon. She reminded them that they are not sent to be popular, but to stay true to the Gospel of truth that only Jesus can save lives and to proclaim His character and to live lives that proclaim His character and image. She concluded by saying they were never to doubt the role they are called to play and to never lose confidence in His power.



Join SA Belongs to Jesus

on Telegram

and pray for SA for two minutes three times a day.

Begin praying for the 2024 elections -

that God will put upon the heart of every Christian to vote!

That they will vote for good, God-fearing people who will rule with justice and integrity.

Bishop Eddie visits St Helena Diocese



On page 4 read all about Bishop Eddie ascending the 699 steps of Jacob's Ladder in St Helena. He accomplished the feat on 5 January as a fundraiser for St James' Church in Jamestown.

In this photo he is standing on about step 10 and *iindaba* wonders if he was putting in some serious practice.

New Year 2024



The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Num 6:24-26 NIV

Do African lives matter?

Our media are full of the conflicts/ genocide in the Middle East and Europe but there is a deathly hush about our brothers and sisters in Christ who are being slaughtered by Moslems in African countries.

Does the UN condemn the human rights violations/ genocide in these countries?

Does our church call us to pray for them?

Does anyone care for the persecuted church or people in Africa?

It seems the answer is a resounding "No!"

Open Doors 2023 figures for Sub-Saharan Africa, and Nigeria especially, account for the bulk of the over 5 500 Christian deaths recorded - and already this year the persecution/ genocide has continued.

Of the over 5 500 Christians who were killed last year because of their faith, 90 percent were Nigerian, according to Crux and the International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law (Intersociety), an NGO headquartered in Eastern Nigeria.

... Add Ethiopia, Sudan, Congo ...!

Call to prayer

This year let us make a concerted effort to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ ... especially in Africa.



God bless Africa
Protect her children
Transform her leaders
Heal her communities
Restore her dignity
And give her peace
For Jesus Christ's sake.
Amen

Contribution acknowledged by the Diocese



The BEO, Fumi Kula, Bishop Eddie and the Dean, Sharon Nell standing behind two new recipients of the Order of the Diocese - Edward Mtyobile and Nomalungelo Ntlokwana.

For their work within the Diocese, Edward Mtyobile, a member of Holy Spirit in KwaZakhele and Nomalungelo Ntlokwana, a member of St Peter's in Zwide, were honoured with the Order of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth on Saturday 24 November.

St Mary's Charity Shop promotion

Patty Bosman



Sharon Williams and Karen Nell really enjoyed themselves at the Charity Shop promotion.

A fun afternoon was enjoyed at the St Mary's Charity shop on the afternoon of 25 November.

There was a good turnout and all the ticket holders received a refreshing cup of tea/coffee and a muffin as well as a chance to win a lucky draw, first prize being a substantial grocery hamper and second prize a smaller one. There were also mystery prizes given out.

Shoppers enjoyed browsing and purchasing all the wonderful bargains to be had.

A successful day all in all. Thanks so much to those who supported the event.

The view from pulpit and pew

❖ *iindaba* is sad to report on the passing of:
- Roi Simpson, younger son of our editor, Frankie, on 27 December;
- Retired Priest Jackie Trollip.
-Ernold Wills, a longstanding member of the Finance Committee and of Diocesan Council;
- Sarah Edgecombe, daughter of the late AS Troughton, a former Rector of Holy Trinity.
May Yeshua enfold and circle their families with His love as they mourn their loss.

❖ *iindaba* is glad to report that our DTS is back in harness after hip surgery but asks for prayers for Dean Sharon Nell undergoing surgery to a foot on 26 January.

❖ *iindaba* hears that the home of Bishop's secretary, Adelé Erasmus, was broken into just before Christmas - leaving the family with rather a bleak Christmastide.

Clergy on the move

• Newly ordained Priest Christopher Prince will serve in the Parish of St Michael and All Angels.
• Nelwy ordained Deacons:
- Robert Douglas Falconer will serve in Parish of St Francis Bay;
- Patience Bulelwa Gogo will serve in the Parish of St Timothy;
- Sharon Kleinsmidt will serve in the Parish of the Sunday's River Valley;
- Thembela Harriett Sixaba will serve in the Parish of St Matthew's.

• Relton Groepe is now the Rector of only St Mark and St John in Parkside, having stepped down from being a Team Rector;
- Holy Trinity in Central is reverting to being cared for by retired Priest David Grobbelaar.

GFS World Deputy Oresident visits the Diocese

Veronica Kaibe



GFS World Deputy President, Thembeka Phama, and outgoing GBFS SA National President, Zanele Ntenetyana, flank the Diocesan President of MU, Veronica Kaibe.

The GFS World Deputy President, Thembeka Phama (from the Diocese of Johannesburg) attended the National Elective Council meeting of the Girls' and Boys' Friendly Society (GBFS) held at St Stephen's in New Brighton during October.

National Council members representing the Dioceses of Cape Town, Johannesburg, Mbhashe, Mthatha, Mzimvubu, Natal and Port Elizabeth, attended the meeting where a new National President, Dr Rebotsamang Shego (from the Diocese of Freestate), and Executive Council were elected at the close. They were then commissioned before a full congregation by the GBFS chaplain, Daniswa Blouw, and clergy from St Stephen's.

The outgoing President, Zanele Ntenetyana, presented her report and highlighted some of the 2022-2023 achievements which included spiritual growth of both members and leaders; enhancing strategies of fundraising, skills development, life skills programmes and career guidance; and the strengthening of communication, partnerships and support among other guilds.

Members were reminded of the World objectives, which are climate change curbing, the support of the campaign against abuse of women and children (25th of each month) and spiritual growth.

The Diocesan Mothers' Union President, Veronica Kaibe, was an invited guest and encouraged the members with a verse from Psalm 133, *"Behold how good and how lovely it is, when people live together in unity."*

Tag lines!



Nobody can do for little children what
grandparents do.
Grandparents sort of
sprinkle stardust
over the lives of little children.



Along the road to King Shaka airport!

A quiet time for reflection

As always, St John's in Walmer was full for the annual Celtic Eucharist on Sunday night 5 November, led by retired Priest Rob Penrith.



Pam and Rick Long enjoying tea with Gay Penrith after the Celtic Eucharist.

This service is a time when many in our Diocese gather to relax in the quietness and beauty before the Christmas rush begins. A time to reflect and enjoy the Celtic prayers, hymns and traditions handed down over hundreds of years by such wonderful Saints as Cuthbert, Patrick, Aiden of Lindisfarne and Columba.



Farewell

Zandile Mtsewu

On 25 December it was a bittersweet service for Self-supporting Priest Siphiwo Salman (left) and his family as they move to Somerset East.

Newly ordained Deacon, Thembela Sixaba will be assisting our Rector Mzixolo Nodwele at St Matthias.

Hymn festival for 70 year celebration

Jill Bromiley

On Sunday 19 November St Hugh's celebrated 70 years of the present church building. What is now the Mayo Hall was the original church building, built in 1925.

A beautiful Hymn Festival was held in the afternoon, with the organist, Ian Harrison, having requested the congregation to hand in their favourite hymn requests. A bit of fun was enjoyed when stars were handed out for the congregation to wave during the singing of 'Shine Jesus Shine'. Other hymns included 'Peace like a River /It is well with my Soul' and 'Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer.'

Ian showed off his skill on the newly tuned organ by playing a seven minute Toccata

The festival service was followed by a birthday tea and a delicious cake, which took pride of place.



Showing off the 70th birthday cake are the Rector, Andrea Potgieter; Chelsey Matthews; retired Priest, Howard Lancaster; Max September and Ricardo Franse who make up part of the Executive.

Furthering our link

Bishop Eddie writes on his visit to our Link Diocese of St Helena.



Left - Midnight Service on St Helena Island.

Below - Bishop Eddie and Nicky withretired priest, Ronnie Allwright and Alwylene who are ministering in the Diocese of St Helena.



Nicky and I were privileged to visit our Link Diocese of St Helena on an invitation from Bishop Dale Bowers.

St Helena has been our link for many years and it is my and Bishop Dale's desire to further form and cement this link particularly with a clergy exchange program.

Our visit coincided with the need to help over Christmas services. The Diocese comprises three Parishes, each with four churches. Currently, the Revd Ronnie Allwright and his wife Alwylene are assisting in the Diocese and will have been joined by now by the Revd Griff and Opal Moses.

It was good to be actively involved in parish ministry at the church of St James in Jamestown. It is the oldest Anglican Church in the Southern Hemisphere. The other three churches of that parish are St John's (Jamestown), St Mary's (Briars), St Peter's (Sandy Bay) and St Michael's (Rupurt's Valley). The latter church is the place where 336 African slaves were redefined.

As the parish vicar I led a fundraiser by climbing Jacob's Ladder – all 699 steps!

St Helenian's – or 'Saints' as they are referred to – live ubuntu. Whether walking or driving, you are constantly greeting and being greeted by people.

Further to this, the local people will notice the stranger who is first welcomed and then reassured that they're available should you require their help. We came across an apt adage that sums up the kindness of St Helenians, "You arrived on the island as a visitor and leave as a friend."

Saying goodbye was not easy. Experiencing the warm heart of the jewel of the Atlantic sea is etched forever in our hearts.

Christmas lunch for seniors

Philile Lobese



Senior members of St Timothy's in Motherwell enjoying a special breakfast.

The Mothers' Union organised a Christmas lunch for the senior citizens of St Timothy's on Sunday 3 December. The occasion was well attended, delicious food was served and all our elderly received gifts.

Combined breakfast enjoyed

Ruby Jewel



Members of St Philip's and the Cathedral enjoy their combined parishes breakfast.

St Mary's Cathedral and St Philip's Church treated our seniors and members of the choir to a scrumptious breakfast, prepared by Rene Leo on Wednesday 6 December.

The breakfast was to show our appreciation for what they do, and have done, to uphold the Anglo-Catholic tradition, constantly reminding us of the 'Anglican Way' as laid out in the book written by the late Roy Snyman tssf.

Mother Christmas, Julia Bell, and Father Christmas, our Rector, Fumi Kula, gifted the seniors with a small token of appreciation for their loyalty to the Lord and church.

The seniors were entertained by choir members who sang karaoke and added a fun element to the morning. Fumi added to the fun going around to each table taking comical character pictures with the seniors.

Our churches are blessed to have such talented parishioners who use their God given talent to put a smile on the people's faces and love in their hearts.

A wise man once said, "Be a very good human being. There is a lot of opportunity in this area, and not a lot of competition."

GBV activism launch

Juby Mashaya



Members of St Matthew's march against Gender Based Violence.

On Sunday 26 November St Matthew's Parish launched the 16 Days of Activism against Women and Children Abuse and for AIDS awareness.

Church members met in front of the Engen garage where they started their Sunday service with prayers by members of the different guilds. These included a prayer for children, a prayer for people with disabilities, a prayer for drugs and substance abuse users, a prayer for people living with HIV and AIDS and a prayer against gender based violence and femicide.

The congregation then marched in silence from the Engen garage to the church building carrying placards that displayed the intended messages against GBV.

Sergeant Yengo from KwaDwesi police station was the guest speaker and spoke about Gender Based Violence.

Candle of remembrance lit

During the service on Sunday 3 December, in celebration of World AIDS Day, a candle was lit for all those who are infected, or affected, by HIV/AIDS and for those who have lost their lives. Red Aids ribbons/ bows were given to all the parishioners present as part of awareness and support.

Seniors enjoyed brunch

Jill Bromiley



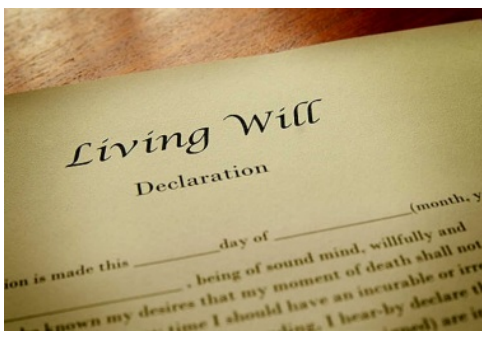
At the brunch William Everard, Zelda Broedelat, Sandra Langeveldt and Nina King are served coffee by their hostess Liane Hyman.

St Hugh's held a Seniors' Brunch after the Service on 3 December.

All parishioners over the age of 65 were invited and enjoyed a delicious breakfast, followed by fun and dancing.

A testimony and plea

Frankie Simpson



Many of you are aware that my younger son Roi died of a heart attack on 24 November. He was taken to hospital by his colleagues at work and, although he had already been dead for 20 minutes, and was in fixed eye mode, the doctors had to try and revive him because he had been brought into Emergency. After 10 minutes of trying the doctors did revive him, but although his brain was already dead, they put him onto life-support.

After ten days on life-support, during which time he had seizures which continued to cause more damage, the neurosurgeon did another MRI scan and EEG on 4 December. This confirmed Roi was brain dead.

The following afternoon I visited him as usual, and took his brother Doug and wife Bianca, and we all said our goodbyes and left in peace, thinking the ventilator would be 'switched off' the following morning.

This peace, given only by the Lord Jesus, carried me through the following weeks … because, instead of his wife giving permission to take Roi off the ventilator, she chose to continue visiting him each morning, and even when his organs started giving in, she refused permission.

Eventually, on 27 December he was allowed to go in peace so the family and I could begin to have closure.

Living Will

This is my plea: my husband Ken had a Living Will which, when he went into a coma and his organs began giving in, I was able to produce, and he was allowed to die in peace and quiet.

Please everyone who is reading this, make sure you have a Living Will. State whether you can be revived at all, or not once 12 or 15 minutes have past (brain damage begins 12 minutes after death). State whether you can be put onto life-support if your brain is dead … and any other directions.

Also, please make sure all next of kin have a copy of your Will, because I hope you never have to endure the agony I have just gone through.

New CR Superior



Bishop Paddy with Sister Neheng; the Community of the Resurrection Chaplain, Percy Chinganga; newly installed Mother Superior, Kekeletso; and Sisters Carol and Zelma.

On Friday morning 19 January the Community of the Resurrection in Makhanda welcomed their new Mother Superior, Kekeletso. She was installed by Bishop Paddy and assisted by their Chaplain, Percy Chinganga.

In line with their Constitution, former Mother, Zelma, stood down from the position, because she had served her full term.

Green Piece

Reaping the benefits of sustainable gardening



John Charakupa, with the help of Gail Smit, was caught working hard in the vegetable garden at St Saviour's.

St Saviour's is reaping the benefits from a wonderful vegetable garden which is using the Farming God's Way formula.

No pesticides are being used and the vegetables are delicious, bug free and fresh. Whilst the Soup Kitchen is in recess over Christmastide the vegetables are being harvested and sold for funds in preparation for buying the goodies needed when the recess is over.

Happy memories



Dean Sharon Nell checks the music before playing her Tenor Horn.

When the Salvation Army band arrived at St Saviour's to play at their Carol Service on Sunday night 3 December the Rector, Sharon Nell, was very pleased to be asked to join them.

Sharon grew up as a member of the Salvation Army and played in the band - so it was a lovely walk down memory lane for her as she enjoyed retuning her skills on the Tenor Horn.

She also joined the band when they played at the Boardwalk on 23 December.

Besides her musical prowess, many years ago Sharon released a CD showing her talent as a singer.

Setting an example:

... Youth do clean up

Joy Lancaster



Young Cross Trainers from HTC clean up the church grounds and surrounding area.

On 6 December 2023, the Holy Trinity Church Cross Trainers teen ministry group met at the church grounds for a work party. The day started with clearing out an outside storage area on the premises and continued with litter pick-up on Havelock Square and around the wall of the grounds.

The young people of HTC were setting an example for believers by their conduct (1 Timothy 4v12).

The day ended with a pizza party and playing a few rounds of Jenga. A good day all round - a time of building bonds of friendship combined with the care and upkeep of our precious property.

... Clergy help with Service Delivery

Fumi Kula



Filling in potholes along Van Der Stel Street in Kabega Park, are the BEO, Fumi Kula, Ds Robert-John de Kock and Adriaan Knoetze.

When the potholes get big enough to harm your car, it really becomes a time for Christians to become involved in Service Delivery.

This is what the Dominee of the Nooitgedacht NG Kerk in Kabega, Robert-John de Kock; our Bishop's Executive Officer, Fumi Kula; Adriaan Knoetze and Willem Wiid did when they filled potholes in the street.

Using the tar mixture from Vistarus Mission Station in Sydenham for repairs helps towards providing accommodation for people who are struggling. Situated at 1 Ambrose Street, Sydenham, it serves the community by taking in destitute people (men, women or households) on a live-in programme.

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