iindaba

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The Bishop writes ...

Why we need to vote



Bisho Eddie asks that every member of the Diocese, who is old enough to vote, to be responsible and vote.

As Christians, the question of whether to vote in elections, including the upcoming general election on May 29, 2024, involves a thoughtful reflection on our faith, our responsibilities, and our role in society. Voting is not only a civic duty but can also be seen as an expression of our commitment to the common good, to justice, and the values we hold dear as followers of Christ.

Biblical Principles:

The Bible encourages believers to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). Voting provides an opportunity to influence society towards these values. Proverbs 29:2 states, *"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn."* Participating in elections is a way to support leaders who promote righteousness and justice.

Responsibility and Stewardship:

As stewards of God's creation, Christians are called to be responsible citizens. Romans 13:1-7 instructs us to respect governing authorities as they are instituted by God. Voting is a way to engage in the process of selecting those authorities and ensuring that they govern in a manner consistent with biblical values.

Promoting the Common Good:

Jesus teaches us to love our neighbours as ourselves (Mark 12:31). Voting allows us to advocate for policies and leaders that will benefit society, particularly the marginalized and oppressed. It is a way to express our love and concern for the wellbeing of our communities.

Practical Considerations

Informed Decision-Making:

It is crucial for Christians to be well-informed about the candidates and issues. This means going beyond party lines and slogans to understand the policies and their implications for justice, equality, and the common good. Prayerful consideration and discernment are essential.

Engagement and Advocacy:

Voting is one aspect of civic engagement. Christians are also called to be advocates for justice and to hold leaders accountable. This means staying engaged in the political process beyond the election, participating in community initiatives, and being a voice for the voiceless.

Unity and Witness:

The way Christians engage in politics can either strengthen or harm the witness of the Church. It is important to approach political discussions with humility, respect, and a willingness to listen. Our political engagement should reflect the love and unity that Christ prayed for (John 17:21).

In conclusion, voting in the upcoming general election is a significant opportunity for Christians in South Africa to influence the future direction of their nation. By participating thoughtfully and prayerfully, we can contribute to a society that upholds the values of justice, mercy, and love. While individual choices at the polls may vary, the overarching goal should be to advance the common good and reflect the character of Christ in our civic responsibilities.

+Edward Port Elizabeth

16 June Youth Day



And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."

Luke 2:52 NIV

My child, listen when your father corrects you. Don't neglect your mother's instruction. What you learn from them will crown you with grace and be a chain of honour around your neck.

Prov 1:8-9 NLT



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

RIP two Diocesan stalwarts

Frank Hardy

21 March 1922 - 8 May 2024

A devout member of the Cathedral for over 60 years, Frank Hardy, died peacefully at home on 8 May.

Born in the UK he joined the Royal Air Force (RAF) on his 18th birthday and was a signaller. In 1941 he was posted to Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) to train pilots.

He met his wife, Winifred at a dance in Manchester in the UK and returned to Zimbabwe where their children, Graham, Elizabeth, Diane (who passed away in 2000) and David were born.

He moved to Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha) in 1970 with his family where he joined the Cathedral and became an active member.

He had 11 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Representatives from the SA Air Force Association (SAAFA) and the SA Legion attended his funeral and gave him a final salute of, "We will remember him."



Frank Hardy enjoying the celebrations for his 100th birthday at the Cathedral. He is seen with the churchwarden, James Nherera, and Stacey Bell. At the time he was still very active and walked every day.

Frances May Beckley

8 May 1927 - 16 May 2024

Frances grew up in the Pietermaritzburg area and moved to Gqeberha as secretary to Baildon Jersey Farm where she met Athol Beckley. They married and she moved to the family farm Draaifontein, near Maitland River Mouth.

She immersed herself in the farm and the little church, St Alban's, on the farm. Athol's grandfather, Joseph Beckley, had donated a piece of land to the Anglican Church on which the chapel was built.

Frances was a member of the Farmers' Association where she was Secretary and then became the Chair. She attended the Eastern Cape Agricultural Union meeting in 1983 and was the only woman delegate among 170 men.

She was also very involved in the St Alban's Women's Guild and was part of the team of women who served teas at the monthly Farmers' Auction.

She is survived by her children Lynnath, Evan, Christopher and grandchildren.



Frances Beckley at St Alban's Chapel, cutting her cake on her 90th birthday. Behind her are her younger son Christopher Beckley and Philip Horwood (who passed away last year).

Discussing ‘A Piece of Ground’

Anno Domini describe their film as: ‘A Piece of Ground’ reveals South Africa’s complex history, a 300 year tale etched with the pain of land dispossession, echoes of chattel slavery, and the scars of forced removals that continue to haunt the nation to this day.



Sesihle Manzini of Anno Domini putting questions to the panel consisting of Prof Janet Cherry, Bishop Dr Sox Leleki, Palesa Kadi and Ds Dr Gustav Classen - who is replying to her question.

On the evening of Ascension Day, 9 May, NMB Christian leaders joined many others to watch a challenging film, ‘A Piece of Ground’, produced by Anno Domini.

This was followed by a panel discussion with Sesihle Manzini of Anno Domini putting questions to the panel consisting of Prof Janet Cherry of Nelson Mandela University; Dr Sox Leleki, the Methodist Bishop of Grahamstown Synod; Palesa Kadi of the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture; and Ds Dr Gustav Classen of the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk.

The film traces our brutal history of land dispossession from the time that Jan van Riebeeck handed pockets of land where the San people lived and grazed their animals, around Bishopscourt and Protea Valley, to the Free Burghers. Thus began the colonial move deeper and deeper into southern Africa where they took land for their towns and farms - from the Dutch colonialism, through to British rule and culminating in apartheid.

The film also touches on the introduction of various laws, including the franchise laws covering who could vote, the Poll Tax and the Land Act of 1913. All these laws were aimed at making sure the best farming land was kept for the white farmers.

During the panel discussion Janet spoke of our city’s dark history of moving the labour force to New Brighton and how the Poll Tax and Glen Grey Act have affected our economy today.

Bishop Leleki reminded everyone that all land belongs to God and that He gave strict instructions in the Bible, in Leviticus 25:8ff, about the restitution of land during the Year of Jubilee, every 50 years.

The Church was challenged on what they are are doing with all the land they own - it was felt that the Church should be working land, not owning it.

Ds Gustav said that NGK farmers are being encouraged to give land to their workers and to train them in agriculture so that they can prosper.

Palesa spoke of the statues and symbols that remind Africans of their dark past and the need to continue to change names of places that bring pain. She said that to Africans land is both cultural and spiritual so they cannot live in high-rise buildings. She also said that they need their graves and that she was calling for a public holiday to honour Ancestors.

The final thought coming through was that the Church must be the prophetic voice, working together as one, to call for land, with Title Deeds, to be redistributed.

St Mary Magdalene members enjoy team building session

Viwe Dikeni



Standing - Lutho Mbambaza (Treasurer); Archdeacon Lulameni Ngesi (Chaplain); Noluvuyo Qumza (Vice President); Rector of St Timothy’s, Philile Lobese; Viwe Dikeni (Secretary). Sitting - Nomawethu Boya (Social Responsibility), Ziphelele Ndlovu (President) and Zodwa Mpinda (Organiser).

On Saturday 16 March the St Mary Magdalene Diocesan Executive Committee held their first team building session. It was held at St Timothy’s in Motherwell, and was facilitated by the Rector Philile Lobese.

The morning was quite interactive and educational covering various aspects of groups, team work and characters.

A big thank you to our Chaplain, Lulameni Ngesi for organising such an enlightening and fun team building and Philile Lobese for leading such an informative session.

Successful Lady Day

Veronica Kaibe



Members of the Mothers’ Union with their banners in St Matthew’s, KwaMagxaki.

On Sunday afternoon 24 March members of the Mothers’ Union gathered at St Matthew’s in KwaMagxaki for their annual Lady Day service. The service celebrates the annunciation of the Virgin Mary and the theme this year was ‘God lifts up the lowly.’

Beautifully crafted pulpit

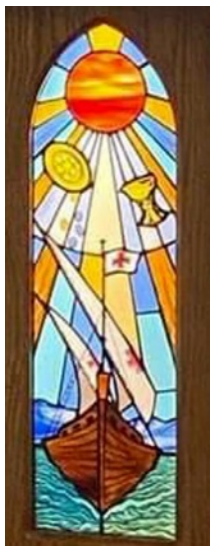


St David’s, Bushmans River, in the Parish of Alexandria, has been gifted with a beautifully crafted lectern/pulpit, which was blessed by the Rector, Deon Lombard, on Sunday.

The lectern was crafted by retired Priest, Ruthell Johnson. It has an inlaid stained glass window designed by world-renowned sculptor Maureen Quin and executed by stained glass artists at David Manning Studios.

The stained glass window has the caravel ship used by Bartolomeu Dias. It blends the sea and sky on the horizon to give historical perspective. The sun is a nod to the Sunshine Coast. The

The Rector of Alexandria Parish, Deon Lombard, blesses the new lecturn at St David’s in Bushmans River.



communion wafers and the chalice are also in the picture as a hint to the possibility that Dias had Communion on the beach in 1488, which would be the first in southern Africa.

On the sides of the lecturn it has a padrão (a padrão is a stone pillar left by Portuguese maritime explorers in the 15th and 16th centuries to record significant landfalls and thereby establish primacy and possession).

The lectern was designed by Tony Rumsey of England who formerly lived in Gqeberha and designed alterations to St Saviour’s and St Paul’s and the rectory and church at St Augustine’s to name but a few.

On 12 April Ruthell and Ds Daniel de Kok led a pilgrimage to the Dias Cross.



Replica of the Dias padrão at Kwaaihoek on EC coast.

World Autism Day observed

Zandile Mtsewu



Thandeka Mbopa; Yoliswa Mfazwa; the Rector of St Matthias, Xola Nodwele; Nobatembu Qosho-Mzwana, the Director of Autism Matters; and Dr Botwekazi Mgudlwa after the talk on Autism.

World Autism Day is observed globally on 2 April and Autism may be loosely referred to as 'a development disability caused by differences in the brain.'

Nobatembu Qosho-Mzwana, the Director of Autism Matters South Africa, visited the parish of St Matthias on 21 April to help enlighten members about what Autism is and how to interact with people living with Autism.

Her brief, yet insightful, information session was captivating as she expanded on the three types of Autism and attempted to debunk myths associated with autistic behaviour, especially within, and around, the 'black cultures.'

The overall echoing message to the congregation was that we need to all embrace, be patient and show love to all people, especially those who are autistic in our families, churches and overall communities.

Belated farewell gathering

Zandile Mtsewu



Many of the members of St Matthias dressed in their traditional clothes to bid farewell to their retired Rector, Zandisile Ndzwane, and his wife Yolisa - seen in the centre of the photo - with the present rector, Xolo Nodwele second from the right.

During the Covid pandemic the members of St Matthias were unable to bid farewell to our beloved Rector, mentor, gym -enthusiast, confidant, farmer and friend to many, Zandisile Ndzwane and his wife Yolisa.

Although Zandisile and Yolisa are now more adjusted to their new normal, away from Gqeberha, they recently returned for a visit.

The couple moved during the pandemic and due to the enforced restrictions of the land we were unable to gather and have a befitting farewell.

So as a small token of appreciation in kind, a formal farewell took place on Sunday 5 May when the couple visited.

In response Zandisile was in awe of the gesture and was in high spirits. However he acknowledged the tribulations and hurdles that he and his wife overcame in prayer and surrendering - referring to the report in the *iindaba* of October 2019, in which Bishop Eddie mentioned that St Matthias would have a celebration when they completed the building of the extension. This was during the tenure of Zandisile who worked so hard that St Matthias can now fully enjoy the fruit of that labour.

Some of the members of the clergy who joined the farewell celebration were Sabelo Ndlebe, Nontsikelelo Mememse, and Kwandiwe Ludziya, to name a few who were present on this occasion.

Tag lines!



If it wasn't for the last minute, nothing would get done!

Study achiever

Jill Bromiley



Self-supporting Assistant Priest at St Hugh's, Quinton Blignaut, has had a paper accepted for presentation at the IUGA Annual Meeting 2024 in Singapore.

The urogynecology research done in Pretoria University by Quinton Blignaut, self-supporting Assistant Priest at St Hugh's, has been accepted for presentation at the International Urogynecological Association Annual Meeting 2024 taking place from 19 to 22 June in Singapore.

The paper is entitled, 'Assessment of the Impact of Radical Hysterectomy for Early Cervical Cancer on Lower Urinary Tract Function: A Pilot Study.'

Quinton and his wife, Faith, will leave for Singapore on 16 June and he will be presenting his paper at 12h35 on Thursday 20 June. Singapore is six hours ahead of CAT (so that will be 06h35 on 20 June).

Please keep Quinton and Faith in your prayers as they travel and as he is honoured by the IUGA.

The view from pulpit and pew

❖ *iindaba* reminds parishes that if you produce newsletters please send a copy to the editor so she can glean news for publication.

❖ *iindaba* asks prayer for all those who are ill with the new flu/Covid-Omicron XBB which is attacking many people in the Diocese. We give thanks for the Dean, Sharon Nell, who is out of hospital and recovering at home.

Clergy on the move ...

• Please pray for those who are preparing for their Ordination on 1 June at 09h00 at St Margaret's in Summerstrand.

Ironman achiever



Thuthuka Songelwa finished the full Ironman race.

She is on Diocesan Council and on the Holy Trinity Parish Council, and she is the mother of an adult daughter! She is also a woman so full of energy that she was able to complete the full Ironman race on 21 April - she is Thuthuka Songelwa!

Congratulations Sis Thuks!

News from afar

Mark Derry



News from Doha - Mark Derry, former Dean of our Diocese, baptised Daniel, the son of Vincent and Laura Mace on 19 April. Vincent used to be head chorister at St Mary's from 1997 to 1999.

In the photo with Mark and Vincent are his mother, Beverly, his daughter Raiya, and chorister and Daniel's Godmother Dr Shoba Victoria.

Green Piece

Involved in conservation



Sidney Clay explains Rhino middens to visitors.

Sidney Clay, a lay minister at all Saints' in Paterson is an education officer at the Bornfree Foundation in Shamwari Private Game Reserve. The BFF is an animal charity organization based in the UK. It has an environmental education centre and big cat sanctuary in Shamwari Private Game Reserve.

Sidney has been with the organization for 22 years. The organization has its own curriculum but some of its modules link to the school curriculum. We have partner schools in the radius of 100km from the centre. We formed Wildlife clubs at the schools and we visit them twice a month and have sessions with them after school. Schools that come to Shamwari for outings come to the centre and we have a programme for them. The activities we have for them include the big cat sanctuary tour and a game drive in Shamwari. Our lessons cover environmental education which is a process which allows individuals to explore environmental issues, engage in problem solving and take action to improve the environment.

iindaba encourages readers to take action for environmental protection and improvement.

Bishop visits All Saints' United



Bishop Eddie and the Dean, Sharon Nell, recently visited All Saints' United in Somerset East.

Bishop Eddie and the Dean, Sharon Nell, visited Somerset East over the weekend of 19 to 21 April. They ministered in All Saints' United and at St Ninian's.

They had discussions with the Wardens of All Saints' United on the way forward as it is the Anglican turn to oversee the ministry there. The parish includes the chapels of St Andrews in Pearston, Russell Park Chapel and Middelton Chapel.

There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number—living things both large and small. There the ships go to and fro, and the Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there. All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time.

Psalm 104:25-27 NIV

... but humans are killing the sea and all the creatures!





This is what happens with plastic that reaches the sea! Please cut packets etc open ... but then recycle.



The Last Shark is a documentary by a group of volunteers who noted the falling numbers of sharks and the disappearance of great white sharks in Gansbaai in real-time. The group included researchers and ocean divers who wanted to find out why the numbers of Great White sharks in the area had gone down so drastically.

A pair of Orca whales had been cited as the problem but the volunteers knew they could not account for the big reduction in numbers, so they researched right up the coast to KZN. They studied the harm done by big game fishing and the harm caused by the current shark nets used by the KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board (KZNSB), which are responsible for killing more than 400 sharks every year. The documentary urges the use of existing alternative methods beyond shark nets to ensure the survival of white sharks in our ecosystem.

The researchers pointed out that the reproduction pattern of sharks, beginning from 30 to 40 years of age only, means that it will take many, many years to replace those lost to human interference.

Do watch this fascinating documentary. It was screened on Open View Weather Channel 104 but is available on You Tube.

Begin praying for both Synods - Provincial 25-27 September and Diocesan 23 to 26 October.

Prayer for Provincial Synod from Archbishop Thabo

Lord God, our Creator and Redeemer,
As we gather to listen to your Spirit,
And work to bring about your new creation,
Guide our pursuit of justice, peace and healing,
And strengthen our commitment to your ministry of reconciliation.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God,
World without end.
Amen



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