



## DIOCESE OF THE HIGHVELD

### DIOCESAN, PARISH AND CLERGY NEWS for

**WEDNESDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2021**

#### ***Mission of the Diocese of the Highveld***

***To be a unified Diocese where the spiritual growth of an increasing number of people is fulfilled through experiencing the fullness of God***

#### **BISHOP'S DIARY**

Day	Date	Time		Venue
Sat	13th	09h00	St Boniface (C)	
Sun	14th	09h00	St James (C)	
Wed	17th	10h30 16h00	Chapter Trust Board	
Frid	18th	18h00	PYC Opening Service	

#### **Gazette:**

- **Diocesan Family Day: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021** (Venue to be advised)

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

I am writing to you after the Diocesan Council meeting that was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021, where we dealt with the financial challenges in the Diocese and how best we can work together to deal with the debt. The Diocesan Council decided that one of the ways to deal with this was to have a Diocesan Family Day. The organisers of this event are Revd Canon Thabo Masweu, Sabelo Mashwama and Deputy Bursar Phumlani Mthethwa.

It's hard for me to imagine not being able to go to church to worship, not to go to school to learn, or not to go to work to make a living for your family. The COVID19 pandemic forced us to go through these hard and sad experiences. We are aware of the pain and hardship this pandemic has brought to many families, some losing their support base; life the way we knew it changed. Our continued prayers are with all those who were directly affected and those whose lives were impacted by these recent experiences of COVID19.

My brethren, as the Anglican Diocese of the Highveld, we were also not spared the effects of this pandemic. As you are aware, all the hard lock downs impacted our worship directly, as no church gatherings were allowed, which affected our parish life activities, our fellowship, our daily/weekly worship, and our ability to reach out to our communities. We started seeing a decline in income to support the fulfilment of God's work through the church at all levels and structures of our Diocese. All these are as a direct result of the affect the COVID19 pandemic had, and still has, on our lives. We do appreciate, and are truly thankful to those who have continued to support the Diocese financially during these difficult times. Despite all our efforts, I am deeply saddened to share that our Diocesan finances are not looking good, and the deficit keeps getting bigger each month. This is more and more concerning.

I am sending you this letter as a request for your support in two areas:

First of all I am asking you to pray for this Covid situation – that God intervenes and prevails for lives to be preserved.

Secondly, I am asking for your financial support. The Diocesan Council agreed to have a Diocesan Family Day with a fundraising focus. The Diocesan Council asked that I send this humble request out to the people of the Diocese and that, as a lead up to the Diocesan Family Day, we kindly ask for a special offering of R100.00 per congregant. These moneys will then be received and blessed at the Family Day where other fundraising activities will also be taking place. I am asking you to partner with me in this mission. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

A Diocesan fundraising team was set up by the Diocesan Council. More details on plans will be shared with your parishes in due course.

+Charles

- **Lay Ministers Training:** the next training will be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November from 9 – 12 (**one session only**) at St Chad's Edenvale and will be a presentation by the Revd Canon Cynthia Botha on the prayer book, the lectionary and the new prayer book in progress.
- **Note from the Publishers: Diaries:** For those who have ordered or wish to order 2022 diaries, the ACSA Publishers only expect them sometime in December. Copies of the APB in English will also be available in the second week of December.
- **Diocesan Food Bank:** This is a special appeal to all parishes, guilds and individuals to consider donating non-perishable food items to the Diocesan food bank. Your generous support makes it possible for us to help those in need. Thank you to the Parish of Boksburg for their generous donation.
- Back on **Green Anglicans:** as we promised in our previous article that we are going to expand on the two focal points which we suggest to be our central focus in making sure that we champion the concept of green Anglican as the diocese. Here are some details of the focal points.
  1. **Moving towards green point** is a concept that focuses on planting e.g. flowers, herbs, vegetables, trees etc. It is our suggestion, as the portfolio committee on environment, that Anglicans throughout the diocese, use their own personal spaces, church sites and public spaces (schools) regardless of size, for planting. This move encompasses various spheres of our needs, such as alleviation of poverty (hunger and lack of food), creates job opportunities and brings a healthy and clean environment.
  2. **Environmental care:**

This concept is specifically about keeping our environment clean.  
How? By making sure we have and utilise dumping areas in our communities, for our homes we make sure we keep our yards clean at all times. If we keep our environment green through concept 1, this will ensure that our environment is clean and safe.

In our next article we are going to put before you the examples on how these two concepts can be implemented, individually or as a group.

**We encourage every parish in our diocese to provide and create space and time for these focal points.** Our next article will be expanding on how to work on each of these focal points.

We therefore appeal to clergy and parish councils to support the concepts, **have representatives** in the council and also have **parish coordinators** to work these concepts specifically.

- **Note to Clergy: Police clearance certificates:** Please make sure that the Bishop's office has a copy of your police clearance certificate as a matter of urgency.
- **Note from the Administrator:**

***Unidentified payments:***

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reference</u>
27/09/2021	R 300.00	E MOTSEPE

**DIOCESE OF THE HIGHVELD COVID-19 PROTOCOLS UNDER  
ALERT LEVEL 1 FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR STAFF**

1. Access will be by appointment **ONLY** so please call in advance to arrange suitable times for your visit and to arrange access. A record **WILL** be kept of the names and contact details of anyone entering the premises. If a visitor presents with any flu-like symptoms they will not be granted access and will be asked to leave the property immediately.
  2. Please make prior arrangements when you need to collect items from the offices so that we can avoid crowding. We would like to have your things ready for you to help make the transaction safe and efficient.
  3. No Group or Guild Meetings allowed on the premises until further notice as we cannot accommodate large groups.
- **Birthdays:** A very happy birthday to:

10<sup>th</sup> Agnes Makhupane

15<sup>th</sup> Nozililo Ntshikila