



DIOCESAN UPDATES

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1st December 2021

Highlights and Gratitude

❖ No Violence Against Women and Children

As the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children started on Thursday, 25th November and culminates on International Human Rights Day on the 10th of December, I would like to urge our Diocesan Family (individuals, parishes, and organisations) to join the international community in taking concrete steps to protect the vulnerable in our society: women, children, and persons with disability. Let us highlight the plight of the vulnerable in our worship life at parish level, in our prayers and in our actions as disciples of Jesus Christ. We are all too aware of the scourge of Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). We can all play our part in our homes, communities, work, and our spheres of influence, to challenge cultures and practices that perpetuate gender inequalities, often resulting in the abuse of women and children at personal and societal level.

Let us not simply observe this as an annual commemorative event but really take to heart its implications for our common life as women, men and children who bear the same image of a loving God.

❖ Recent Municipal Elections

We welcome the results of the recent municipal elections and urge those who have been elected to political leadership positions to work towards the common good. Let us all remain vigilant and hold our politicians accountable so that the coalitions that have been formed do actually serve the needs of the poor and vulnerable and that these political decisions are not for short-term gains only.

❖ A new Covid-19 Variant

Brothers and sisters, I would like to urge you to remain vigilant once again, with regard to the recent outbreak of a the new COVID-19 variant OMICRON which as we have been informed has a large number of mutations. Already the number of those infected with the new variant is rising steadily in Gauteng. Amidst this uncertainty, one thing we have learnt as a society is that the usual necessary measures of regularly washing our hands, sanitizing, and wearing

masks at all times in public and in private celebrations have saved lives. Please model this behaviour and encourage those in your parishes and organisations to do their best in curbing the spread.

❖ Ordinations

A reminder of our Ordination Service to the Diaconate on the 11th of December 2021. Please pray for these candidates as they offer themselves to the ordained ministry - that they would minister with a sense of adaptability and enthusiasm in the service of God's people.

Ordination to the Diaconate

1. Gift Ngwenya (Stipendiary, Weltevreden Park),
2. Venetia Bosman (Stipendiary, Sophiatown),
3. JoAnne Tatalias (Self-supporting, Rosebank),
4. James Martin (Self-supporting, Rosebank),
5. Rob McCauley (Self-supporting, Northriding),
6. Themba Msipha (Self-supporting), Pimville),
7. Vusi Ndaba (Self-supporting Permanent Deacon),
8. Theo Khanyile (Self-supporting Permanent Deacon)

The ordination service will again take place at St John's College. Due to the limited numbers allowed under Covid restrictions, the service will not be open to all but for invited guests only. However, we will livestream the service so that the diocesan family can join us from the comfort of their homes. A link will be shared closer to the service time.

Confirmations

Let me share my joy and thanks to all the clergy and facilitators at parish level for preparing candidates for Confirmation. Many of you undertook this task under difficult circumstances but your courage and determination spurred you on. Most of these candidates had to wait for two years to receive this Sacrament of Confirmation. My thanks too, to the young people themselves, for their patience and forbearance.

Congratulations and Thanks

Please join me in congratulating the following saints;

The **Revd Canon Dr Vicentia Kgabe** on behalf of this Diocese, on her election as the next Bishop of Lesotho. We rejoice with her and pray for her as she prepares for her consecration and enthronement.

To **Mrs Itumeleng Phalane** on her appointment as the **Deputy Chancellor** of our Diocese. Itumeleng is a member of St Michael's Parish in Bryanston. We are grateful that she agreed to undertake this responsibility.

Our congratulations also to **Ms Tebogo Molefe** on her appointment as **Deputy Registrar** of the Diocese. Tebogo hails from the Parish of St Stephens, Diepkloof. Having served the Diocese in a number of portfolios, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Tebogo as one of the Diocesan officials.

I would like to express my great appreciation to Dean Dlwathi for his assistance and also add my sincere gratitude also to the Diocesan officials, and particularly to Chancellor Rosalie Manning and Registrar Ausi Thoalana for always availing themselves to assist the Diocese and the Province.

As mentioned at the recent Diocesan Council, where he was introduced, I thanked Mr Siviwe Dongwana, a Business Rescue Practitioner for agreeing to come alongside us in the Diocese and help with a turnaround strategy.

I would also like to thank each and every lay person and the ordained priests and deacons, including your families, for your contribution to our Diocese in what has been another challenging year.

Clergy Day Invite

Our last clergy day for the year is on Tuesday 7 December 2021. I am inviting you to come to an 'in person' meeting at St Michael's and All Angels, Weltevreden Park. Our meeting will start at oghoo with Morning Prayer. Hoping to see as many of you as possible.

Moves and Placements

- The Institution Service for Revd Eben Grobbelaar as the new Rector of St George's, Parkton and St John's Houghton will be on Sunday 05 December 2021 during their Evensong service. Please keep Moruti Eben and the cluster in your prayers.
- The Institution Service for Ven Michelle Pilet as the new Rector of St Francis of Assisi, Parkview will be on Sunday 12 December 2021 during their morning worship service. Please pray for Archdeacon Michelle and the community of St Francis, and for the people of God in Parkhurst as they also adjust.
- Congratulations to Revd Jabulani Miya, he will be licensed as a Priest-in-Charge of John the Divine Randfontein and St Joseph's Toekomrus, this is effective from 1st January 2022.

Prayer Walk - Siya hamba!

To nurture our physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing, some saints joined me to walk together as a family of God, on the 14th of November 2021 at the Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens. We lifted our eyes up to the hills and drew closer to one another and God as we prayed for our ever-changing environment.

Thank you very much for the fellowship and sharing we enjoyed on the day. Details of the next Prayer Walk will be communicated in the New Year, and I pray that more saints will be able to join us.

Prayer Requests

Saints, I offer my simple prayers of thanks to God for accompanying us through these difficult times so that we recognise God's vision even in the midst of turmoil and strife.

Prayer for Transition

Exciting God, you make all things new.

As we lean into you, in the heart of your wisdom,
we seek to address painful realities and concerns across this Diocese.

Help us not to stay stuck in palliating problems,
but invigorate us with a fresh Pentecost,
opening us up to imaginative, evolving
and relevant forms of communal ministry.

May your dynamism, in and through our Lord Jesus,
bring to birth a strong hope and synergistic possibilities.

We desire to discern and embody all this
in the power of your wild and wonderful Holy Spirit. **Amen**

May I wish you a blessed Advent Season in the grace, strength, and courage of Christ, who comes to us to minister and heal.

The Rt Revd Dr Steve Moreo
+Johannesburg