



## DIOCESE OF THE HIGHVELD

DIOCESAN, PARISH AND CLERGY NEWS

for

WEDNESDAY – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

***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	30 <sup>th</sup>	14h00	Admission of Councillors at Igwa West	St Joseph's, Secunda
Sun	31 <sup>st</sup>	08h30	St Andrew's p/v	Kwa Thema
Tues	1 <sup>st</sup>	09h30	ABE meeting	St John's College
Thurs	4 <sup>th</sup>	18h00	St Dunstan's College Council	
Sat	6 <sup>th</sup>	09h00	MU Lady Day	Alberton
Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	09h15	St Boniface Germiston p/v	

#### **Gazette:**

- **Iviyo Gauteng Region: Mountain Prayer:** Invitation to everyone to attend on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March from 5 – 10 a.m. at 263 Man's Street, Withok East, Brakpan.

#### ➤ **LENTEN APPEAL:**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

At the last Diocesan Council meeting at St Peter's Chains in Katlehong, I mentioned that we need to have a Lenten Appeal for the Development of St Agnes Balfour. The Council received this request.

We are asking that all congregations advertise and send monies received for this appeal to the Diocesan office. Deposits to be made to Trust Board account with the reference "Lenten Appeal 500-079".

May God bless you as you consider making a difference in the life of the congregation of St Agnes Balfour.

+Charles

- A lot of people have been enquiring about the conducting of funerals in their congregations. A Resolution from the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of Provincial Synod 2016 reads:
  - 2.1 That all Anglican parishioners should be received for burial in church without discrimination
    - 2.1.1 That all families should be entitled to similar pastoral care
    - 2.1.2 That in order to secure this protection for our people, all funerals should be conducted by clergy or under the close oversight of incumbents in order to ensure that equitable pastoral care is offered to all.

2.1.3 That no improper demands are made either at the time of a death or in the normal life of the church as a prerequisite for access to a funeral in the parish church.

+Charles

- The College of Human Sciences at UNISA which houses the biggest departments of theology in the Southern Hemisphere hereby invite you to a one day summit to reflect on:
  1. theological training today and
  2. the prophetic voice in South Africa today.We would appreciate it if you would accept our invitation and take part in the summit.  
See attached invitation and please let Bishop know if you would like to attend.
  
- **Prayer for Palestine:** if the Churches can observe the Sunday of 31st March and or 7th April and dedicate a Prayer for Palestine. Israeli apartheid week (IAW) in SA takes place from 1/4/2019 to 7/4/2019 primarily to focus on Palestine. News has it that it will take place in more than 200 cities globally. We as the BDS-SA and Kairos SA call upon all religious and other institutions and organisations to up their ante for the Palestinian struggle. We call upon the Christian community to come observe a special Prayer on April 7<sup>th</sup>
  
- Greetings from Bethlehem.  
We are writing you to kindly ask you to sign the Global Kairos for Justice Petition. This petition comes from Kairos Palestine and its partner movements, Global Kairos for Justice. In December 2018—inspired by the Kairos Palestine document and representing a broad spectrum of organizations, faith communities and other groups—people from around the world gathered in Bethlehem Palestine to further the Kairos call for an end to the State of Israel’s oppression of the Palestinian people and its occupation of Palestinian territories. With love as its logic, the call is grounded in nonviolent resistance to oppression and violations of human rights.  
May 15 marks the anniversary of the Nakba. In this petition, Global Kairos for Justice, a partner of Kairos Palestine, asks to the world to support its call to action, to sign the petition <https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/global-kairos-signature-campaign-2.html> and to be partners in local and regional events on or around May 15, 2019. As the prophet Isaiah wrote, “Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.” (Isaiah 1:17)  
Kindly share the petition widely in your solidarity and advocacy networks.
  
- **Week of prayer for Christian Unity:** See attached
  
- **Cross of Christ:** Palm Sunday: See attached poster
  
- **Diocesan Counselling Board:** there are no counselling courses scheduled for 2019. However, interested persons can give their names to the Bishop’s secretary and, should there be enough people to warrant a course, then such courses will be arranged and advertised accordingly. Names can be submitted with immediate effect.

- **Happening Ministries:** #84 5-7<sup>th</sup> April; #85 4-6 Oct. See attached notices for more details.
- **Ministerial Practice Declaration:** all those in the parish who hold office should fill in the form to be kept on file in the parish
- **Diocesan Youth Indemnity Form:** All people in charge of young people's ministry, groups or organisations, are reminded by the PYC and the Diocese to:
  - get the permission of the Rector/Priest in Charge to transport youth especially those 18 years and under
  - complete the Diocesan Indemnity forms and hand over to Churchwardens; and
  - send a list of those young people to the Bishop's office prior to the trip/journey. This is to protect all those in youth ministry. Failure to do so becomes your own liability.
- **From the Administrator's desk:**
- **Unidentified Items:**  
The following deposit has been made with no proper reference:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reference</u>
23/10/2018	R660.00	CHURCH CHOIR
26/10/2018	R700.00	CASH
20/11/2018	R225.00	Book Table Goods

- **Bookings for Diocesan Venues:** Please note that the Diocesan Administration Offices and facilities are normally open from 08:30am until 16:00pm from Monday to Thursday and from 08:30am until 13:00pm on a Friday. **For security reasons, no access to the property or the facilities will be allowed outside of these times unless proper arrangements have been made.**

Please note that **all** after hour's use of the Diocesan facilities for meetings must be booked through the **Administrator's Office**. Please use the correct booking forms for this purpose.

- Saturday meetings must please be completed by **3pm** and any car-guard must be arranged privately at your own cost.
  - Access will not be granted if proper bookings are not done.
- Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

**N.B. – no bookings on a Sunday as the campus is closed on Sundays**

- **Birthdays:**  
 29<sup>th</sup> Mia den Blaauwen  
 2<sup>nd</sup> April Fr Thabo Masweu                      2<sup>nd</sup> Joshua Bodibe

- **From the Library:**  
 Joachim Jeremias wrote *Infant Baptism in the First Four Centuries*, published in 1960. He poses the problem, should infants be baptized? It is a question which has often troubled Christian consciences and it troubles many Christians today. Often in discussion it is assumed that contemporary Christendom cannot obtain much light from the early Church. However, this book argues that history can throw light on our difficulties with doctrine and it is a work of research by an internationally eminent scholar. After examining the Jewish background, and the implications of the New Testament evidence, Professor Jeremias fully explores the theology and practice of the early Church, drawing on archaeological as well as literary sources, and concludes that there is much indirect evidence for the practice of infant baptism from the

earliest period. Professor David Cairns translated this volume from German and the author added important new material to this translation. The Library also has a copy of *The Parables of Jesus* by Jeremias. [234.161 JER]

Our second book is by the Franciscan, Fr Patrick Noonan and is *They're Burning the Churches*. The author is a Catholic priest who lived and worked in the 5 townships of the Vaal Triangle. The Advocate, George Bizos, said, "The Vaal Triangle is where the liberation began in earnest". Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, stated "This is an important book, one that has great relevance for the future of our country at a time when moral leadership is so sorely needed". Our chosen book reviewed is a meticulously written and moving account of the disturbing events leading up to the fall of apartheid. The author's clear and honest historical record clarifies many misconceptions regarding these important events. *They're Burning the Churches* elucidates the Sharpeville Six Trial, the Delmas Treason Trial, the 1984 uprising that led to international sanctions against South Africa, the first ever army deployment of soldiers into the townships, as well as the Boipatong massacre. Very little credit has been given to the church's role in the struggle against apartheid. It was church communities and ministers who encouraged, comforted and protected many people caught up in the conflict in the Vaal Triangle in the 1980's. Most of the churches gave people in these townships hope.