



DIOCESE OF THE HIGHVELD

DIOCESAN, PARISH AND CLERGY NEWS

for

WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2020

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

Gazette:

- As Bishop is out of the office for medical reasons for at least four weeks, Archdeacon Joe Khanye has been appointed Vicar General during his absence.
- Please pray for both Fr Peter Mbatha's wife and mother. Mapule will undergo surgery today and his mom was admitted to hospital yesterday.
- A resolution from Diocesan Synod 2019 asked that **each parish** has a **liaison person** who will deal with issues of the care of the earth linking to the Province's Green Anglican Desk. **Please send the names to the office as soon as possible.**
- **Chief of Staff position: Diocese of K & K.** See attached
- Dear People of God,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who calls us to follow him, even in these times of extraordinary uncertainty and change. **Below you will find the link to the Archbishop's signed letter and poster to hang up in your churches.**

ST ANDREW'S DAY APPEAL 2020

Thank you to all who gave generously to the *St Andrew's Day Appeal* last year. Your gifts were used to help us to enable young and old to participate in Anglicans Ablaze 2020 via Zoom, Facebook and YouTube. And something astonishing happened...

We are very pleased to tell you that your gifts assisted an average of 8,228 people to attend each of the 5 conference sessions, from 24 to 26 September. Because many were financially devastated by the Coronavirus, those who could not afford the conference were allowed to attend **free of charge** – because **YOU** made it possible. **THANK YOU!!!** So, will you please assist us again?

We are not sure what form Anglicans Ablaze 2021 will take, but we are exploring the possibility of holding an actual conference and streaming that

event to a combination of diocesan and parish gatherings all over ACSA, for people of all ages and circumstances. We want to make it as accessible as possible.

In these times of unprecedented change, Growing the Church (GtC) is working with Diocesan teams to keep the fire of Anglicans Ablaze burning. Together we are developing Discipleship and Small Group resources and training materials that can be used face-to-face or online. We now have special programmes to help equip children, young people and older folk to *be* disciples and *make* disciples of Jesus. We are connecting with Anglican leaders from around the world, and especially Africa, who can share some innovative and exciting initiatives. Your generous contribution will help make this possible again. Thank you!

Archbishop Thabo writes, **“I am therefore asking you to please take a special collection in church on Sunday 29th November (St Andrew’s Day is 30th November) and to send it to: GtC Teaching and Training, Standard Bank, Constantia, Account Number 243 374 151, Branch Code 051001. Ref: Your Name or Parish. You are also welcome to encourage your people to give directly via EFT by giving them the banking details please”.**

Link to original signed letter for circulation – click here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11qPAFCU-zFzNLFAY6ub2TIBq1DL8c8L1/view?usp=sharing>

Link to Poster – for circulation – click here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b-bO28PmppBS6B_7rG6HOYa90cEqIAIF/view?usp=sharing Many thanks again,

**Bishop Tsietsi Seleokane
Liaison Bishop, GtC & AA**

- **MOUNTAIN PRAYER:** Prayer Meeting details – see attached invitation and poster
- **Note from the Administrator:**

LIST OF UNIDENTIFIED PAYMENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reference</u>
15/09/2020	R 380.00	13 SEPCOLLECTION
17/10/2020	R 1020.00	ALL SOULS CHURCH

- Parish post can only be collected from the offices by appointment in future. Please call to make your arrangements and follow the guidelines for the protocols:

DIOCESE OF THE HIGHVELD COVID-19 PROTOCOLS UNDER

ALERT **LEVEL 1**

1. **No casual visits will be allowed - no mask, no entry allowed.**
Access will still be by appointment so please call in advance to arrange

suitable times for your visit and to arrange access. A record must be kept of the names and contact details of anyone entering the premises. If a visitor presents with any symptoms they will not be granted access and will be asked to leave the property immediately.

2. Please make prior arrangements when you wish 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, speedy and efficient.
3. **Bishop's meetings.** Everyone must sanitise on entering the meeting venue and record their contact details on the Meeting Register. Attendees are please to practice proper social distancing at all times.
4. No Group or Guild Meetings allowed on the premises until further notice as we cannot accommodate large groups.

➤ **Birthdays:** A very happy birthday to:
15th Nozililo Ntshikila

➤ **From the Library:** Dedicated to Con Roux. I have had a problem with "I believe in the communion of saints", to the extent I sometimes omit it when saying the Apostles' Creed. Accidentally I came across an explanation for this written by Hugh Burnaby which made sense. This clause was a late addition to the Creed, and there is no evidence of its use till near the end of the fourth century. Moreover, there seems to be some doubt as to why it was put in, and what it was intended to mean. Many different interpretations have been suggested: we are at liberty to choose the one which we prefer. For myself, the interpretation which I like best, and which, I think, is a legitimate one, is that which takes it to express what has been called "the intimate union and conjunction of all believers with one another in Christ – a union not broken by death". That the Church is an organism which derives its unity from Christ, is part, at least, of what St Paul meant when he spoke of the Church as the Body of Christ. "We," he said, "who are many, are one body in Christ" (Romans xii : 5). And since he could speak of the "dead in Christ" and believe that when he died he would be "with Christ" (1 Thessalonians iv : 16, Philippians I : 23), it would seem to follow that the unity of the Body of Christ is one which cannot be broken by death. If both the living and the dead are "in Christ", then their communion with one another is not broken. In the New Testament, and notably in St Paul's Epistles, the saints are *all* the members of the Church without distinction. It has sometimes been maintained that the Church should consist only of those who are holy in this sense – that membership of the Church should be confined to those who reach a certain standard of goodness, and that unworthy members should be excluded. But such an idea has always been rejected by the Church as a whole. It would surely be wrong to exclude from the sphere in which the Holy Spirit works those who most need His help. Excommunication is a desperate remedy. Members of the Church then may be "saints" in the making; they are not necessarily saints in fact; and the idea of a "pure Church" in this world is certainly not a New Testament one. Belief in the Communion of Saints is, therefore, according to our definition, belief in the fellowship of *all* believers in Christ. And further, it is a fellowship that is not broken by death – and that because it is a fellowship in Him who has overcome death. The desire to find a bridge

over the stream of death, by which the living may communicate with the departed, is a natural one. The Christian believes that his fellowship with the departed is mediated through Christ. If communion of the Christian with Christ is not broken by death, then neither can his communion with his fellow Christians be broken.

The recorded teaching of Jesus contains hardly any reference to the conditions of life in the next world. And the reason is clear. It is with *this* life that we are concerned, and morbid curiosity about the next life would distract our attention from what should be our immediate and pressing concern. We find eternal life, not by peering through the gate of death, but by ascending in heart and mind to the things that are above. In Christ we are all one; and death cannot destroy that unity. If so, we must surely believe that to *pray* for the departed is not only legitimate but inevitable.

If our communion with those whom we love is not broken by death, how can we cease to pray for them as we did when alive? Indeed, it is precisely in prayer that we may expect to realise most keenly our fellowship with them, and may know that we are “knit together in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical Body of Christ our Lord”.

[230 BUR]

Johnnie Moore is the author of our **second book**, namely *Honestly : Really Living What We Say We Believe*. Christianity has a lot more to offer than what many of us have witnessed or experienced. Have you ever sat in church and wondered “Is this all to Christianity?” In his uniquely confessional tone, the author takes us on a journey of belief from the hilltop home of the Dalai Lama to a mass grave of more than a quarter of a million people in Rwanda. He dares to address the doubts and challenges that have turned many well-intentioned Christians into hypocrites. Like a good pastor, he helps heal the wounds he opens, and he leaves his reader with one curious question: what could happen if the world’s Christians actually began to live what they say they believe? Moore demonstrates the difference between cultural Christianity and the real thing – a living faith that ...

- embraces doubt and answers life’s hardest questions
- leaves your soul feeling healthy and satisfied
- enables you to get back up again when you fall and fall
- motivates and empowers you to make a difference in the world
- gives you a clear vision of what life should be with God involved in it

Join the thousands of Christians who are admitting their disillusionment with anaemic Christianity and find a more fulfilling and biblical alternative. Discover how you can close the gap between your beliefs and your lifestyle and live more passionately, more authentically ... more honestly.

[253 MOO]