



## DIOCESE OF THE HIGHVELD

DIOCESAN, PARISH AND CLERGY NEWS  
for  
WEDNESDAY 28th OCTOBER 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:

#### Bishop's Diary

Saturday	31st	09h30	Diocesan Council	St Francis, Alberton
Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	09h00	St Francis, Alberton	p/v

- 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.**
- **Link Sunday:** Watch service on <https://youtu.be/Ew1SwNtcW8A>
- 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](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b-bO28PmppBS6B_7rG6HOYa90cEqIAIF/view?usp=sharing)  
Many thanks again,

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

- **MOUNTAIN PRAYER:** Prayer Meeting details – see attached invitation
- **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

- 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 3

**1. No casual visits will be allowed - no mask, no entry allowed.** Only absolutely necessary appointments will be considered (**which must be arranged beforehand!**) and everyone must be screened and sanitised at the Security Managers station before entering the office building. A record will be kept of the names and contact details of anyone entering the premises. Once screening has been completed, Security will confirm your arrival to your host – please wait for confirmation that your host is ready to receive you before entering the building. If a visitor presents with any symptoms they will not be granted access and will be asked to leave the property immediately. N.B. No access will be allowed to other areas of the building without prior notice

**1.1. All deliveries and collections will only be processed at the Security Office and placed in the boxes provided – please ensure that you record your delivery in the register.**

**2. Bishop’s meetings** Attendees must report to the Security Office on arrival to be screened before entering the meeting area. No access will be granted if any adverse symptoms are present during the screening process. Everyone must sanitise on entering the meeting venue and record their contact details on the Meeting Register. Attendees are to sit at least one and a half metres apart during the meeting and practice proper social distancing during the taking of any breaks/refreshments that may be provided.

### 3. No Group or Guild Meetings allowed on the premises until further notice

➤ **Birthdays:** A very happy birthday to:

29<sup>th</sup> Dcn Phil Laurings

29<sup>th</sup> Lynne Wesseloo

30<sup>th</sup> Johanna Nkala

1<sup>st</sup> Nov Fr Hugh Mbatha

2<sup>nd</sup> Joan Bannerman

➤ **From the Library:** The writer Kenneth Leech has written, *“The Eye of the Storm: Living Spiritually in the Real World”*. Calling for “a reintegration of soul and society, prayer and politics”, Kenneth Leech argues brilliantly and passionately for the essential unity of Christian spirituality and social and political commitment. Leech warns that spirituality without community “can be a dangerous diversion from the living God”.

“If we are to rescue Christian spirituality from its captivity to individualism and the culture of false inwardness, we will need to recover the sense of its social character, indeed, the sense of the social order of the gospel itself”.

Here is a biblically rooted spirituality of matter and of sexuality. “The disgust of sexuality”, writes Leech, “or at least the uncertainty about whether Christianity really approves of it, is linked with the retreat from political involvement ....Both the flesh and the polis are seen as equally threatening, equally contaminating, to the purity of the soul” that seeks to know and follow God in pursuit of justice for all people. To be truly Christian, the author argues, is to embrace the struggle against racism and all other forms of oppression, the movement for world peace and nuclear disarmament, and the campaign against poverty, inequality and drug addiction.

Leech considers a range of contemporary subjects, including the roots of social activism in the Old and New Testaments, the influence of great Christian reformers like Wesley, Vatican II, liberation theology, the black spiritual tradition, the Sojourners, women’s liberation, the struggle for gay rights and the environmental movement. He offers practical guidance for prayer and action, arguing convincingly that a spirituality that does not seek social justice cannot call itself Christian.

This book by a master of Christian spirituality unequivocally demonstrates that the true spiritual quest and the in-the-world pursuit of peace and justice are, by their very essence indivisible.

Alan Jones writes about Leech thus: “Leech is one of the few writers on spirituality who are able to rescue the subject from the hot-house of private inner horticulture. Here a refreshing book for apocalyptic times – a direct assault on our pervasive individual gone sour”.  
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The second book is a small one about the writings mainly from speeches and sermons, by Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu. It starts off with the open letter to the South African Prime Minister John Vorster. In it he pleads with him to reconsider the apartheid system of the National Party. Bishop Tutu maintains that the Church in South Africa must be a prophetic Church which cries out ‘thus saith the Lord’ speaking up against injustice and violence, against oppression and exploitation, against all that dehumanises God’s children and makes them less than what God intended to be. The South African gospel according to Rt Rev Tutu is that “Freedom is coming. We will be free whatever anybody does or does not do about it. We are concerned only HOW and WHEN. It should be soon, and we want it to be reasonably peaceful”. *Hope and Suffering* was published in 1983 during the dark days of apartheid and eleven years before the elections of 1994.  
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