

# AD CLERUM

April 16<sup>th</sup> , 2008- No 2

“RECEIVE THE CURE OF SOULS WHICH  
IS BOTH MINE AND YOURS”

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

Halleluya, the Lord is risen. He is risen indeed, halleluya!

May the peace and joy of the Risen Lord be with you all.

I hope and pray that you are all enjoying the spiritual depth and beauty of this Eastertide. These fifty days leading us to the great feast of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost, are meant to be for all of us a special time of refreshing, where we really deepen our relationship with Jesus, our risen Lord, as well as re-focus our ministry as witnesses of his resurrection.

The Service of Installation of the new Archbishop of Cape Town and Re-dedication of the People of God which took place in St George’s Cathedral, Cape Town, on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March was a magnificent event we can all as Anglican be very proud of. I cannot go here into too many details, but, let me just say that the worship on that day was outstanding and the atmosphere was that of great joy and thanksgiving for the gift of Archbishop Thabo to the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. I just know that he will be a godly and visionary leader for our church at this time. I invite you all to keep him, his wife Lungile, and their children in your prayers as often as possible. May the Lord anoint his ministry as Archbishop at this crucial time in the life of the our church in Southern Africa and in the Anglican Communion as a whole.

Find enclosed the text of Archbishop Thabo’s Charge to the Diocese of Cape Town and the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. The title is very significant, “Sekgo saMetse”, that is, “Channels/Vessels of Water” or, as theologically interpreted by the Archbishop, “Channels of Peace” (John 20:19-31). We, as the disciples of the Risen Lord, are sent out to be channels of peace , channels of the breath - the Spirit - of God and of his forgiveness. Enjoy reading and studying it!

Here are some reminders for everybody’s attention.

## 1. DIOCESAN FAMILY DAY:

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May at KwaNzimela. Needless to say, I am looking forward to seeing you all on that day of celebration of our life and ministry as a diocese. Encourage as many people as possible to enjoy together this day of joyful fellowship. I really hope that we motivate especially those who feel at the periphery of the life and ministry of the diocese. I am referring quite explicitly to the English-speaking component of our membership. Their presence at the Family Day would make the whole celebration so much more real and would add a much needed dimension of inclusivity and wholeness. Closer to the day, the Dean will advise on other things that we need to know and do so that we make that day as dignified as possible.

## 2. CLERGY REVIVAL WITH G. AKANNI:

Brother Gbile Akanni of Nigeria will be with us from Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May, Pentecost Sunday, to Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> lunch time. I am sorry to communicate to you that this year the revival will only be open to the clergy. In 2006 it was possible to accommodate the laity at the end of a full week, but, as you know, this year Brother Akanni will only be able to give us two full days. After his departure on Wednesday, he will be spending the week end in the Diocese of Umzimvubu. We are looking into the possibility of organising a lay revival with Akanni

sometime in the near future.

I strongly encourage our retired priests as well as our self-supporting priests to consider attending this revival. Parishes should be reminded to show their generosity by sponsoring the retired priests who wished to attend.

### 3. ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE:

The ordination will be on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2008 at St Mary's, Nkonjeni and not on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> as per diocesan year planner.. The service will start at 09H30. We have decided to move the ordination from Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> to facilitate greater participation of both clergy and lay people. Over the last few years we have noticed a constant decline in the attendance. We need to motivate the members of our congregations to come together for these key events in our life as a diocese.

These are the names of the candidates who, God willing, will be ordained to the Diaconate on that day. Keep them in your prayers.

- # Mr Vusumuzi Zungu, KwaMsindisi, Sundumbili, Mandeni (SSD);
- # Mr Siphon Ntanzu, KwaMbusi uKristu, Eshowe (SSD)
- # Ms Jabu Seyama, eKuvukeni, oPhongolo (SSD)
- # Ms Bonisiwe Ngubane, Good Shepherd, KwaMagwaza (SD)
- # Mr Sifundo Mazibuko, Holy Trinity, eSikhawini (SD)
- # Mr Samson Zulu, St Luke's, Maphophoma (SSD)

(SSD=Self-Supporting Deacon; SD=Stipendiary Deacon)

### 4. "GROWING THE CHURCH"

Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane introduced this new initiative to the Synod of Bishops in 2003. He, as well as all the Bishops of the Province, recognised the need for those involved in primary evangelism, church planting and other church growth initiatives within the Anglican Church of Southern Africa to work together and encourage one another. Subsequently, the Bishop of the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist, +Martin Breytenbach, was appointed as the liaison bishop for this important pastoral effort.

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April, the full-time Director of Growing the Church, the Revd Trevor Pearce, accompanied by the new, full-time Provincial Youth Co-ordinator, Mr Tony Lawrence, visited the Diocese and met the members of our "Growing the Church" core team. The Dean and myself also attended that meeting. It is so exciting to see how our Diocesan Pastoral Plan and "Growing the Church" share the same vision of reaching out to everyone out there and making them disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are in the process of forming a Diocesan Implementation Team (DIT) which will be made up of 6 people from each of our ten Archdeaconries. Each Archdeaconry team will be made up of two clergy, 2 adult lay leaders and two young people. Gender and ethnicity should be taken into account so as to have a good mix of people.

The DIT will be trained by the provincial Growing the Church Team and its resource partners to an advanced level and their job will be that of passing that training on at every level of the Diocese.

I encourage the Archdeacons to recommend the names of their archdeaconry team to the Bishop after having given prayerful consideration to the following criteria:

- S **Commitment:** a clear commitment to Jesus as Lord and Saviour and to church growth;
- S **Character:** persons of good reputation, morals and values;
- S **Competence:** people who clearly have some of the leadership and training skills that will be required to train others;
- S **Chemistry:** an ability to work well with others as well as to network and share resources;
- S **Compassion:** a real concern not only for the hearts of people but also for their circumstances so that ministry may be holistic;
- S **Passion:** a God-given driving force to accomplish God's will with joy and zeal.

I would also advise the Archdeacons that, as far as possible and in order to avoid unnecessary duplications, they give consideration to the people that have already commissioned to help with the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

The first meeting of the Implementation Team will take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2008 at 09H00 at KwaNzimela Diocesan Pastoral Centre. We will have a "bring and share" lunch. Since this is not a meeting we have budgeted for and to avoid incurring great transport claims, I really wish that Archdeaconries and parishes support their teams by providing them with money for transport to and from KwaNzimela.

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa will officially launch "Growing the Church" from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2008, after Synod of Bishops and Provincial Standing Committee. The Bishops have manifested the intention to remain for the duration of the launch. Each Diocese will be represented by the Bishop, the representatives to PSC and six members of the Diocesan Core Team. During the week immediately following the provincial launch, namely, from 24<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of the same month, each Diocese will kick start its own "Growing the Church" initiative. We will disseminate all the relevant information immediately after the meeting of the Implementation Team on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June. In the meantime, I invite you all to pray earnestly for God's blessing upon this evangelistic effort in Southern Africa and in our Diocese in particular.

#### **5. THE DIOCESAN ORDINATION FUND:**

I take this opportunity to remind you all that, whenever the Bishop officially visits a parish in the diocese, either for confirmations, the Institution of a priest, the Dedication of a church etc. or simply for a pastoral visit, the collection of that day should immediately be sent to the Diocesan Office earmarked "Ordination Fund". I am aware that several parishes, visited by me last year and this year, have not yet lodged their collections with the office. I urge you to do so with immediate effect.

#### **6. PRAYER FOR THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN:**

The Prayer for the Pastoral Plan which has been made available as a bookmark is meant to be used extensively in our daily quiet time as well as in our Sunday worship. I suggest that on Sundays we use it as a second collect after the Collect of the day.

Our parishioners should also be invited to pray with it regularly. The reason for having it printed in English and isiZulu on our Diocesan Calendars for 2008 is exactly for the purpose of praying constantly for our journey together along the direction of the Pastoral Plan. The more we uphold our Diocesan Pastoral Plan in prayer, the more the Lord will bless it and strengthen us as we strive to implement it.

#### **7. ELECTIVE ASSEMBLIES:**

We need to uphold in prayer the vacant Dioceses of Lesotho and Grahamstown as they prepare to elect their diocesan bishops on May 20-22, 2008.

#### **8. LENTEN OFFERING:**

As decided by Diocesan Council, all Lenten Offerings must be sent to the Diocesan Office by the end of May 2008. This year's Lenten Appeal will contribute to the building of the new church of the Good Shepherd, KwaS'khemelele, in the Parish of Christ the King, Manguzi. I wish to thank you all in advance for your generosity.

#### **9. SUPPLEMENTS TO THE DIOCESAN ACTS:**

All clergy, parishes councils and, ideally, each and every churchwarden, should be in possession of a copy of the Acts of the Diocesan Synod. The supplements to the Acts containing the amendments as approved at our last Diocesan Synod of December 2006 are now available at the Diocesan Office. Make sure that all of you have an updated copy of the Diocesan Acts.

#### **10. EXTENDED "PRAYER FOR AFRICA" IN ISIZULU:**

Bishop Lawrence has kindly provided us with the translation of the "Prayer for Africa" in isiZulu. Thank you, Mageba! I invite you to use it regularly during our Sunday worship or at any other opportunity. Encourage people to make us of it also in their private prayer.

God bless Africa,  
Protect our children,  
Transform our leaders,  
Heal our communities,  
Restore our dignity,  
and grant us peace.  
For Jesus Christ's sake.  
Amen.

**Nkulunkulu busisa i Afrika,  
Vikela abantwana balo,  
Uguqule abaholi balo,  
Uphilise imiphakathi yalo,  
Ulibuyisele isithunzi salo,  
Uliphe nokuthula.  
Ngenxa kaJesu Kristu.  
Amen.**

Brothers and sisters,  
may the good Lord continue to bless you and yours now and always. I conclude with a short expression attributed to George Herbert. **"You (God) who has given so much to me, give one thing more, a grateful heart."**