

AD CLERUM

June 29th, 2008- No 04

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

Dear brothers and
sisters in the Lord,

Peace to you brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph 6:23)

It is nearly the eve of my departure for the Lambeth Conference and I have few reminders to share with you.

1. THE VICAR GENERAL:

On Sunday 22nd June at St Mary's, Nkonjeni, the Very Revd Lewis Gumede, Dean of Eshowe, was licensed to act as Vicar General during my absence, from Wednesday 2nd July to Wednesday 6th August, the day of my return to the diocese. I do not need to remind you that the Vicar General is fully in charge of the diocese during my absence. Refer to him for any urgent need.

2. THE LAMBETH CONFERENCE:

From July 16th to August 4th at the Campus of the University of Kent in Canterbury. Prior to the start of the Conference, MaDlamini and I will get an opportunity to strengthen our link with the Diocese of Carlisle, where we will be staying from Thursday 3rd to Wednesday 9th of July. From July 9th to 11th we will visit Emmanuel Church in Northampton with which we enjoy a very successful partnership in mission, the Zulem Trust. From Friday 11th to Tuesday 15th Bishop David Stancliffe will host us in the Diocese of Salisbury. You will surely remember Bishop David who took our clergy school at the beginning of the year. I take this opportunity to ask you to pray for him as he has recently suffered a stroke. He will not be able to attend the Lambeth Conference and will be out of action at least until the end of the year.

Now that the Lambeth Conference is finally upon us, I invite you to pray very hard that the Lord may abundantly bless all the bishops and spouses who will be attending it. This conference comes at a very critical time in the life and mission of the Anglican Communion. May the Spirit of God, the Spirit of unity, come mightily upon all the bishops attending the Conference and guide us in truthful and constructive dialogue towards deeper bonds of affection within our beloved Communion.

3. THE REVD M. ZUNGU, R.I.P., AND THE REVD Z. DLAMINI:

As I write to you, the mortal remains of our beloved brother in the priesthood, the Revd Mineas Zungu, are still with us. His body will be laid to rest on Friday 4th July. We were all shocked by his sudden death. We will all remember him and miss his zeal and generous dedication to his ministry. May the Lord comfort his beloved wife and the Zungu family at this time, as well as the members of the Parish of St John, Inhlwathi, who loved him very much and will miss him terribly.

I am happy to communicate to all of you that the Revd Zieblon Dlamini has accepted my invitation to come out of retirement and serve as acting rector at St John's, Inhlwathi. His appointment has immediate effect and will be effective until the end of this year. Pray for Zieblon as he takes on this challenging appointment, that the Lord may bless him and reward him and his family as they make such a sacrificial gift for God and his Church.

4. THE REVD ZILFRED MAJOLA:

Our dear brother Zilfred suffered a stroke some time ago. He has been on sick leave for the last month or so. We pray that the Lord's healing hand may be upon him that he may be restored to full health very soon and resume his pastoral duties at St Agatha's, Maduladula.

5. DIOCESAN FINANCIAL INDABA:

All Rectors or priests-in-charge, churchwardens and treasurers are expected to attend a very important financial indaba to be held at the Church of the Good Shepherd on Saturday 16th of August. It is very crucial that we come to that indaba well prepared. By now you will all have received the proposed Parish Shares for 2009. I expect all parish councils to seriously consider what is being proposed and come to the Indaba with a report.

May I remind you that tea will be served at 09H00 and the Indaba will begin punctually at 09H30. A simple finger lunch will be served at the end of the proceedings.

6. ANNUAL CLERGY RETREAT:

Please, note that the dates for our annual Clergy Retreat have had to be changed due to the ill health of Bishop David Beetge who has been invited by me to conduct this year's retreat. Sadly, few months ago, Bishop David was diagnosed with cancer. He has recently started his cancer treatment. The oncologist has advised him not to move away from Gauteng immediately after each session of treatment. Our September dates clashed with his treatment and we had to negotiate new dates.

I am very grateful to Bishop David who has made himself available for the last week of October. Therefore, our Retreat will be from Monday 27th to Friday 31st of October.

We keep Bishop David in our prayers as he fights his battle with cancer, that the Lord may restore him to full health and he may continue to serve the Diocese of the Highveld and the Anglican Church of Southern Africa with all the generosity and commitment that are distinctive marks of his ministry.

7. LAUNCH OF "GROWING THE CHURCH":

On Sunday 28th September. The Implementation Team will be meeting shortly to finalise all the details of the upcoming launch. The Vicar General will advise the Diocese of what the Launch will entail. Meanwhile, let us keep this event very much present in our prayers.

I pray that the good Lord may bless you all during my absence from the Diocese, as well as all the activities which will take place during this winter holidays.

Yours in the Love of Jesus,

.....