



Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist

Notices: Pentecost 2012

Please read and act on this information!



First of all,

Welcome back to Jacky Machaba, who has been on maternity leave. We wish your family, and especially your new little daughter, every blessing!

Secondly,

Congratulations to Bontle Mokgonyana on the birth of her baby girl last week. Enjoy your maternity leave, and we look forward to having you back soon.

1 Anglicans Ablaze – 5 Exciting Things

1.1 Diocesan Conference

As I write, plans are at an advanced stage for the Diocesan Anglican's Ablaze Conference at St Matthew's Seshego from 15th-17th June. The theme is:

“Shine Like Stars”

We have some excellent speakers lined up, including these visitors from other parts of the ACSA:

- ✦ Bishop Tsetse Seleokane (Natal Diocese)
- ✦ Revd Trevor Pearce (GtC)
- ✦ Mr Tony Lawrence (Anglican Youth)

If you need more information, please contact Thembeke Gwija-Mothiba (082 682 2074) or Anna Langa (073 714 9623).

1.2 ACSA Conference (3rd-6th October)

“A Generation Rising Up”

This is a unique event, the first of its kind in Southern Africa, where over 1000 Anglicans are expected to gather for worship, teaching and ministry (we can take up to 3000). Our Archbishop will be joining us and has invited all Anglicans to be there! Please find enclosed a letter of invitation from †Thabo.

We will hand out posters, information brochures, registration forms and fundraising letters at Synod on 23rd June. But if (like me) you can't wait, go to the Anglicans Ablaze website where you can find out more, register on line, and download all the forms and information, together with other resources:

www.anglicansablaze.org

I am expecting each parish and Diocesan organisation to send some people – why not take a special collection to help a group to go from your parish or organisation?

1.3 Youth Camp (12th-14th October)

A subcommittee of youth leaders is working hard, with help and guidance from Mr Cyrill Ngoasheng and Revd Frauke Ackermann. ***Information and Registration Forms are already available from the Diocesan Office.***

Please make sure that your young people are informed of this exciting and important event in the life of the Diocese. We are asking all parishes to help their young people to attend by giving financial, spiritual and moral support.

A SOMA team, made up mainly of young people from the UK, will lead the talks and ministry at the camp.

1.4 SOMA Missions (7th-15th October)

In addition to the SOMA team that will lead our Youth Camp, we have invited two other teams to come to the Diocese:

- ✦ To The Church of the Good Shepherd, Extension 44
- ✦ To Baobab Mission Parish.

I know that Felicity Roberts has volunteered to be part of a SOMA mission team (we have received invitations from many of the Dioceses). If you feel that God may be calling you (or a member of your church), please contact SOMA Director Chris Viljoen:

somasa@wol.co.za
011 787 6964

There are few things more faith-building or rewarding than being part of a mission team, so why not take a step of faith and give it a go?!

1.5 Study Guide

At the request of some of the Bishops. GtC has prepared a Bible Study Guide based on the Vision and Mission statements of the ACSA.

This has been very warmly received. In fact, †Thabo is so thrilled with it that he is commending it to the whole Anglican Communion.

The Guide has been designed to be used as a Preaching Series and in small Bible Study groups. Available at 2nd sitting of Synod. I strongly recommend its use in churches and organisations.

The guide will be available at Synod and also from Jacky at the Diocesan Resource Centre.

The six studies have these headings:

- 1) Anchored in the love of Christ
- 2) Committed to God's mission
- 3) Transformed by the Holy Spirit
- 4) Worship that empowers and feeds us
- 5) God's redemptive hope and healing
- 6) Communities of faith.

2 8-Day Directed Retreat

I have received the following letter from †Peter Lee. Perhaps God is calling you to go deeper spiritually...

Dear Bishops,

As we have reflected on the recent 4-day directed retreat, which 12 attended, we were reminded of how valuable the 8-day Individually Directed Retreat can be, for clergy especially.

When I joined the Synod of Bishops, Archbishop Desmond was busy persuading all of us to attend one such together, and for me it was a real breakthrough experience in my journey. I would love to see other clergy knowing that resource for our life in the Spirit.

Hence I wonder if you would be good enough to pack this letter with your next clergy mailing and remind clergy of the 8-day retreat at St Benedict's House from 11-20 September? The cost is R3800 and bookings are through Danny on 011 435 3662 or office@stben.co.za.

Many thanks

+Peter

3 Enclosures

3.1 "The Native School That Caused All The Trouble"

Please see the enclosure advertising this book about the Federal Seminary. All the details about ordering it are included there.

3.2 Policy Regarding Cameras & Videos in Church

Enclosed please find the policy that Chapter has agreed upon – hopefully this will help protect you when camera and video people threaten to overrun your services!

4 National Evangelists Conference 2012

This exciting conference will take place at Linga Longa (near Bela Bela) from 26th to 28th June. The Diocese is sponsoring Moses Nemakhavhani and Ben Ngoako to attend. If you would like to go, Jacky has information and registration forms at the Diocesan Office. It costs R750 per person.

5 Diocesan 25th Anniversary!

Yes indeed, it is 25 years since the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist was established at a wonderful service in Seshego Stadium in May 1987. I was there – but little did I know what my calling would be in the future!

Two special events are being planned to celebrate:

- 1) An **Anniversary Banquet** will take place at Bolivia Lodge on Friday 20th July.

Our guest speaker will be Revd Dr Barney Pitjana:

✦ Former Chair of the Human Rights Commission

✦ Former Rector of UNISA

✦ Now head of the College of the Transfiguration in Grahamstown.

He will share with us his vision for training leaders for the church as we go forward in the 21st century.

More information about this special event will be given at Synod on 23rd June.

- 2) The **Manche Masemola Pilgrimage** will focus specially on our anniversary, and our first Diocesan Bishop, †Philip, will be our preacher. This takes place at the grave-side in Marishane on Sunday 5th August at 10am.

God bless you as you give yourself to God in love and service. See you at the 2nd sitting of Synod if not before!

†Martin

†Martin