

# The Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist

(The Anglican Church in Limpopo Province)

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To All Clergy  
Copies to all Churchwardens  
Copies to Diocesan Organisations  
Copies to Diocesan Staff

*Please share this with God's people in your parish or organisation!*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

This time I am not going to write something long, but just share with you some of the outcomes from the workshop I led at the budget meeting of Diocesan Standing Committee (while others were working on the detailed numbers). What follows below is for all Rectors, Priests in Charge, Assistant Clergy, Churchwardens and leaders of Organisations.

We asked the question:

## How can we Lead the Budget Process in our Parish?

We came up with 21 ways.

### In Your Own Life

- 1) **Set an example** of self-sacrifice, prayer, attitude, witness and giving in proportion to your income.
- 2) Be **generous** and help your church to be generous – reflect God's unconditional love in your relationships with others.
- 3) Be **productive** and work hard.

### In Your Teaching

- 4) Help people to **grow up spiritually**: how to repent, draw closer to God, study the Bible together (e.g. Rooted in Jesus), pray and share their faith with others.
- 5) Help them **focus on God** and not on money! In other words, teach about the Kingdom of God.
- 6) Remind them of God's faithfulness.
- 7) Teach them to **put in**, not to "get out" what they can. As Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).
- 8) Don't be shy to **teach regularly** about giving – not just in "stewardship season". Be honest about the challenges and encourage people to share testimonies.
- 9) Help people to see that **giving is good for us** in all sorts of ways.

- 10) Teach people to give **regularly and in proportion** to their income (1 Corinthians 16:2). The tithe (10%) is a good place to start.

### In Your Leadership

- 11) Help your people **catch the vision** of the Diocese and develop vision for the parish – people give to vision.
- 12) Build a sense of **community** in the church: teamwork, the body of Christ, using our gifts to serve, fun.
- 13) Help people to feel that they are **part of** what God is doing in your church.
- 14) **Communicate** at all times!
- 15) **Work with** the church organisations. They must also play their part.

### In The Community

- 16) Identify and examine the **needs** of those you lead and the wider community – then do something about it.

### In Church Administration

- 17) Be **transparent**, with the proper controls and systems.

### In Pastoral Ministry

- 18) **Visit people** in their homes.
- 19) Be **part of their lives** – share your life with them and let them share theirs with you.
- 20) **Help those who are struggling**, and don't lay guilt on them if they *cannot* give.
- 21) Help people to **manage their money wisely** – don't only focus on giving to the church.

Put these things into practise and you will not have to struggle with church finances!

*"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." (Malachi 3:10)*

Yours in Christ,

*+ Martin: St Mark  
the Evangelist*