



Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist

Notices: Easter 2013

Please read and act on this information!



We have a lot of notices this Eastertide! **Please read them all**, because many of them can be a blessing to you and your parish if you act on them. I suggest that you also pin it to your notice board for people to see.

1 St Mark's Day

Last year at Synod we agreed that we should celebrate St Mark's Day as a Diocese on the first weekend of May each year.

This year we have not managed to arrange a combined Diocesan event, but **you are strongly encouraged to celebrate the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist in your congregation over the weekend of 3rd to 5th May.**

If you plan to have a special St Mark the Evangelist service on Sunday 5th, you have my permission to use these special readings for St Mark:

- 1) Isaiah 52:7-10
- 2) Psalm 119:9-16
- 3) Ephesians 4:7-16
- 4) Mark 1:1-15

Diocesan Finance Board also encourages you to adopt our mission church project at Lephalale. Please **take a special collection** and send it to the Diocesan Office, marked "Lephalale Mission." I hope to be able to announce the appointment of a Priest in Charge for them in the near future...

2 Anglicans Ablaze

2.1 DVDs from 2012

Good news! Everyone who missed the awesome Anglicans Ablaze conference last year can share in the experience, and especially the teaching. The full set of DVDs is available from Growing the Church (GtC) for R300.

We have also finished work on an excellent Study Guide, which will enable you to use the material in a small group setting! The DVDs can be ordered and the Study Guide can be downloaded (free) at the GtC web site:



<http://www.growingthechurch.org.za/dvd.aspx>

If you do not have internet access, please phone the GtC Office at 021 763 1315. They would love to help you.

2.2 Plans for 2014

More good news is that **a bigger, better Anglicans Ablaze Conference is being planned for July 2014**

– at the same venue (New Life Centre) in Johannesburg.

Inside information is that we have invited the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, to be one of our main speakers and at looks like he will be coming.

We are expecting round about 3000 people to attend this time. So start saving now! Dates will be announced soon, but we expect it to be towards the end of July.

3 Issues from Diocesan Finance Board

The Finance Working Committee (FWC) and Diocesan Finance Board (DFB) have been doing some good and productive work this year. Here are some important things for you to know.

3.1 Pledge by Clusters

Where parishes are starting to prepare for multiplication by forming clusters we are encouraging them to pledge to the Diocese according to these clusters.

So far we are exploring the possibility with the parishes of Sibasa and Sekhukhuneland. But if your parish believes that it is time to move in this direction, you are encouraged to speak to your Archdeacon about it, who can bring it to DFB for approval.

3.2 Handling of Arrears

The Diocesan Leadership Team and DFB are working on a document to guide parishes that are struggling with arrears in their pledge to the Diocese, and other financial problems. Please speak to Solomon Makololo if you would like to see what we have developed so far – perhaps it can help you; or perhaps you can give us some helpful suggestions.

3.3 Clergy Vehicle Ownership

It is becoming common for clergy to buy their own vehicles and receive a travel allowance from their parishes. This is strongly encouraged by SARS and we believe it is a good development.

Several of our clergy have bought their own vehicles recently, and DFB is drawing up guidelines to help with the process. Parishes will then have a choice:

- ✦ To have parish vehicles which their rector and other clergy may use; or
- ✦ To give clergy a travel allowance to use their own vehicle.

3.4 No Loans by Churches

It has come to our notice that certain people have been “borrowing” money from their parishes (without telling anyone). **This kind of “borrowing” actually means “stealing”!** When they are found out they then offer to pay it back as a loan. Any money that has been taken in this way must be paid back immediately. We intend to take the strongest measures against people who steal from God.

DFB has therefore adopted a bye law to say that church councils and organisations may not lend money to anyone.

Stipendiary clergy may apply to Diocesan Trustees for loans. The church is not a bank and may not lend money apart from that.

3.5 Cash Management Plan

Last year at our DFB Lekgotla we were challenged and inspired by hearing about other Dioceses where a “Cash Management Plan” is in place. We have decided to move towards implementing it – although it will take some time.

The idea is that all parishes and organisations in the Diocese will bank with the same bank – where we can negotiate a favourable deal together. This will make the transfer of money much easier and cheaper. It will also enable the Diocesan Office to draw bank statements from all our parishes rather than nagging you to send them to us.

It will also help to keep us honest in our financial transactions, since there will be greater transparency in how we handle money.

3.6 Reporting

In line with good governance practices, DFB is asking each parish to send us:

- 1) Your monthly **Bank Statement** for the parish, chapelries and organisations.
- 2) Your Quarterly **Income/Expenses Statement**.

This should not be difficult to do, because this information should be given at Council meetings anyway!

FWC is working on a standard form for this reporting. We also plan to invoice parishes for their pledges in the near future.

3.7 Lent Offering – Lephale Mission

We have been encouraged to hear that some parishes have taken special Lent Offerings and are wondering what to do with them. Praise the Lord and thank you!

Please send any collections you have taken in this way to the Diocesan Office, marked “Lent Offering” and it will be allocated to support our mission in Lephale.

4 Youth

It was so encouraging to see a number of young people at our Rooted in Jesus training weekend last month! God is at work in our youth! One of the people from Johannesburg who attended told me that he was completely bowled over by the excellent quality of our young people.



Participants in Rooted in Jesus training in March

4.1 Planning Team

In order to plan the way forward after the most successful Youth Camp of last October, the Diocesan Youth Planning Team will meet on **Saturday 11th May** in the Boardroom at the Diocesan Centre.

We will continue to focus on **making disciples**.

All those who served on the planning team last year should be present. A few others have also been invited. If you would like to nominate someone from your parish to attend, please speak to Canon Shearsby Mupfudzapake.

4.2 Youth Day 16th June

It is probably too late to plan a special Diocesan celebration of Youth Day on 16th June. This is also a good time to focus on young people in our parishes and congregations.

So, **please arrange something special with your young People on Sunday 16th June**. Why not invite them to lead worship, preach... and do everything (although you will need a priest to celebrate communion)?

5 Special Clergy Meetings

Diocesan Chapter has agreed to organise two special clergy meetings... **by invitation only!**

But, if you feel you should be invited after reading this, please let my PA, Revd Frauke Ackermann know.

5.1 Self Supporting ⇒ Stipendiary Clergy Wednesday 26th June

A special meeting of self supporting clergy who could become stipendiary clergy will **replace** the scheduled clergy day on **Wednesday 26th June**, at Christ Church Cathedral. This is during the school holidays, so we hope it will be possible for all who are invited to attend.

We will think about:

- ✦ What it means to be called to stipendiary (church supported) ministry;
- ✦ What further training self-supporting or community priests may need for this; and
- ✦ How to manage the transition from one to the other.

5.2 Young Clergy & Spouses

We have also identified a need to meet with young clergy and their spouses. I have not yet managed to set a date, but watch this space...

The main agenda items will be:

- 1) What does the church expect from its clergy?
- 2) What can clergy expect from the church?
- 3) How can young clergy support and encourage one another?

6 Training

A lot of valuable training will take place in the next few months – please make use of the opportunity!

6.1 Langham Preaching – Introduction & Old Testament

Level 1 (Introduction) and level 2 (Old Testament) training will take place at *Mater Dei* near Mokopane from **Monday 27th to Friday 31st May**.

If you have not yet received information, please speak to Canon Shearsby Mupfudzapake today! He can give you all the information you need, together with registration forms.

This is probably the last time that Revd Chris Wright (Old Testament) and Emmanuel Oladipo (introduction) will do this training here in the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist, so don't miss a great opportunity!

6.2 Christian Listening

We are making good progress with Christian Listening, which is the basis for training Licensed Pastoral Carers in the Diocese. Revd Frauke Ackermann is making excellent progress with this ministry which my late wife Sarah started here.

In the next few months, two courses are being offered:

- 1) **Level 1: Importance of Listening** takes place in parishes. Please invite Frauke and the team to come to your parish to do this training. It is useful to everyone, and especially those who plan to be Pastoral Carers. You will learn skills to listen to God, other people and yourself.
- 2) **Level 3: Called to Listen** takes place at Linga Longa from Monday 1st to Thursday 4th July. This is only for people who have done levels 1 & 2 and have registered beforehand. If you think you should be

invited, or if you want to know more, please speak to Frauke.

6.3 Rooted in Jesus (RinJ) Day – 27th July

We are planning a special Rooted in Jesus follow-up and ongoing training day at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday 27th July.

Everyone who has been to a RinJ Training Conference, and everyone who is leading a RinJ group is invited to come. This will be a day of fellowship, encouragement and further training.

7 Useful Resources

7.1 GtC Media and IT Ministry

God is making some amazing new resources available to the Church through Growing the Church. It is now possible for you to get a fully functional Web Site for your parish or organisation for only R250 per month. This includes all costs of setting up, hosting and maintaining the web site to the highest standards.

Please see the document over the page – this is highly recommended! By signing on you will also be supporting the mission of the church rather than a secular internet provider.

8 ACSA

8.1 Theological Education Sunday 18th August

This year has been declared the “**Year of Theological Education**” and a lot of work is being done to upgrade and improve the College of the Transfiguration in Grahamstown.

It is in all of our best interests to see the College reach a standard of excellence for training our future clergy and other leaders. At present Philip Moseki is our student there – and the Rector, Prof Barney Pityana, reports that he is doing really well.

We have all been asked to have a special “**Theological Education Sunday**” on 18th August and to take a special collection for theological education on that day. In particular, **every Anglican is challenged to donate at least R10 on that day.**

In order to set an example, the Diocese will give part of our Diocesan Tithe to this appeal.

Thank you for reading to the end!

Blessings and love in Christ,

†Martin

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