

Cathedral of St Michael and St George in the City and Diocese of Grahamstown

A warm welcome to those who are visiting the Cathedral and Grahamstown. Please introduce yourself to us! If you are new to the Cathedral and would like follow up, please fill in the form at the west (High Street) door and give it to one of the clergy or sidespeople.

Please turn off your cell phone and keep your valuables with you at all times.

Today's services: 6th December 2015. The Second Sunday of Advent.

Time	Service	Preacher	Presider/Officiant
07h30	Holy Eucharist (SAPB)	Prof Geoff Antrobus	Dean Andrew Hunter
09h30	Holy Communion (AAPB)	Prof Geoff Antrobus	Sub Dean Mzinzisi Dyantyi
19h00	Taizé Service	Dr A-J Bethke	
There will be no weekday services next week, while the Cathedral floors are being attended to			

Today's meetings and events:

07h20 & 09h20	Pre-service prayers for readers, prayer ministers, Children's Church teacher/s and altar servers in the Chapter House.
16h30	Carol Service and Baptism at St Peter's, Hilton Farm.

OFFICE and CLERGY staff contact details Cathedral Parish Office: (046 622 2445):

*Dean of Grahamstown	082 308 8654	046 622 3976	dean@grahamstowncathedral.org
*The Sub Dean	073 604 5232	046 622 5633	angaavile@live.co.za
To contact the Parish Office staff by email, use: office@grahamstowncathedral.org (Administrator -- Anet) and admin@grahamstowncathedral.org (Parish Secretary -- Chris).			
*Members of the Clergy are available for confessions and interviews by appointment.			

<i>Forthcoming events and THIS WEEK; for your diary</i>			<i>Contact:</i>
all week		Cathedral closed for floors maintenance	Anet Peter
10 Dec	10h00	Seniors' Tea at the Deanery	Revd Claire

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa seeks to be:

- *Anchored in the love of Christ* ●
- *Committed to God's Mission* ●
- *Transformed by the Holy Spirit* ●

Please join with us this week as we pray for:

OUR CHURCH: We pray for all preparing for ordination during Advent; for the diocese of Umzimvubu and the Vicar-General, Bishop Sithembile Mzamane of Mthatha; for Archbishop Thabo in his leadership of our Province; for Nicola McLoughlin and Eugene Grosch as they prepare for their wedding.

OUR COMMUNITY: We pray for all young people on holiday, for safe and joyful celebrations over these weeks; for the SAPS and fire brigade as they respond to emergencies. During these Sixteen Days against Gender Violence, we pray for all victims and survivors of abuse and rape.

OUR COUNTRY: We pray for areas ravaged by drought; for farmers.

THE WORLD: We pray for those gathered for COP21 and for wise decisions to safeguard and protect our environment

BIRTHDAYS: 8th Thabisa Yili, 9th Neziswa Soxywa, Pumela Nyarashe and Katie Appollis, 11th Danielle de Vos, 12th . Owona Madlingozi.

PARISH CYCLE of PRAYER: Joyce Maarman, Owona Madlingozi, Yamkelani Magwa, Nompumelelo Magwa-Bobotyani, Faith Magwenzi, Gugu Mahlangu, Axolile and Emihle Maliwa, Thelma Maloko.

PARISHIONERS who are sick, convalescing, or with long-term illnesses: Isabel Bridger, Kerry Jane Gutridge, Celia Jameson, Thelma Neville, Paul Pillay and Colleen Rippon.

FRIENDS and FAMILY who are ill: Steve Ashcroft, Revd Ruth Brandt, Ronnie Burger, Shona Domeris, Canon James Hoyle, Peter Ingwersen (Roswitha Hobson's brother), Nolutho Mbolekwa, Owen Pearce, Thembeke Peter, Bishop Eric Pike, Marguerite Poland, Mary-Clare Tracey-Craigen.

The **LADY CHAPEL FLOWERS** this week are from Daphne Rink in memory of her husband, Edmund.

DECEASED: Lunga Citwa (Sivu's sister).

Services next Sunday, 13th December – The Third Sunday of Advent

Time	Services	Preacher	Presider / Officiant
07h30	Holy Communion (SAPB)	Dean Andrew Hunter	
09h30	Holy Communion (AAPB)	Dean Andrew Hunter	Sub Dean Mzinzisi Dyantyi
19h00	Lucernarium service	Dr A-J Bethke	

Here are the Gospel readings for the 2nd week of Advent

Mon	07	Luke 5: 17-26	Thurs	10	Matthew 11: 7-15
Tues	08	Matthew 18: 12-14	Fri	11	Matthew 11: 16-19
Weds	09	Matthew 11: 28-30	Sat	12	Matthew 17: 9-13
Sun	13	Zephaniah 3: 14-20	Isaiah 12: 2-6	Philippians 4: 4-7	Luke 3: 7-18

Please see our web and FB pages for more information:

www.grahamstowncathedral.org and [facebook.com/grahamstown.cathedral](https://www.facebook.com/grahamstown.cathedral)

Dean's letter, Sunday, 6th December 2015

Dear Cathedral family,

At the evening Advent service last Sunday, one of the readings was a quote from Richard Rohr, about Christian hope:

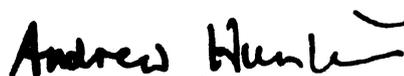
“ ‘Come, Lord Jesus’ is a leap into the kind of freedom and surrender that is rightly called the virtue of hope. The theological virtue of hope is the patient and trustful willingness to live without closure, without resolution, and still be content and even happy because our Satisfaction is now at another level, and our Source is beyond ourselves. We are able to trust that he will come again, just as Jesus has come into our past, into our private dilemmas, and into our suffering world. Our Christian past then becomes our Christian prologue, and ‘Come, Lord Jesus’ is not a cry of desperation but an assured shout of cosmic hope.” *

To live without closure, to live without resolution... these words struck me very forcefully. To wait, to live without seeing solutions, to live with imperfection, to live with questions unanswered and longings unfulfilled – to see matters stagger on unresolved and even get worse – and yet to hope, and trust, in the midst of this – this is both our lived, often daily reality and also our journey of faith in the Lord of the Journey.

The Gospel readings for today (Advent 2) and next Sunday (Advent 3) focus on the ministry of John the Baptist, and his relationship as the forerunner of Jesus Christ. John is a challenging figure in the gospels: strongly alternative, confrontational, uncompromising, coming out of the wilderness – the historic place of Israel's encounter with God – to speak a word to power, and to call the people back to God. He lived and dressed simply – ate locusts (probably a type of fruit, not the insect) and honey. In today's world, he would probably have been a “greenie”, deeply concerned about the environment. For us here in Grahamstown and the Eastern Cape, care and protection of the environment is not a luxury. It is what we see as the basics, the essentials: clean water, rubbish removal, adequate sewerage system; electricity. And it is protecting the Karroo against fracking; using solar energy and wind farms; standing against poaching. The drought in parts of our country, and rising temperatures, are hitting us all.

Advent is a time to hope. It is the season in the church's year that gives voice to our deepest longings. We find in scripture and in the liturgy, these themes of hope and renewal, the promise of God's love to sustain us, a way forward through the turmoil, an anchor of stability in the midst of the storms, signs of life, an invitation to watch and wait for the Spirit of God, a call to discern the signs of the times, to have eyes and hearts open. Let's be ready, in the days ahead, to respond to the opportunities that God gives us.

My love to you all,



* Rohr, *Preparing for Christmas*, 5. Quoted in Bethke, AJ, 2015. *Celebrating the Seasons*, 11.

GENERAL NOTICES

Revd Claire Nye Hunter is celebrating and preaching at St John's in Bathurst this morning.

Revd Monwabisi Peter is preaching and leading the service at Trinity Presbyterian Church, here in Grahamstown, this morning.

Autographed copies of **Bishop Michael Nuttall's latest book**, *A Voice within Church and Society – A personal anthology*, are available for sale at the Cathedral parish office at R150 each. If you would like to buy one, do contact the office as soon as possible and make arrangements for payment. Bishop Michael has asked that we (Dean and Cathedral) act as distributors, so we suggest that people pay at the parish office, so that we can then make an EFT payment.

Seniors' Christmas tea: Dean Andrew and Revd Claire warmly invite all senior parishioners to Christmas tea in the Deanery Garden (or Hall) this week; on Thursday 10 December from 10h00 – 11h30. RSVP to Claire direct. If you're able to offer plates of eats or help by young waitrons, will be greatly appreciated.

Confirmation: If you would like to be prepared for confirmation next year (Grade 10 or older) please speak to the Dean.

Back to School Sunday, 31st January 2016: As usual, we are planning something special for that annual service, held just after the start of the new school year. We have invited next year's Grade 11s and 12s to plan it and lead it, with support from the Cathedral clergy.

Volunteers are needed to join the ranks of the altar servers (especially if you'd be available at the 07h30 services), and the readers' roster. If you'd like to extend your personal ministry to participate in either or both of these critical aspects of the cathedral's life, please contact the Head Server (Lunga Dongwana; 078 741 9164) or the Parish Secretary (readers) at 046 622 2455 or admin@grahamstowncathedral.org

Lady Chapel flowers: The roster for 2016 is on the glass cabinet near the West Door of the Cathedral. Please consider using this opportunity as an effective way of remembering important anniversaries and people in your lives. There are also a couple of slots still unfilled during December. See Peter and Ann Stockwell for more details.

American Students from the Whitworth University, Spokane, Washington, USA are to visit Grahamstown again, on Sunday 17th and Monday 18th January 2016. They still seek accommodation for their students for those two nights. Please phone or email Anet if you are able to help (office@grahamstowncathedral.org).

Temporary closure: A team of people has been hard at work this week, stripping, sealing and polishing the Cathedral's floors. We are hoping that the work will be completed by the end of this week (December 11th).

Found: Two original certificates are in the Parish office awaiting their owners. One is a birth certificate, in the name of Zintle Veto and the other is a confirmation certificate in the name of Brenda van Deemter. If you are Zintle or Brenda or know the whereabouts of either, please let the Parish Secretary know at admin@grahamstowncathedral.org or 046 622 2445.

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