

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: 13th December 2015.
The Third Sunday of Advent.**

Time	Service	Preacher	Presider/Officiant
07h30	Holy Eucharist (SAPB)	Dean Andrew Hunter	
09h30	Holy Communion (AAPB)	Dean Andrew Hunter	Sub Dean Mzinzisi Dyantyi
19h00	Lucernarium Service	Dr A-J Bethke	
Either Holy Communion or Morning Prayer is celebrated on weekdays (excluding Tuesdays), at 07h00 in our Lady Chapel. Evening Prayer (Eucharist on Tuesdays) is presented in the same venue at 16h30 on weekdays			

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.
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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>
18 Dec	13h00	Parish office closes until Monday 11 th January.	Office Administrator

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 Cathedral admin and cleaning staff; for our lay ministers, PCC, churchwardens. During this Advent season, we look forward to the coming of God's kingdom in hope and wonder.

OUR COMMUNITY: We pray for children and young people on holiday; for safety and protection over all who are travelling.

THE WORLD: We pray for countries at war; for lands occupied by the Islamic State group. May we find peace.

BIRTHDAYS: 13th John Murray, 16th Qaqamba Myolwa, Yoliswa Dongwana and Lulama Mxube, 17th Andrew Meiklejohn, 18th Ann Watkins, 19th Monwabisi Peter.

PARISH CYCLE of PRAYER: Estrate Mandimika; Hlumela & Zoleka Maqwili; Lynette Marais; Charlene, Joan, Melissa, Peter, Veronique & Waldo Marcus; Daniel, Isabella & Javier Martin.

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, Thembeka Peter, Mary-Clare Tracey-Craigen.

Services next Sunday, 20th December – The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Time	Services	Preacher	Presider / Officiant
07h30	Holy Communion (AAPB)	Prof Paul Walters	Revd Monwabisi Peter
09h30	Holy Communion (AAPB)	Prof Paul Walters	Revd Monwabisi Peter
19h00	Carol service	Sub Dean Mzinzi Dyantyi	

Our Christmas services this year will include:

- **Crib service; Thursday 24th December, 17h00.** Children are invited to come dressed up as their favourite nativity character. Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, wise men (and women), shepherds, sheep, ox, some Grahamstown donkeys, a couple of goats ... all are welcome!
- **Christmas "Midnight" Mass, Thursday 24th December, 22h30** (note earlier time). Our Bishop will preach and preside.
- **Christmas Day, Friday 25th December, 08h30:** Holy Communion AAPB. Revd Monwabisi Peter will preach and preside.

Here are the Gospel readings for the 3rd week of Advent

Mon	14	Matthew 21: 23-27	Thurs	17	Matthew 1: 1-6a, 17
Tues	15	Matthew: 28-32	Fri	18	Matthew 1: 18-25
Weds	16	Matthew 24: 45-51	Sat	19	John 1: 29-34
Sun	20	Micah 5: 2-5a	Luke 1: 39-45	Hebrews 10: 5-10	Luke 1: 39-45

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, 13th December 2015*

Dear Cathedral family,

In a recent Facebook post, the Archbishop of Canterbury, ++ Justin Welby, wrote:

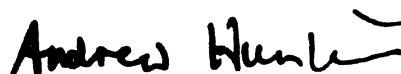
“The renewal of prayer is my highest priority - in myself constantly and in the church - because it's the only way we're conformed to the likeness of God, and united with one another. If we pray together it's harder to divide and harder to despair. A church that prays will find renewal because it finds the reality of God. The method is neither here nor there - the reality is the way in which we find the identities and identity together to which we are called.”*

It may well be that two defining events for 2016 will be ongoing student protests on campuses, following on from the #feesmustfall campaign; and the war on terror, as the ISIS group extends its reach and its attacks into the UK and the USA, and as countries retaliate. The impact of these two events, here in our own country, and globally, are likely to be immense.

As a parent with two children at university next year and beyond, and as pastor and priest here in our own community, with many students, academics and admin/support staff, I am personally aware of how much is at stake for us all, and how fragile things are. My appeal, as negotiations are continuing, and as plans are being made for next academic year, is that we keep talking; that we do not allow the situation to deteriorate into destructive conflict, militant hostility, anger, hatred and fear. The terror attacks in Europe and parts of Africa are a sobering picture of what happens when talking stops and there appears to be no other way except violence. When groups try to force and impose their will on others, as is happening, is a sure way to conflict and destruction.

Where is Jesus in all this? That will be our question in the months ahead. The Gospel figure of John the Baptist came to prepare the way of the Lord. John points us to see Jesus. His answer, in today's Gospel reading, to the questions of the soldiers and tax collectors, gives personal responsibility to each one of us. They (and we) are to do what is right; not to abuse their authority; not to misuse their position for personal gain; not to oppress others. It is a word of encouragement: that you and I can make a difference, when we do what is right. We are a sign of Christ in our troubled world and angry, restless country. And, as Archbishop Justin says, to pray, so that we may be “conformed to the likeness of God, and united with one another.”

My love to you all,



* <https://www.facebook.com/archbishopofcanterbury/posts/918971358157011>

GENERAL NOTICES

Revd Claire is celebrating and preaching at St Paul's in Port Alfred this morning.

Office closure: Please note that the Parish Office will be closing at 13h00 on Friday (18 December) and will re-open at 08h00 on Monday, 11th January next year.

Midnight Mass rehearsal; There's to be a rehearsal for Midnight Mass on Wednesday 23rd December, 16h00, in the Cathedral

The **Community of the Cross of Nails** (CCN) will, for the first time, be holding its International Representative Meeting in South Africa next year. Revd Dr. Sarah Hills, Canon for Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral, will be visiting prior to the meeting. She has requested meetings with those of our parishioners and clergy who are involved in outreach/reconciliation/peace/justice work in the community and persons interested in hearing about the work of CCN. One of the reasons for this choice is to allow the Dean of St Michael and All Angels Cathedral in Coventry, Dean John Witcombe, and Revd Dr Sarah to visit all the CCN centres. The latter would especially like to visit Grahamstown, as she was born here. All being well, she and Dean Witcombe will wish to spend two nights in Grahamstown (Friday and Saturday, January 22nd and 23rd next year) and we are asking our parishioners whether or not one of you are able to offer accommodation to them. If you are, please let Chris Walwyn know, in the Parish Office.

Cathy Pringle and Sally Terry, with the support and help of others, have been refurbishing the cushions and kneelers up at the High Altar. The new look is wonderful! Our very sincere thanks to them, and to all who are part of their team.

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

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 a single EFT payment.

The **new Choir CD** compilation, "Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs", featuring our own Cathedral Choir, will be on sale after all three services today; at R50,00 per copy, 'tis excellent value. Catch Dr A-J Bethke after each service.

Temporary closure: A team of people has been hard at work this last fortnight, 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.

Altar Servers: Sally Terry (083 413 0234) urgently needs Altar Servers for the balance of December and for January next year. If you can volunteer, please contact her.

Lady Chapel flowers: The roster for 2016 is on the glass cabinet near the West Door of the Cathedral. Please consider using this opportunity to remember anniversaries and people in your lives. See Peter and Ann Stockwell for more details.