



## *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: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Palm Sunday**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Presider / Officiant</b>
07h30	Holy Eucharist AAPB	Revd Dr Mary-Ellen Ashcroft	Revd Claire Nye Hunter
09h30	Holy Eucharist AAPB <i>The 09h30 service will begin with a procession from Church Square and will include the Admission of the new Church Officers</i>	Revd Dr Mary-Ellen Ashcroft	Dean Andrew Hunter
19h00	Taizé service	Dr A-J Bethke	

**We welcome** as our guest preacher this morning, The Reverend Dr Mary-Ellen Ashcroft, from The Episcopal Church, USA. We have been praying for her son, Steve Ashcroft, for some months, in his struggle against cancer. The latest news (9<sup>th</sup> March) is that his liver tumours are shrinking, but his lung tumours are growing. We continue to hold him, his wife Anna and their 3-year-old son Henry, as well as Mary Ellen and the whole family, in our love and prayers. Mary Ellen has written a series of reflections on the process with her son's illness. These can be found at <http://allmyhopeblog.wordpress.com>.

### **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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Please see our web and FB pages for more information:

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

**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 our newly elected churchwardens, alternate churchwarden, and PCC.

**OUR COMMUNITY:** we pray for students and school children on holiday; for their families; for safe travels; for academic and teaching staff at our universities and schools during the Easter break.

**OUR COUNTRY:** we pray for all victims of violent crime, and for their families.

**OUR WORLD:** we continue to pray for all refugees, and all who live in the midst of conflict and danger.

**BIRTHDAYS:** 21<sup>st</sup> Khanya Mvula; 24<sup>th</sup> Rose Kadye, Cwayita Bam and Kiah Fourie; 26<sup>th</sup> Felicia Pote.

**PARISH CYCLE of PRAYER:** Bishop Ebenezer, Aphiwe, Nocado and Zipho Ntlali; Namso Nyamela; Andile, Nosipho, Pumela and Siphosethu Nyarashe; Claire Nye Hunter.

**PARISHIONERS who are sick, convalescing, or with long-term illnesses:** Isabel Bridger, Thelma Neville and Joy Tandy.

**FRIENDS and FAMILY who are ill:** Steve Ashcroft, Canon James Hoyle, Peter Ingwersen (Roswitha Hobson's brother), Nolutho Mbolekwa, Owen Pearce, Thembeke Peter, Jackie Shipster (Chris Mann's sister) Mary-Clare Tracey-Craigen.

**DECEASED:** Fr George van der Merwe (in Johannesburg; former rector of St Clement's).

**Services next Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> March –Easter Day.**

Time	Services	Preacher	Presider / Officiant
06h00	Holy Communion Pascal Vigil AAPB	Bishop Ebenezer Ntlali	
09h30	Holy Eucharist AAPB	Revd Monwabisi Peter	Dean Andrew Hunter

**Here are the Gospel readings for Holy Week**

Mon	21	John 12: 1-11	Maundy Thursday	24	John 13: 1-17, 31b-35
Tues	22	John 12: 20-36	Good Friday	25	John 19: 1-37
Weds	23	John 13: 21-32	Holy Saturday	26	John 19: 38-42
Sun	27	Isaiah 65: 17-25	Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15: 19-26	John 20: 1-18

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

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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.

## Dean's letter, *Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016*

Dear Cathedral family,

Many thanks to all who attended our Annual Vestry Meeting last Sunday.

The names of those elected as churchwardens, alternate churchwarden and parish councillors appear elsewhere in today's pew leaflet. Vestry also elected Cathedral representatives to attend Diocesan Synod on our behalf, in a few months' time (4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May). We say a very big thank you to our out-going team, and welcome to the new team! Let's hold them all in our prayers and our love in the months ahead.

Our long Gospel reading for Palm Sunday, the story of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus Christ, ends with these words: "But all those who knew Jesus, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things." (Luke 23:49). Holy Week, which begins on Palm Sunday, is the heart of the Christian year. We walk with our Lord as He enters Jerusalem in triumph, on Palm Sunday. We journey through the events of Holy Week, to Maundy Thursday, when we gather for the Last Supper, and as Jesus washes our feet. We stand around the cross on Good Friday. We live through the desolation of Holy Saturday, that in-between time of waiting and final preparation. And finally, on Easter Day, we celebrate the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

During these solemn and deeply significant days, we "watch these things". This is the heart of the Christian faith: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Reading the gospel story of the Passion, I was struck again by just how messy it is. This is no ordered, planned event, carefully scripted, somehow controlled or directed. It is a series of false accusations. A farce of a trial. A mob calling for blood. Ridicule and mockery. An all-powerful ruler who is pressured by the crowd to hand over to them an innocent man. Suffering. Weeping and wailing. Mockery and insults. Death. Yet it is this event in all its horror and pain that we proclaim as the source of our salvation. "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself..." (2 Corinthians 5:19). "Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, and that is God's proof of his love towards us." (Romans 5:8).

The suffering and death of Christ is mirrored in the society around us. Archbishop Thabo Makgoba spoke recently of the crises we face – unemployment, tensions on our campuses, corruption at local and national level, poor service delivery, the crippling effects of the drought; and the almost complete breakdown of trust in our country.

But the story of Good Friday is not the end. Easter is just around the corner. We are resurrection people, who live in hope and in trust, and who offer all that we are to God, so that God may use us to bring life. And that in our own darkness and struggles, our own Good Fridays, we may find a way forward into light and new birth. Holy Week is the church's invitation to each of us to walk with Jesus through darkness and death, and beyond the tomb into life.

My love to you all,

*Andrew Hunt*

## GENERAL NOTICES

**Cathedral clergy** will be conducting a number of services elsewhere during Holy Week and Easter. The Sub Dean, in his capacity as Archdeacon of Grahamstown, will be leading services at St Augustine's, Grahamstown, each night this week, including Maundy Thursday. Revd Claire will be leading the Good Friday service at Trinity Presbyterian Church, before joining us at the Cathedral for the Three Hour Devotions. Sub Dean Mzi will be leading the Easter Day service at Trinity Presbyterian Church

**Church Office Bearers.** At our Annual Vestry Meeting last Sunday, the following were elected to office: Ian Meiklejohn and Ronaldo Burger (Churchwardens), Paul Walters (Alternate Churchwarden) and, as Church Councillors, Jane Bradshaw, Rodney Bridger, Lunga Dongwana, Cathy Euijen, Wayne Jayes, Patrick Pringle and Rose Spanneberg. Together with Sr Carol CR, representing the Community of the Resurrection of Our Lord, and Theodore Duxbury, the Chairperson of ANSOC, they will be admitted to their office at the 09h30 service this morning. Vestry also elected, as Cathedral representatives to Diocesan Synod, Mr Wayne Jayes and Dr Rose Spanneberg, with Mr Patrick Pringle as the alternate (in reserve). Diocesan Synod will be held at St Alban's, East London, 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

**Slide show:** Many thanks to Maggy Clarke for compiling the slide show we had at the Vestry service last Sunday; and to Wayne Jayes for his work on installing the data projector and email equipment over the past months. We hope to make the Vestry slide show an annual event! Maggy has very kindly agreed to be the point person and to collect photos throughout the year. If you have pictures of Cathedral life and activity, please send them to Maggy.

**Volunteers are needed** to have their feet washed during the Maundy Thursday service and to stay and pray with the Sacrament until Midnight on Thursday. We also we seek readers for the Easter Vigil. Sign-up lists in respect of these events are on the glass cabinet. Hi-Tech will maintain a presence during the Watch.

### Services and events during Holy Week and Easter:

- *Rehearsal for Maundy Thursday service: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 15h00. Clergy, Lay Ministers, Altar Servers.*
- Lent course, *Jewels from John*, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 18h30, Cory Room.
- Chrism Eucharist & Renewal of Vows, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 10h00, St John's, East London.
- Maundy Thursday Eucharist, with foot-washing, stripping of the altar, and Watch until Midnight, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 18h00.
- Good Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March: 08h00. Good Friday liturgy (Lady Chapel); 09h00. Stations of the Cross (Church Square); 12 noon Three Hour Devotions.
- Holy Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 09h00. Cathedral clean-up.
- *Rehearsal for the Easter Vigil: Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 15h00. Clergy, Lay Ministers, Altar Servers, sacristans, sound engineers.*
- Easter Day 27<sup>th</sup> March, 06h00. Easter Vigil, Lighting of the Easter Fire, Holy Eucharist; (no 07h30 service); 09h30 Holy Eucharist