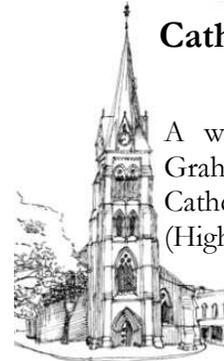


GENERAL NOTICES

Pledging update: A special thanks and acknowledgement is extended to all parishioners of the Cathedral who have responded so positively to the new year of pledging. While our pledging barometer this month shows a marked improvement, we are hoping to improve on last year's pledge statistics and want to encourage those members of the Parish who have not done so yet to please pray about your pledging and commit to contributing to the financial needs of the Cathedral.

Confirmation applications for 2017: Those wishing to be confirmed this year, are invited to complete a Confirmation Application Form (found at the back of the church or in the parish office) and hand it in to the Dean or one of the clergy. Classes will start in February 2017.

Congratulations to Tandiwe Gabavana on passing her Matric exams!



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

15th January 2017 Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Time	Services	Preacher	Presider / Officiant
07h30	Holy Communion AAPB	Rev. Dr Claire Nye Hunter	Dean Andrew Hunter
09h30	Holy Communion AAPB	Rev. Dr Claire Nye Hunter	Dean Andrew Hunter

Today's meetings and events:

Short sermon series on 1 Corinthians. Today's theme: How do we interpret the scriptures?	
07h20 & 09h20	Pre-service prayers for service leaders and participants.

This Week

19 Jan	09h30	St Luke's Communion	Dean Andrew Hunter
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Stipendiary clergy contact details and Cathedral Parish Office (046 622 2445):

*Dean of Grahamstown Very Rev Andrew Hunter.	082 308 8654	046 622 3976	dean@grahamstowncathedral.org <i>(day off Friday)</i>
*The Sub Dean Ven Mzinzisi Dyantyi	073 604 5232	046 622 5633	angaavile@live.co.za <i>(day off: Monday)</i>
*Senior Assistant Priest Rev Dr Claire Nye Hunter	046 622 2445	046 622 3976	claire@kingsleyemail.co.za <i>(day off: Friday)</i>

To contact the Parish Office staff by email, use: office@grahamstowncathedral.org (Administrator - Chantel) and admin@grahamstowncathedral.org (Parish Secretary).
*Members of the Clergy are available for confessions and interviews by appointment.

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa seeks to be:

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

Please join with us this week as we pray for:

OUR CHURCH: We pray for the Christian community throughout the world, particularly in places where there is sense of hopelessness. Pray that the church in this Epiphany Season may be bold to witness the truth of the Gospel in the face of increasing opposition.

OUR COUNTRY: We pray for schools in our Country as they commence with the academic program. For those who teach and for those who learn that they may praise God as the source of all truth. Pray for responsible and creative leadership particularly in all of our government departments. For the leaders of our land to promote social justice and Peace for all people.

OUR WORLD: We pray for areas of unrest and conflict around the world. For countries where people live in fear of terrorist attacks.

OUR COMMUNITY: We pray for the unemployed and Oppressed in our community, that you help us to banish cruelty from our midst and strengthen those who seek equality for all.

BIRTHDAYS: 15th Helen Keeble, 16th Nosipho Nyarashé & Cairis Appollis, 17th Trevor Loots, 18th Sanelisiwe Shumane, 20th Millicent Armitage & Jessica Smith, 21st Nqabisa Twaku

PARISH CYCLE of PRAYER: Jane Maarman, Lusanda & The Revd. Luthando Madiba, Owona Madlingozi, Nandipha, Thirushen & Tarendra Magadla, Nompumelelo, Liyema, Uyathandwa, Liqhame & Yamkelani Magwa-Bobotyani, Faith Magwenzi, Gugu Mahlangu, Thelma Maloko.

PARISHIONERS who are sick, convalescing, or with long-term illnesses: Isabel and Ernest Bridger, Celia Jameson, Kerry-Jane Guttridge, Thelma Neville, Paul Pillay, Jane Bradshaw, Clive Whitford.

FRIENDS and FAMILY who are ill: Steve Ashcroft, Cebisa, Michael Gainsborough, Jonty Nye (Claire's nephew), Jackie Shipster, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Leah Tutu, Chris Walwyn, Mpilo Ngxingo, Judith Duk (Rev Claire's sister), Mary Clare Tracey Craigen.

DECEASED: 1st of January Masixole Gabavana

Here are the Gospel readings for the coming week:

Mon	16	Mark 2:18-22	Thurs	19	Mark 3:7-12
Tues	17	Mark 2:23-28	Fri	20	Mark 3:13-19a
Weds	18	Mark 3:1-6	Sat	21	Mark 3:19b-30
Sun	22	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1,4-12	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23

Services next Sunday – 22nd Dec – Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Time	Services	Preacher	Presider / Officiant
07h30	Holy Communion SAPB	Revd. Dr Claire Nye Hunter	
09h30	Holy Communion AAPB	Revd. Dr Claire Nye Hunter	Sub Dean Mzinzi Dyantyi

Dean's Letter – Sunday 15th January 2017.

Dear Cathedral family,

Welcome back to all who have been away, and are now back in town for the start of the school and academic year! I hope that everyone has travelled safely, and has had a time of refreshment and rest. Often we begin the New Year feeling quite exhausted, anxious, anything but eager to launch ourselves into the torrent! I know the butterflies I feel as we get going again, my anxieties as I look ahead. It is always a bit easier once we have got going and are in the swing of things. The first week is generally the hardest! Our love and prayers are especially with school pupils in their new grades, those who are starting school, or going to high school; those starting a new job – all these new beginnings, joining a new community, finding your feet.

Our reading today from Isaiah 49:1-7 is known as the Second Servant Song. It is the voice of the Servant of God, confirming his mission to bring Israel back to God. The book of the prophet Isaiah reflects a long period in the history of Israel, and shows the development of the faith of a community at crucial times. Israel had lost its way. It had been dispossessed of its land. The people were in exile. It was in danger of losing touch with its calling as the people of God. There had been some inspirational leaders – Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, the prophets. During these times emerged the idea of a people and their Creator, God who would adopt them as His people and protect them, provided they lived according to His laws. But the people had failed, again and again, to keep their side of the Covenant, and so they were now in exile, landless.

The prophets spoke into that context: they pointed out how the people had gone wrong; but they also offered a vision and a word of hope.

Isaiah called the people to this hope. Earlier in the book of Isaiah (ch 45) we see reference to Cyrus, king of Persia, who Isaiah thought would save Israel. But that was liberation of the sword, and it was bound to fail. So the idea of a servant liberator, the Messiah (the anointed one) emerged, one who would conquer people's hearts and minds through peace; and who would achieve this through sacrifice and suffering.

Looking back and reading Isaiah through Christian eyes, we see this prophecy fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

United under the Messiah, Israel would become a light to all nations: a wonderfully inclusive picture, where all belong and none are excluded.

Have we as a community, or as a country, lost our way? Are we looking to a series of saviours – political leaders – to lead us to the Promised Land? Is the invitation of Jesus to follow him a way of escaping into some spiritual cocoon? Or is it – I suggest – a discovery of the way that leads to life and transformation?

My love to you all

