

St. Michael and All Angels

Anglican Church

The Diocese of Saldanha Bay



Our Mission

To honour God by proclaiming His Word in a spirit filled church, nurturing leadership, holistic growth, missions and care groups in a Discipling Environment

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RECTOR: The Revd Canon David Mills

TO: ALL THE MEMBERS OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, EDGEMOED

A PASTORAL LETTER – PENTECOST 2017

Dear Friends,

Greetings in our Lord's Name. Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!! A wonderful cry of victory rang out, as we entered our church, early on Easter Sunday morning in the service of Light with the Paschal Candle – representing the powerful and glorious light of the Resurrection, which shone out of the darkness of death, fulfilling Jesus own words, "The Son of Man shall rise on the third day."

The Sundays of the season of Easter remind us of the resurrection appearances of our Lord, all of which were a time of both amazement, perhaps also awe and great encouragement to the disciples, helping them prepare for the promised power of the Holy Spirit of God, 'to come from on high', poured on upon them on the day of Pentecost.

Following Easter and the Feast of the Ascension, we celebrated with great joy the Festival of Pentecost, during which we reflected on how the Holy Spirit of God is active in every facet of our lives. In the note in the Anglican publication, "Saints and Seasons", the following note appears in the section dealing with Trinity Sunday:

"The Church's year is divided into two halves of approximately equal length. From Advent to Pentecost the Church represents the drama of our salvation, following step by step in its successive feasts the mighty acts of God wrought through Christ – his life, his death and resurrection, his ascension and his sending from the Father the promised Spirit. The second half of the year, from Pentecost to Advent, is given over to the teaching of Jesus, through which Christians can ponder the implications for themselves of God's mighty acts."

This very helpful note assists us in understanding how to make the most of the season in which we currently find ourselves, in the Christian calendar. The liturgical colour is green which reminds us of the growth of the Church in the time which followed Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. I do hope that this will serve as an invitation to enter more and more deeply into growing in your and my own faith, as we journey together through this time and to the end of the year when we will enter into the Season of Advent and our preparation for the joy of Christmas.

The recent disaster on the Garden Route

The recent extreme storms in the Cape and the wildfires along the Garden Route, have resulted on the displacement of many people and massive destruction in property, not to speak of loss of life through this profound disaster. I looked recently at video footage available on Facebook, at some scenes of the approximately 300 homes destroyed in Knysna – this was deeply disturbing – our thoughts and prayers go out to all who have lost so much. We are grateful indeed to hear from Fr Jerome Prins, that the

Rectory and Church of Holy Trinity, Belvidere were spared, although houses around these properties were razed to the ground.

Fr Winston and Lorna Dickerson's home was also spared, for which we offer grateful thanks. We are most grateful to Fr Allan and Avril, who will be travelling to Knysna on Thursday, 5th June, to deliver to Fr Jerome, on our behalf, money, blankets, food and other goods for those in need. Thank you to so many in our parish, for responding so quickly to this crisis and acute need. Our Parish Council has further approved an amount of R2 000.00 from the parish, which has been deposited into the account provided by Fr Jerome (details of which are on our Parish Facebook page – Anglican Parish Edgemoed St Michael's).

We continue to keep all those, who have lost their homes and even loved ones, in the fires in our prayers – we pray for healing which we know with confidence our Lord will bring to them. A suggested collect is given below, which you might wish to use in your prayers:

*Lord God of all compassion and love;
Your people are in deep pain through
the recent wildfires, which have swept
through the Southern and Eastern Cape.
As your Son, our Lord, cried for the Cross,
"My God, my God, why have
you forsaken me!";
Comfort, we pray, all who are bereaved
and have lost much – help them
to rebuild their lives with courage and hope.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is the
same today, yesterday and forever. Amen.*

Prayers for Rain in our Region

We have been praying earnestly for rain in our region of South Africa for a long time now – we praise and thank God for the rains which have begun to fall. This has made a small difference at the time of writing to the dam levels in our region – please keep praying for rain.

A comment has been made that insofar as we pray for rain and these prayers are certainly needed, we also need to recognise that part of the reason for the drought is Global Warming which has affected weather patterns in our world. We needed therefore to repent of the actions of humanity which have both polluted and impacted our environment in so many ways. The prayer which follows attempts to reflect these truths while, at the same time, giving us a means of articulating our longing for rain and prayer to Almighty God to enable these to fall. Please use this prayer on a daily basis – my suggestion so that, at 12h00 each day, we all pause wherever we are and whatever we are doing, to pray this prayer:

*Almighty God, creator of all;
You have shaped our world and made
each person fearfully and wonderfully.
Forgive us for polluting the Earth and
impacting its climate which has
led to drought.
In your mercy grant good rains for all,
especially your people in this region
of our Country;
In confidence and humility we pray this
through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.
Amen.*

Snippets from our Parish

Teenage Discipleship Groups

These have now been launched – our prayers and caring support go out to Shereen and Mo who facilitate these groups.

Youth Synod

Takes place next month in Atlantis – please pray for Toni and Liam, as they prepare to represent our parish at this important event.

Pastoral Care Course led by Fr Rod

We had many people from our parish attending this excellent course run by Fr Rod during May – may thanks to his for a really helpful and well led course – those who attended will, in due course, receive a certificate of attendance from Fr Rod at one of our Sunday services.

An engagement to announce!!

Our warm congratulations to ordinand Evelyn Philander on her recent engagement – blessings on you both, as you prepare for the marriage ceremony in December.

In closing, Richard Rohr, who I have quoted before, says the following,

“In Franciscan (and true Christian) mysticism, there is finally no distinction between sacred and profane. The whole universe and all events are sacred, serving as doorways to the divine for those who know how to see. In other words, everything that happens is potentially sacred if we allow it to be. Our job as humans is to make admiration of reality and adoration of God fully conscious and intentional. Then everything is a prayer and an act of adoration. As the French friar Eloi Leclerc (1921-2016) beautifully paraphrased Francis, ‘if we knew how to adore, then nothing could truly disturb our peace. We would travel through the world with the tranquility of the great rivers. But only if we know how to adore’ ”

May you and yours know the power and enabling gifts of the Holy Spirit of God, day by day..
God bless,

Revd Canon David Mills
Rector

Our Vision

To be a Multi-Generational Church creating a culture of discipleship where all people can Believe, Belong and Become
◆ Relevant ◆ Effective ◆ Dynamic

