

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

20TH September 2017

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

A PASTORAL LETTER

THE FESTIVAL OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

Dear Friends,

Greetings in our wonderful Lord's Name. I write today on what is called Holy Cross Day – a significant festival in our Liturgical Calendar, recognising the centrality of the Cross in our faith and life as Christians. In the collect for this day we pray;

“Eternal God, you revealed your love when your Son was lifted up in splendour on the cross; illuminate our world and draw us out of darkness into his glorious light; who reigns supreme with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.”

Some may know that, in the wider Anglican Church, we have a number of religious communities, including those based on Benedictine spirituality. One example of this community is that of the **Order of the Holy Cross**, based in West Park, New York State. For some years now they have an established Monastery just outside Grahamstown, called Mariya uMama weThemba Monastery – for more information about their work and life, please Google their Website. Those who wish to support their work in kind and through prayer, can become Associates of the Holy Cross.

The Cross, as we all know, forms a very central place in our life as Christians – the Festival of Holy Cross always reminds me of the words of St Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthian Church,

“For Christ did not send me to baptise but to preach the Gospel and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Cor. 1: 17-18 ESV)

In this Pastoral Letter we look forward to the Patronal Festival of our parish, the Festival of St Michael and All Angels, which, in our Lectionary, is kept on Friday 29th September. As Sunday 1st October falls within the mid-term school holidays we felt it would be better to hold our Patronal Festival on Sunday 24th September. This is of course also National Heritage Day.

Some important updates on what's on and happening at St Michael's

Patronal Festival and Parish Family Photograph

We celebrate the festival of St Michael and All Angels on Sunday 24th September – the first service at 07h30 will be a said service and thus quite brief. The second service at 09h00 will be the focus service for our celebration of this Festival. This occasion also continues our observance of the Season of Creation. I know that Monday 25th September is a Public Holiday and that some folk will be away enjoying the long weekend, however I do hope that all those who are still in town will make a special effort to come and join us for some fun and fellowship.

Season of Creation and Parish Baptism

Our thanks go to all those who have assisted in enabling us as a parish to observe the Season of Creation series, which concludes on Sunday 1st October. This Sunday is also a Baptism Sunday and so I do hope again that as many will attend to support those families who will be presenting children for baptism into our Church.

Rector's Annual Retreat

I will be away on my annual Retreat from 25th to 29th September. This will be conducted by Revd Terry Lester, Rector of Christ Church, Constantia. I am really looking forward to this experience.

Formation of Teenage Discipleship Groups

Fr Rod, following a recent and exciting meeting of the parents and young people involved in our Teenage Discipleship Groups, writes as follows:

"After much discussion, thought and prayer, two Teenage Discipleship Groups were established five months ago. For all involved, this was an act of faith in God. The initial agreement was that all of us, Teenagers, Parents and Group Leaders, would remain committed together until the end of the Third School Term, after which the process would be evaluated and a decision made about the future of these groups.

"Monday's report back meeting was an occasion for celebration. We heard quite remarkable testimonies, from the teenagers themselves, from the group leaders and from parents, and the decision to continue was made with acclaim and delight. Here, in the Discipleship Groups, is a safe, confidential and holy place where our teenagers can build relationships and discuss the issues pertaining to their lives under wise and careful guidance. Give thanks to God for this new ministry"

Parish Strategic Planning Workshop: November 2017

In November the parish leadership will be meeting for a Strategic Planning Workshop – this will take place on a Saturday at Schoenstatt Centre in Constantia. We look forward very much to this important time together. Please keep this workshop and the planning thereof in your prayers. When this was last done in the parish, a number of important ministries grew out of this planning workshop.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. David

The Revd Canon David Mills

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Our Vision

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

◆ Relevant ◆ Effective ◆ Dynamic

Followers of Jesus Christ.