

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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1st November 2017

TO THE MEMBERS OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, EDGEMOED

NEWS AND REFLECTIONS FROM THE RECTOR

THE FESTIVAL OF ALL SAINTS – SOME THOUGHTS

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you all on this Festival of All Saints – a wonderful reminder of the fact that ***we are all saints*** – St Paul, in a number of his letters to the churches, refers to the believers as the saints in...Ephesus, Corinth and Philippi etc. Of course, as the note on the festival of All Saints in the booklet, "Saints and Seasons", reminds us, "... *But from early times certain Christians have been singled out for honoured remembrance as having shown a conspicuous obedience to God in their life and in their death. Their fellow Christians have delighted to honour such people with the special title "Saint", and believe that of all who 'die in the Lord' these certainly have a special place in the presence of God.*" (Saints and Seasons, pp.116.)

At our 09h00 Holy Communion service today, 1st November, we reflected on the lives of three of the Saints of the Church, namely, St Ignatius of Loyola, St Francis of Assisi and St Theresa of Calcutta. In the lives of these three saints we were able to see the unique way in which our Lord worked through them. We also know the blessing of the diverse ways of prayer and spirituality, bequeathed to us in the church through the three orders they founded, viz. the Jesuits, Franciscans and Sisters of Mercy.

As we know too the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, or All Souls, as it is more commonly known follows on November 2nd. This festival has often been misunderstood in the past, where misunderstanding and ignorance has led some to think that this is the day on which we 'pray to the dead'. Nothing could be further from the truth – in commemorating the lives of the faithful departed, we honour and give thanks to God, for all our loved ones who are with our Lord in the glory of eternity. The exact nature of their experience of eternal life, in that place which we know as Heaven, will only be revealed to us when we too pass over to join them in eternity. What we do have though is a number of images of the heavenly realms from Scripture, particularly in the Revelation of St John the Divine which serve as an inspiration and comfort to all who believe.

In God's commissioning of the Prophets in the Old Testament they were called through a vision of the glory of God, perhaps the most well-known of which is that of the call of Isaiah described in the opening verses of Isaiah 6. This revelation of the great panoply of God is one of many pictures of what we may believe it to be like for those who have passed on and now form part of the great throng, without number, who continuously praise God in the wonderful acclamation, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of God's glory – blessed are those who come in the Name of the Lord."

That said, the amazing truth is that in this mortal realm we are in Christ and thus already living in eternal life – for us, who believe in the resurrection from the dead, death is but a gateway through which we will pass into the fullness of our inheritance as the children of Light. Two Gospel passages affirm this truth:

"Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives to whomsoever he wishes. The Father judges no one but has given all judgement to the Son, so that all may honour the Son as they honour the Father. Anyone who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent him. Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life." (John 5: 21-14 NRSV).

and,

"Jesus said to her (Martha), 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes. Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah. The Son of God, the one coming into the world.'" (John 11: 25-27 NRSV).

Thus we rejoice that through our faith in the risen Son of God, Jesus our Lord, we are those who are already seated with him in the 'heavenly realms' (Ephesians 1:3) living in the here and now in the reality of eternal life, our lives 'hidden with Christ in God' (Colossians 3:2). Praise be to our Lord!

WHAT'S BEEN ON AND IS HAPPENING AT ST MICHAEL'S

The passing of Ivan Hugh Overmeyer R.I.P.

We record, with great sadness, the passing of our dear brother and faithful servant of the Lord, Ivan Hugh Overmeyer, on Friday 20th October 2017. As it happened, regrettably and most unusually, all the parish clergy were away at the time of his death (I, for instance, was in Namaqualand, conducting theological training). Before he died, when informed that the time was close, I immediately asked Maurice Heyne to see Ivan and, with my permission, anoint him. When shortly afterwards we were advised that Ivan had passed away, it was arranged for Heather Moore and Donald Sparks, as also Revd Canon Selwyn Engelbrecht, rector of St Oswald's, Milnerton, to join the family in his ward and bring comfort to them.

I draw attention to this pastoral care to highlight our care and love for Ivan's family, deeply felt and expressed through this ministry. The Requiem Mass for Ivan took place at St Michael's on Saturday, 28th November and afforded us a wonderful time to honour him and celebrate his life of dedication and service to our Lord in God's Church. Ivan passed away just short of the 40th anniversary of his having been licensed to the Lay Ministry. We will

miss Ivan's cheerful smile and lovely sense of humour, especially at our Wednesday services - may he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Our Annual Parish Dance

This takes place at Tafelberg School, Bothasig on Saturday 11th November. Tickets are still available at R120 pp. We really would appeal to you to support this event – it is a wonderful opportunity for us to be together for fellowship and fun – the live Band that played last year has been booked once again – they are excellent and will give us lots of foot-tapping music. Please come and be part of this special occasion in the life of our parish.

2018 Strategic Planning Workshop for St Michael's Leadership

The leadership of our parish will be spending a day together on Saturday 18th November to do strategic planning for our parish for 2018. This is a valuable opportunity for us to reflect on how our Lord has been working in our midst and to discern God's purposes for us as a parish going forward. Please keep us in your prayers and pray that we will boldly and faithfully embrace all that our Lord is leading us into in the New Year.

Worship Songs, Scripture readings and the welcome of a further Ordinand

Worship Songs

At our last Parish Council meeting we reflected for some time on the songs/hymns chosen for our 09h00 services, especially the family service on the first Sunday of the month. Various convictions about this were shared and received. The parish clergy will continue this process of reflection and discernment, in seeking to enable as many as possible to feel confident and uplifted in singing the songs as part of praise and worship at our services.

NRSV Version of the Bible to be read

After prayer and discernment I would like us, as of Sunday 3rd December 2017, which is Advent Sunday, to use the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (NRSV) for our readings at our services. There are a number of reasons for this – among others that this is an inclusive, modern and listener-friendly translation of the Bible.

We will ask Sean to load the lessons onto the Media, as is the case presently – copies of the readings will be sent to each reader for their preparation. I know that, for many, the NIV translation is their preferred version, however would ask for your indulgence and openness of heart to experience the NRSV, as we begin to hear lessons read from it from the beginning of Advent.

New Ordinand and his family joining us as of 5th November 2017

It will be our joy to welcome Barry Betz, one of our ordinands and his family, joining us from the parish of Holy Trinity, Bothasig. Barry is accompanied by his wife, Candice and children, Zion (6yrs) and Eden (3yrs). The Betz family join us as permanent members of St Michael's and not by way of a parish placement. By contrast both Paul and Evelyn will, following ordination as Deacons, return to their home parishes. This change of parish membership for the Betz family takes place through consultation with the Bishop and the kind support of Fr Ashley Meyer and the leadership of Holy Trinity.

Forthcoming Baptisms at St Michael's – 09h00 Service, 10th December 2017

Please will all families wishing to present a child for baptism note that our next baptisms will take place during the 09h00 Holy Communion service on Sunday 10th December 2017. Please be in touch with Taynà at our parish office in this regard.

Special Vestry Meeting

A very brief Special Vestry meeting will take place at the end of our 09h00 Combined Family Service, on Sunday 5th November. The purpose of this Vestry is to approve a minor amendment in the 2016 Audited Statements, whereby the Capital Expenditure for the Palisade Fencing, erected on the church property last year, has been moved out of 'Operating expenses', thereby reflecting a profit accrued for the year.

Forthcoming Family Service – Sunday 5th November 09h00 – All Saints Festival

We look forward to seeing you all, for what I believe will be a glorious combined family service - 09h00, Sunday 5th November, focusing on the Festival of All Saints – our service includes a Liturgical Dance and music group leading our praise and worship.

Yours in Christ,
Fr David

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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.