

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

Thursday 26th March 2020

Beloved parish family

You are all in my heart as we prepare together for the Nationwide Lock-down which will be in effect from midnight tonight. This is unprecedented in the history of our country and the world. The way forward is uncertain and for some frightening, for most of us stressful and inconvenient. Plans we had made for this time are now all on hold.

Three words from Jesus, as we prepare for the lock-down

- ***Jesus said, "I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution (trouble). But take courage; I have conquered the world!"*** (John 16:33 NRSV). In this time in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic we hold onto 2 truths: that in Jesus we have peace and that despite all we experience Jesus who, in the triumph of his resurrection, has conquered the world and stands alongside us.
- ***Jesus said, "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."*** (John 8:12 NRSV) That light is represented by candles which we use in our worship – can I suggest that you set aside a dedicated space in your home for prayer and worship – have a small table on which you might put a cross, some flowers and a candle. Please light that candle every day, if possible at 12h00, to connect with what I will be doing in our church in the Eucharist.
- ***Jesus invites us these words, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*** (Matthew 11:28-30 NRSV). In our prayers, let us keep offering to Jesus those burdens which we are finding heavy, our worry about friends and family, our own concerns about potential of infection, how we are going to use this time available to us in the period of lock-down, among others.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with you all through this very challenging time, much love in Christ,

Fr.David

A few practicalities very briefly

Availability of the Clergy: Revd's Allan, Rod and I are available to chat on the phone or pray with you over the phone when needed – please don't hesitate to be in touch so that we can support and care for you – you matter very much indeed and if you need me please make use of either text (sms) or WhatsApp messages.

Email availability: Taynà will monitor the parish email address from her home and be in touch with me, if needed, to relay messages. I will also be available on email, either through the parish email address, or my personal email address which is: davidstm2016@gmail.com

Prayers for Revd Evelyn Abrahams: Please keep Revd Evelyn and her family in your prayers – she is still very ill and in a lot of pain. She has had a MRI scan, however can only see the Doctor for the results on 20th April. She continues to be in a lot of pain.

Our weekly Pew News: this Pew News will be the last one ***we will email out to the parish*** – although Taynà will be working from home she will not be able to email the weekly Pew News document to you. Instead our Pew News, as is the case already, will be accessible on the Parish Website – if you are only using a smart phone or tablet you will still be able to view it by logging on to the website at: www.stmichaelsedgemead.org.za

Church Services: as the church is closed for the period of the Lock-down, no services will take place at St Michael's – however I will be conducting a Eucharist at the altar in the church at 12h00, as this has been requested by both the Archbishop and Bishop Raphael. I will record the Gospel reading set for the day, plus a short reflection in it. This will be uploaded by Sean to our website and Facebook page.

WhatsApp communications: we are going to try and load the whole parish community onto a WhatsApp group: "St Michaels Parish" – obviously you will only receive WhatsApp messages on this group if you have a WhatsApp account – if you need one please download the WhatsApp app to your phone or tablet, via the Google Play store – the instructions for setting it up are easy to follow. If you are on WhatsApp and do not wish to be part of the parish group, kindly follow the steps below to leave the group:

- 1) Tap on the vertical line of three dots, on the top right hand corner of the app;
- 2) Tap 'more' and a new window will open, giving you the option to 'Exit group'
- 3) Tap 'Exit group' and you will leave the group.

Why use WhatsApp? This medium of communication is instant and convenient – photos, media files (such as the Pew News) and messages can be sent. Communication via a Website or sms messages requires logging onto a dedicated server on the internet, while WhatsApp runs on your phone and indicates a red dot as soon as messages and other media are received. The group will be set up so that **only the administrator (admin) can post to it** – individual parishioners will not be able to post to the group.