



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

Address: Letchworth Drive, Edgemoor Cape Town, 7441

Phones: (021) 558-4139 or 558-8628, Fax (021) 558-0881,

E-mail: edgemooranglican@telkomsa.net Website: www.stmichaelsedgemoor.org.za

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1633691556945807/>

RECTOR: The Revd Canon David Mills

10 May 2020

Hello to our Parish Family and Friends,

This letter has been composed by members of our Parish Council, with some input from Fr David, flowing out of our Parish Council meeting held via Zoom last Tuesday evening.

We do hope that everyone is doing well amidst these uncertain times. We have surely been experiencing a mix of emotions these past 7 weeks of Lockdown, bouncing between confusion, some happiness after connecting remotely to our loved ones, maybe a bit of fear, as well as gratitude to know God is with us through all these emotions, so please be kind to yourselves and all around you.

We would like to say thank you to Father David for his unfailing love for us, his parish, as he soldiered on and navigated through the tech world to keep us all engaged with daily devotions and his Sunday Services – to that we say a BIG BIG THANK YOU. We share the following information for your attention, from Parish Council.

Communication

We would like to stay engaged – to have a laugh, a bit of a cry, but most of all to make sure we stay encouraged by the Love of Christ. So please make contact with us if there are any special needs you and your family require, - a prayer for encouragement to get you through a difficult patch, or simply to give thanks for God's never ending mercies bestowed on us all.

We have uploaded sermons (audio recordings) onto our website which you can listen to at your leisure – the link has been posted to our Parish Facebook page and Parish WhatsApp Group.

This is the Link: <http://www.stmichaelsedgemoor.org.za/Rector%20message.html>

If you would like to be included in the WhatsApp group please let Taynà know via the Parish email or the Parish Admin cell phone, the number is: **072 298 1959**.

Whilst we become technology GURU's we are further looking, through Sean's help, into a **packaged Eucharist Service** (Music and Words, Readings and Prayers, brief Sermon and Eucharistic Liturgy) – this will be uploaded to the Parish website through which you can live-stream it at your convenience. We have looked at YouTube and other media platforms for live-streaming, however we feel at this stage that this option will serve us best. As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions – please direct these to Fr David. The Services via the link to the Parish Website can be watched when convenient.

Financial Matters

Income derived from K&J Dance Studio and Kiddies Campus is, as a result of the lockdown, not being received by the parish. This has resulted in a shortfall of approximately R 15 000.00 for April and will continue, as long as these groups cannot meet. Exco is in touch with them and is monitoring the situation closely.

The Diocese has informed us that all parishes will receive a 50% reduction in the Diocesan Assessment for May and 100% reduction for June – this will greatly assist in taking strain off our current cash flow. Our parish budget is being re-forecasted and will be discussed in detail by PCC at our next meeting at the end of this month. Expenditure is being very carefully controlled.

Pledged and Cash Giving in support of the ministry of St Michael's

During our PCC meeting we have discussed and agreed that, as far as we possibly can, we will continue to employ our current staff, being Taynà and Blessed. We will also continue to contribute our parish Tithe (Grace Ministries) to beneficiaries, as approved by PCC.

While able to meet for services at the church a number of our families have preferred to support our parish via cash contributions, taken through the offertory plate. We respectfully ask that if you have been supporting St Michael's in this way you please consider setting up the parish as a beneficiary on internet banking so that St Michael's can still enjoy this revenue as our cash flow is very tight. We furthermore encourage all our parishioners to continue to support the parish, through pledged giving and tithes - if you wish to electronically donate towards the food parcels, being distributed to parishioners in need, please use "Barnabas" as the reference.

We are more than aware that certain families are profoundly impacted on the economic consequences of Covid-19. We are keeping them in our prayers and have been asked that either June Johansen or Fr David be advised if there are families in need of food parcels through Barnabas basket. We send our sincere thanks to those who have contributed towards this initiative.

May we reassure our parish family, we as parish leadership are deeply committed to journeying alongside you all through this challenging and stressful time

As said before, please stay in contact of what you think and feel – this can be done through our EXCO members, Portfolio Leaders or Taynà.

As we end this letter we share the following scriptures with you, in the hope that they are encouraging:

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! The Lord does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us." Ephesians 3:20 (The Message)

The Lord goes before you and will be with you; God will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8

Isaiah 43:19 (NIV) See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10 (NIV).

The Rector, Churchwardens and Parish Council: St Michael and All Angels, Edgemean