



July 2018

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Grace and Peace be yours in Christ Jesus our Lord.
I greet you in His Name and thank you for your fellowship.

“True religion, and undefiled before God is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” James 1:27

THE FACE OF NEED



THE RIGHT ATTITUDE TO CHURCH GROWTH

We have seen remarkable and consistent growth in Southern Africa over the past few years. The clergy have been tireless, the people wonderfully involved and generous, and Our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the increase....all the glory be to His most holy Name.

Whenever times are difficult, people pray with great intensity. Too often, when things are good, the prayers subside and God's mercies, so freely given, are forgotten, and we could be in danger of finding ourselves believing that we did it all in our own strength. I am not prepared to allow us to fall into that trap, and so this *Ad Clerum* carries a stern reminder from the Psalms for us to keep our eyes and hearts fixed on the true Builder of our spiritual house, even the Lord Himself.

Psalm 127 (King James Version)

“Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.”

The ‘business’ of church growth can easily become just that; a business. We see many charismatic churches springing up around us which preach a ‘gospel of prosperity’ which seem to be so successful, and yet which often disappear as quickly as they began. They are churches based on greed and force of personality, and not on true worship in humility before God our heavenly Father. The Lord did not ‘*build the house*’, and like the Parable of the Two Houses in Matthew Chapter 7, when “*the rain falls, and the flood rises, and the storm beats on that house, it falls with a great crash, because it had no foundation*”.

As the people of God of the Traditional Anglican Communion in Southern Africa, we will always seek His guiding Spirit, acknowledge His way as our way, and glorify His Name in every situation. As St Peter said in his Epistle, we will “*become like living stones, being built into a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ*” [1 Peter 2:5] That is our calling, and so we will live our lives.

Ad so we launch into another *Ad Clerum* filled with the work of the Holy Spirit within the church of Jesus Christ our Lord. Rejoice with me as we see our Lord guiding His people into new and exciting ventures of faith.

THE FACE OF MERCY – LOVE MADE VISIBLE



Fr Barnad Lesenyeho distributing blankets during the bitter winter in Botshabelo; these were gifts from other TAC members to their needy fellow Christians.

OUTREACH TO QWA QWA AND BOTSHABELO BY HOLY CROSS, PRETORIA

What started as a small blanket drive to send a little help to fellow TAC congregations in Botshabelo, soon escalated into a full-blown outreach effort. The parish had around R3,500 available for outreach, but the parishioners agreed that this was insufficient and they began to challenge each other to meet new targets of generosity. With the help of very special benefactor, what resulted was a gift that fed 300 people, gave high quality blankets to 70 elderly, and clothed 153 children between the ages of 3 and 16 years. The children also each received a toiletry pack containing soap, toothpaste and toothbrush, a wash cloth, deodorant and sanitary towels or a razor. It was a mountain of goods, all brand new and of high quality, sent with love to the *'fatherless and widows'* from a small group of fervent believers. That level of generous giving made me so proud to associated with such wonderful TAC people. In all, six parishes received assistance, just as the winter really began to bite in the Drakensberg mountains. St Mark, Witsieshoek, St Paul, Qwa Qwa, St Luke, Holy Cross and St James in Botshabelo, and St Phillip and St James, Mangaung; all in a very cold area and all with many needy people, were touched by a wonderful Christian gesture of concern and practical love.



Some of the blankets purchased for the outreach



The Bishops Vito packed to the roof!!

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When good people are motivated to follow our Lord's teachings, the love that is spread is very profound and echoes through the communities in a tangible way. Our thanks to Fr Barnad Lesenyeho and Annie Kekane of Puthaditjhaba for distributing to the poor and providing us with these marvellous pictures of those receiving the gifts.

Bishop Murinda and Mrs Murinda blessing those who were packing the gifts for Botshabelo



St James Botshabelo



One of the St James elderly



The young and old of St Luke, Botshabelo receive their gifts



Delighted ladies of Puthditjhaba, St Paul. They sent a beautiful video song of gratitude to God



In the freezing cold of Witsieshoek, St Mark, Qwa Qwa. Love makes everyone happy!! The food above was to help the poor of St Mark whose SA Government grants had not been paid, and who had been left stranded without food for their families.

So....as you can see, a little love can go a long way, and can build many bridges.

WE CELEBRATE A NEW PARISH – ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE, MTHENTU

A BEAUTIFUL NEW CHURCH BUILDING, A NEW RECTOR, FR MZIWONKE MANDLA, AND TWO MEN AS DEACONS IN THE CHURCH OF GOD.

The work of the TAC in the Eastern Cape is showing maturity and steady progress. Following on the successful building of St Monica's, Butterworth, a further parish has been established at Mthentu, deep in the rural region close to Mthatha. This has been a work of great personal effort and sacrifice by a wonderful servant of God, Mr Patrick Sitonana Mapoyi of Mthentu. His vision and force of character, together with Fr Augustine Koluti and Fr Mziwonke Mandla, have resulted in a very special church, nestled in the hills, to serve the local people.



The blessing of the Parish of St Thomas was an enormous social event, with local Traditional Leaders in attendance and good support from people of other churches in the area.



The people gather.....

Below: Mr Mapoyi unveils the Commemorative Stone.



Blessing the Font





The packed interior – the choir was magnificent



The Deacons prostrate



Fr Sidwell Vena leads the Litany



The Ordination of the Rev Dr John Baptist Nakene and the Rev Themvikile Biyongi

The two new Deacons will serve in the Eastern Cape Region, the Rev Dr John-Baptist Nkopane Nakin at the Parish of St Thomas the Apostle, Mthentu, and the Rev Thembekile Biyongi at The Parish of St Monica, Butterworth.

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They will be of great assistance to their priests in the pastoral care of our people in these widespread rural parishes.

We welcome our fellow-workers for the sake of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eastern Cape Region. Please keep them in your prayers.



Deacons Thembekile Biyongi (left) and Dr John-Baptist Nkopane Nakin



Blessing the Altar



Deacon Biyongo reads the Gospel



Preparing for the Mass

The joyous Offertory Hymn



The Invitation





Fr Mziwonke Mandla is Instituted as Rector of the Parish of St Thomas the Apostle, Mthentu



Fr Mandla and his family are presented to the congregation



Mrs and Mr Mapoyi are thanked for their efforts in building the new parish of St Thomas the Apostle and are given gifts for the use of the parish.



The Dismissal
The Deacons with their families



Please pray for the Parish of St Thomas, it's clergy and people, that they may serve their community in humility and go from strength to strength in the power of the Holy Ghost.



Mr Patrick Sitonana Mapoyi; a good and faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, with Bishop Michael and the Vicar General, Fr Augustine Koliti.

Mr Mapoyi has done a work that will stand forever in the history of the TAC in Southern Africa. He and others who give so selflessly are the founders and pioneers of the Traditional Anglican Communion in Southern Africa, and the reason why we will thrive and develop as an unstoppable force.

A WONDERFUL FAREWELL TO CANON JACOB MASAKALA – A FAITHFUL SERVANT OF THE CHURCH IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE, QWA QWA AND NORTHERN CAPE.

On Sunday 24th June, the Diocese held a service of thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Canon Jacob Masakala.

Clergy and people from throughout the Diocese travelled to say farewell and to pay their respects to Canon Masakala. We met in sub-zero temperatures in a huge and breezy stadium in Botshabelo – at times like that, being an overdressed Anglican is a blessing!



The assembled clergy and servers. Most had travelled many hours to get to Botshabelo



Bishop Michael was able to introduce Bishop Murinda to the people of the Free State Region. This was the first time that many of them had met him. Bishop Michael also thanked Vicar General Fr Augustine Koliti for the arrangements for the service and formally introduced him in his new role to the assembled people.

Fr Masakala had many of his family present, and following a beautiful Mass, with a good choir trained by Fr Masakala, there was a Programme in which all the Regions of the Diocese had an opportunity to thank Fr Masakala for his service. Gifts were presented by many parishes, the Diocese and individuals, and this was followed by a hearty lunch before we all made our long journeys home.



Above: The Holy Mass



Above: Bishop Michael pays tribute to Canon Masakala's ministry in the Free State Region



Canon Jacob Masakala thanks his fellow-clergy for their support



Bishop Michael begins the distribution of aid gifts to the Free State and Qwa Qwa parishes through the leaders of the Mothers Union



Canon Jacob and Mrs Masakala – faithful servants of the church

Thank you for being a part of the spiritual journey of such a vibrant, caring and spiritual family of God within the Traditional Anglican Communion. We are blessed to see the guiding hand of the Holy Ghost upon our communities as we grow together in love and in his most blessed service.

Every blessing
+Michael
Southern Africa