

**DIOCESE OF FALSE BAY**  
**BISHOP'S MESSAGE TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**AGM – 2019**

Dear friends and supporters of False Bay SocDev Board,

Today we reflect on what God has allowed us to achieve this past year. The task of the Board and Department is to lead the church's work in social development. We celebrate the resurrection work that you continue to do among us, the hope you bring, the seeds that you plant, that germinate and grow.

With the interns that pass through our office, Soc Dev has the focus to capacitate young people for the workplace. Our Department has given the marginalised and forgotten a glimpse of hope.

Over the last year SocDev has again brought hope to many women, through the Gender-Based Violence programme. As a church we still inadequately respond to the needs of these women and their families.

Thank you SocDev that together with our partners, we care for the needs of children through feeding schemes and holiday clubs. Our children are often neglected and bear the fruit of abuse. We have helped children with school uniforms, stationery and shoes to keep them in school so that their future is better than their present. Thank you for the leadership and Confirmation programmes.

I am still seriously promoting the distinctive diaconate. Distinctive deacons are the Social Development arm of the church. They are the clergy who are fully engaged in God's mission for the world as we are confronted with the challenges of ever deepening poverty.

Our Diocese has a good reputation that through our SocDev Department we are focused on growing our church and communities. You have dared to make a change. You are an inspiration to many.

I would like to thank our Chairperson, Board Members past and present for what they have done in providing leadership. I would also like to thank out international and local donors, organisations and individuals for giving so generously of your time, money and talents.

***"I am, because we are, because God is .....Opening Hearts to Heal God's World."***

Love, Prayers and Blessings,

**BISHOP MARGARET B. VERTUE**  
24 August 2019