



THE DIOCESE OF FALSE BAY
FIFTH SESSION OF SYNOD HELD VIRTUALLY
10 - 13 OCTOBER 2021

A See in its 16th year within the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, gathering at our 5th Session of Diocesan Synod; in gratitude to the Faithful Triune God, at the Parish Church of All Saints, Somerset West, and the Archdeaconry Hubs of Blue Downs, Breede Valley, Helderberg, Mitchell's Plain, Mountain Bay and Overberg, anno Domini 10 October 2021 at 17:00, in continuance and pursuance of God's Mission to discern and hear our

Right Revd Margaret Brenda Vertue deliver her Bishop's Charge to Synod



THEME FOR THE FIFTH SESSION OF SYNOD

“I AM, BECAUSE WE ARE AND BECAUSE GOD IS. EMBRACING A WORLD SHATTERED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC...”

SYNOD PRAYER

Gracious God

We ask you to bless the

Diocese of False Bay

**with everything necessary for its mission,
ministry, spiritual growth and administration
especially during these challenging times of pandemic.**

**Pour out the abundance of your Holy Spirit
that we may stand firm in our faith and belief;
as you advance your Kingdom, making all things new
in every part of diocesan and community life;
for you live and reign with Jesus and the Holy Spirit,**

One God, world without end. AMEN

1. WELCOME

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ. May the peace and spirit of the risen Lord Jesus Christ be in our hearts, on our lips and in all we do, now and always.

A very warm welcome to all our delegates, both clergy and laity, invited representatives from our organizations and our special guests to this Virtual Synod. Welcome to all listening and participating in the livestreaming on FaceBook and YouTube of the Opening Eucharist and to those watching from the Archdeaconry hubs of Blue Downs, Breede Valley, Helderberg, Mitchell’s Plain, Mountain Bay and Overberg.

We pause for a moment as we recall the deaths of clergy, laity and loved ones who passed away since our last Synod in August 2017. Many have lost loved ones to the Covid-19 pandemic and the shadow pandemic of Gender Based Violence.

2. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

This is our fifth Synod since our inauguration as a Diocese on Advent Sunday 2005 in a splendid service at the DF Malan Centre, at the University of Stellenbosch. It is also my last as your Diocesan Bishop as I will be retiring before the sixth session of Synod.

Bishop Merwyn Castle was enthroned as the first bishop of False Bay on Freedom Day, 27 April 2007 and I was consecrated, at the DF Malan Auditorium at Stellenbosch University on 19 January 2013 as the second Bishop of False Bay and also as the second woman Bishop of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. Bishop Merwyn and Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya of Swaziland were present at the moving celebration. Bishop Wamukoya sadly succumbed to Covid-19 earlier this year on the anniversary of my consecration.

We continue to give thanks for the transformational leadership of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday. We are grateful to Archbishop Emeritus Njongonkulu Ndungane, who lives in our Diocese, and who was instrumental in the formation of the Diocese of False Bay. He led the process of multiplication when the Dioceses of False Bay and Saldanha Bay were formed out of the Diocese of Cape Town. We congratulate Archbishop Emeritus Njongo as he celebrated 30 years in the Episcopal Ministry on 9 September 2021.

Our gratitude is extended to our Archbishop and Metropolitan, The Most Revd Dr Thabo Makgoba, for his invaluable guidance and that of the ACSA Covid team as we embrace a world shattered by the Covid19 pandemic.

We wish to express immense gratitude to our beloved shepherd, the late Bishop Emeritus Merwyn Castle who passed away on 2 August 2021. He was born on 2 November 1942 and consecrated as bishop on 5 February 1994. His transformational leadership, foundation and administration continue to be the building blocks on which we continue to build. The Boardroom in the Diocesan office, The Merwyn Castle Boardroom, is named after him. His ashes will be interred under the altar in All Saints, Somerset West.

As a Diocese, we are immensely grateful to the Laos of God, Chapter and our Diocesan office staff for their active participation in the Mission of God alongside our clergy who unconditionally give of themselves in service of others, not seeking after status but to be servant leaders. Abundant thanks to the leaders of our Diocesan organisations and ministry groups, those who serve on our various boards, our legal team and those who serve on Trust Boards within their Parish boundaries. We have 49 parishes in our diverse diocese and all of the altars in our vast parishes are served by stipendiary or non-stipendiary clergy for Eucharistic services. During the pandemic we have made less use of retired clergy out of concern for their health. Ours is an incarnational ministry, never aloof, but rooted in the humanity of Christ.

3. FOCUS AREAS DISCERNED IN 2014

At the third session of our Synod in February 2014, where our theme was **The Abundance of the Spirit**, we set four priority areas. These form the basis of the ongoing Diocesan Strategic Plan, and are:

- A. Contextual Worship and Liturgy**
- B. Institutional Strengthening**
- C. Social Development**
- D. Skills Development**

4. YEAR OF SYNODS 2017

The fourth session of our Synod in 2017, was a culmination of a year of Synods, being a Youth Synod, People's Conference and the Sacred Synod. Sadly, we could not do that this year due to the Covid pandemic lockdown.

Our theme between that Synod and this one has been **'I AM, BECAUSE WE ARE AND BECAUSE GOD IS, OPENING HEARTS TO HEAL GOD'S WORLD ...'**

When the movement of people was curtailed and their safety compromised, we continued to meet on virtual platforms, where we have successfully held Churchwardens, Lay Ministers, Compliance Officers and Youth Forums. Soon after this Synod we will be holding an online forum to celebrate people with disabilities.

5. 2021 AND BEYOND

Our theme for this Synod, picks up from our previous one in 2017 and includes the context that we find ourselves in.

It is **'I AM, BECAUSE WE ARE AND BECAUSE GOD IS, EMBRACING A WORLD SHATTERED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ...'**

Despite the many challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, as a Diocese we have lived out our theme. We have followed through on monitoring our Vision and Missional Priorities of our Strategic Plan.

6. STRATEGIC PLAN ONGOING SINCE THIRD SESSION OF SYNOD

6.1 CONTEXTUAL WORSHIP AND LITURGY

Across the Diocese and especially in our Fellowship of Vocation, Ordinands and Post Ordination Training programmes, we are doing our utmost to understand and keep up with the new and emerging context in our church and community. In our worship and liturgy,

our focus is on cultural integration, integrated worship, theological education, youth retention. In many places, our Sunday services are in the form of virtual worship. We have catered for Sunday School lessons for families at home as we are concerned about the safety of our children and Sunday School teachers. Our Sunday Schools remain closed for the time being. Even our Confirmation classes are held via social media in some instances. I continue with Confirmations strictly adhering to all health and safety protocols.

We have appointed a full time Chaplain at the University of Stellenbosch and a part time Chaplain at Mitchells Plain Hospital in Lentegeur.

The Season of Creation and False Bay going green forms part of our liturgy.

We celebrate Matric Sunday in October and each Matriculant is handed a booklet of prayer reflections to help them through their examinations.

As an Institution, we include a pledge by the Rector-designate and congregation to address issues of poverty and injustice in word and deed (**Micah 6:8**)

Earlier this year we launched a Diocesan Workbook for Theological Education and Ministerial Formation.

Out of this Synod, our Diocesan Young People's Ministry Council (DYPMC) will compile a DYPMC handbook and embark on a three-year leadership programme. This is on our Synod agenda. To enhance Youth Ministry, we have appointed clergy who are young in age and fairly young in ordination, as Chaplains to our various Diocesan Youth organisations. We encourage our young people to network with young people from our link Diocese in York.

Mr Ignatius France will address us in Conference of Synod on the Protection of all children. We hope to compile and adopt a clear Policy for protection of children.

Our language, printed and spoken, should always be gender friendly, inclusive and transformational.

6.2 INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Despite the Covid-19 lockdown, we continue to enhance, develop and strengthen every facet of the life and structures of the Diocese.

Formation programmes for our clergy and laity have largely moved online. This has not only been for churchwardens and lay ministers but also for Covid-19 compliance officers. Our Young People's organisations have met with each other and the bishop virtually. During hard lockdown daily voice clips were sent to our clergy and people from the bishop to spiritually uplift and stay connected with each other.

We are concerned about the mental health and well-being of our clergy and people. Our Diocesan staff and stipendiary clergy have this year become members of ICAS, a

confidential 24-hour personal support and counselling service. We are immensely grateful to the members of our Health and Wellness Commission who brought this to fruition.

We are reviving Cluster ministry in areas in Blue Downs and Mountain Bay. Under the leadership of the Archdeacon of Helderberg, we are working on a model for the Khayelitsha Parishes where we will have one stipendiary clergy person with a team of non-stipendiary clergy to serve the area. We are also looking at a central administration centre in Khayelitsha to reduce costs.

6.3 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Board of our Social Development Department celebrates ten years as having NPO status this year. The Social Development Department (SocDev) works alongside our Parishes to address the challenges of poverty, hunger, and the hardships of the coronavirus pandemic.

It is our intention to determine a day on our Diocesan calendar each year where we intentionally and constructively consider, raise awareness about and address the scourge of Gender Based violence (GBV). GBV includes how we regard marriages, relationships, maternal health as well as our behaviour towards members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning communities (LGBTIQ+). We regard False Bay Diocese as a home for all. We encourage and affirm all our members. No one is to feel patronised or demonised. There must be no callousness or disregard of any sector of our church in any corner of our Diocese. Our goal is to educate and speak out on these issues as well as on issues of patriarchy, domestic violence, and sexual abuse.

Social Development is continuously evolving and they are currently taking charge of our Diocesan feeding schemes and soup kitchens. With the help of the Peninsula School Feeding Association, (PSFA) approximately 4 000 children are fed each day. We thank Hope Africa, PSFA and other partners including donations from the Solidarity Fund, Thabo Makgoba Foundation and other individual donors.

Our Social Development Department co-ordinates the work of our children's homes in Khayelitsha, Ottery and Ocean View as well as our hospice in Hawston.

It is my hope and prayer, that with the assistance of overseas funding, a volunteerism programme will be started under the watchful eye of SocDev and DYPMC to give some occasional relief to unemployed young people between the ages of 18 and 34.

6.4 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

We continue to strive to create an environment that promotes the culture of life-long learning for both clergy and laity of the Diocese.

We are in discussion about creating Virtual Education hubs in all of our Archdeaconries. We realise that we need to improve on being the salt and light of our communities as they continue to trust the church.

A concern is how lawless people have become with the use of social media. Since our last Synod, we have created a False Bay website and Facebook page

7. THE DIOCESAN DEBT CRISIS

The Covid pandemic and shut down of our Parishes for 'in person' worship has caused that our Parishioners cannot easily meet their commitments to the Parish and the Parishes in turn having huge assessment arrears. Fundraising activities were also put on hold. We are not alone in this economic crisis caused by Covid. We are in level one of lockdown at present which has brought some relief. I am hopeful that our debt situation will diminish as our people return to in person worship. I appeal to those who can, to please give something extra monthly or as a once off payment. Our clergy have made great sacrifices and it has caused some inequality regarding payment of emoluments. A motion will be coming to Synod in this regard. We realise that there is a need for training and education around the holistic view of the factors affecting finances as well as reintroducing a Season of Stewardship in the Diocese.

8. CHURCH PROPERTIES

We are in the end stages of negotiations for a school to be established on our property at St Raphael, Faure with a view to purchasing the property next year.

The Trust Board is looking at how to unlock the potential of the properties that we own and are not fully utilised, such as vacant rectories.

In the time of Bishop Merwyn, Dr Richard and Mary Nodar of St Paul, Ohio spent months in Masiphumele ministering to the people. It was their desire to build a church in the area and they set about raising funds to make it happen. They have grown old and have passed on the footwork to other members to carry forward. We hope to commence with the erection of the building within a few months and dedicate it before Easter 2022.

The bishops of the three local Dioceses have just renewed the link agreement between our Dioceses and the York Diocese for a further five years.

A motion is coming to Synod for the naming of one of our churches as the Cathedral of False Bay.

We have primary schools and Educare Centres in our Diocese that we need to pay more attention to.

9. THE CHURCH AND POST COVID MINISTRY

What extra is God calling us to do Post Covid:

- To establish support groups for people who have lost loved ones to help heal wounds through shared experience. To help them cope with depression and anxiety.
- Last year around All Souls Day we held a Memorial Service at All Saints, Somerset West. We intend doing it again this year and at some stage to erect a huge cross in the garden of All Saints where people can come to commemorate those we have lost in the pandemic. Similar crosses can be made in each Parish.
- We need to talk about death and how to embrace it, as also to speak about life and how to celebrate it.
- To continue to work on raising up young vocations and promoting women in leadership. It is our young people who are taking the church into the post covid future. They are not only the leaders of tomorrow but our current leadership as well.
- We plan to identify clergy who could be developed academically and as theologians.
- We also need to raise experts in certain fields e.g. in Canon Law.
- We are looking towards having 'Education hubs' for lay and ordained in our Archdeaconries. In these hubs we can discuss the influence that the culture of protest in the country has on the church. We provide people with the tools for conflict resolution. These education hubs will also meet as the need arises to address crises in our own communities, such as suicides, killings and where the greater church is suffering, for example in Zimbabwe. Where we see any intimidation or people's rights being violated, we need to advocate on their behalf.
- We must not lose the practice of training new Parish Councils, including Environmental Awareness and compliance.
- We will continue with the enormous Mission task of bringing good news and healing in the middle of the Covid Pandemic. During the Synod we will go into Conference to listen to Prof Puren and do our part to promote vaccination rollout. Since our Provincial Synod, it is mandatory for our clergy to receive the vaccine.
- Our Diocese is at the epicentre of the drug and gangsterism scene. The situation is desperate. How do we respond as a Diocese?
- We will stand with the poor and voiceless and champion their causes wherever we see injustice, corruption and exploitation.
- We have done much to improve our communication skills and have established a Social Media team.
- To resolve to initiate and sustain a volunteerism programme.
- To grow the Distinctive Diaconate ministry.

- To pray for good local Government Elections with no violence and that all will respect the outcome when declared free and fair.
- To encourage all of our Diocesan Organisations to promote Christian family values.

10.ADDENDUM

There is an Addendum to this Charge giving information about various forums and conferences held since our Synod in 2017. We also remember clergy of our Diocese who have passed away. Those who have moved Parishes are mentioned as also those who were ordained. We place on record our gratitude for the ministry of those who have retired since our last Synod as clergy or laity in leadership. A few of our clergy left us to work in other Dioceses locally and overseas. We wish them well. You will also pick up information in the Addendum about blessings of improvements to our church buildings.

CONCLUSION

There is no room for spectators in False Bay Diocese. Baptism initiates us, the clergy and people, to active ministry, sharing together in the gifts of the Spirit. All of us together are the fullness of the people of God. God will show us the way. The Covid ocean is huge, and our False Bay boat is small; but the ocean of God's love and grace is bottomless.

Our gospel reading tonight and in particular **Matthew 10:39** invites us to pray for the courage to examine our own hearts honestly during this Synod and to listen to what our radical Lord is saying to us at this season of the life and time of our beloved Diocese.

What a great privilege and joy to be your servant leader! Let us together build the Kingdom of God.

“I am. Because You Are. Because God is. Embracing a world shattered by the Covid-19 pandemic”.

This Charge will be available in printed format as well as on our website and Facebook page and at the Archdeaconry hubs, after the Opening service.

ANNEXURE: DIOCESAN SYNOD: 2014 – 2021

Institutions

Dean Apples - Portland Ruth Swart - Westridge Byron Samuel - Gordon's Bay Ulric Groenewald - Ocean View Colleen Daniels - Bella Vista Petronella Edwards - Caledon Gugulethu Ningi - St Andrew Strand Ron Phillips - Somerset West Andrew Holmes - Fish Hoek Luleka Nhyila - Rusthof Joseph Humbles - Grassy Park Francois Lewis - Bredasdorp Joy Klimbashe - Delft Simon Kortjass - Associate St Mary Magdalene Belhar	Adrian Knight - Faure Xola Mlandu - Stellenbosch Neil February - Elgin Randall Gallant - Bot River Gradwell Fredericks - All Saints Belhar Rodney Uren - Simons Town Wilfred Meyer - Groot Drakenstein Oswald Cloete - Blackheath Richard Martin - Kalk Bay Richard Dunsdon - Lotus River Franklin Davids - Robertson Delmaine Petersen - St Andrew Strand Joseph Gabriels - Hawston Mark Vandayar - Sibanye Delmaine Petersen - Strand
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Licensing

Netta Gallant – assistant Grassy Park Joy Klimbashe – Priest in Charge Mandela Park Jerry Gelant – Priest in Charge Tafelsig Ntombekhaya Nomxego – Manche Masemola Patrick Domburg – assistant Worcester Desmond Lambrechts – University Chaplain Laurencious Rhoda – Stellenbosch cluster Martha Sam – Priest in Charge Mandela Park Stanton Robertson – DD Muizenberg Jerry Gelant – Priest in Charge Hermanus Nitano Muller – assistant Hermanus Netta Gallant – Priest in Charge Tafelsig Patrick Tembani – Priest in Charge Philippi David Hanevil – assistant Grassy Park Wilfred Maritz – assistant Somerset West Luleka Nhyila – assistant Stellenbosch	Ashley Ceylon – Portland Laurencious Rhoda – Priest in Charge Lentegeur Anthony Koopman – assistant Elgin Marlon Porter – Priest in Charge Tafelsig Clarence Swanepoel – assistant Montagu/Ashton David Hanevil – Priest in Charge Parkwood Letitia Villet – assistant Kuils River Gugulethu Ningi – assistant Kuils River Greg Lamond – Westridge, Muizenberg New Diocesan Organizations Chaplains Cluster Ministries Stellenbosch/Sibanye/University Kalk Bay /Lavender Hill /Muizenberg Khayelitsha parishes Belhar/Delft
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<p>Blessings</p> Classrooms- ILEtha Pre School Khayelitsha Sanctuary - St Mary Magdalene Belhar Lady Chapel – All Saints Belhar Flooring – Rusthof Wall of Remembrance – St Mary Magdalene Belhar Extensions to church – Ottery Stained Glass windows– Simons Town Stone commemorating 150yrs –Robertson Altar Furnishing – Portland Applethwaite House Montagu/Ashton 150th Anniversary <p>Deconsecration</p> Lady Chapel - Portland	<p>Bishop's Award</p> Winnie Leukes, Grassy Park Hermanus x 3 Ceres x 4 Ocean View x 1 Patrick Arendse, Registrar <p>Archdeacon/Canon/Chancellor/Registrar</p> Neil February – Overberg Petronella Edwards Clive Pretorius Cheryl Uren Janine Boltman Terence Erasmus
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ANNEXURE: DIOCESAN SYNOD: 2014 – 2021

Ordinations

<p>Diaconate 2017: Nitano Muller, Eugene De Beer, Ashley Ceylon 2018: Cheryl Ahrends, Enrico Heuvel, Nonceba Mdunyelwa, Loraine Von Willingh 2019: Dean Farrell, Clarence Swanepoel, Adrian Gordon, David Sylvester, Davene Vermeulen. 2021: Alexander Kannemeyer, Phillip Mbalalu, Deon McDillon</p> <p>Distinctive Diaconate 2018 Howard Rose, Monica Bantom</p>	<p>Priesthood 2017: Gail Manoek, Edward Delpport, Desiree Jackson 2018: Nitano Muller, Eugene De Beer, Ashely Ceylon, Anthony Clarke 2019: Cheryl Ahrends, Enrico Heuvel, Nonceba Mdunyelwa, Loraine Von Willingh 2020: Dean Farrell, Clarence Swanepoel, Adrian Gordon, David Sylvester, Davene Vermeulen</p>
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<p>Retired/Resigned/PTO Tom Rogans Johan V D Bijl Anthony Castleden Merle Kakora Joan Jones Anthony Ishaya Eston Pembamoyo Yasmille Smythe Nicola Ing Lyndall Murray Glenda Jordaan Edward Delpport Howard Rose Magdalene Newman Bishop Geoff Davies Themba Maschilla</p>	<p>Frans Weitz Daniel Ludik OHC Bishop Oswald Swartz Wilma Jakobsen Derek Abrahams Monica Bantom Leslie Adriaanse Clive Ontong William Arendse Wilmot Bushby Basil Cupido Jacques Jefferies Victor Adams Julius Bhoza George Wyngaardt Greg Kakora – DFB Jacques Pretorius</p>
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<p>Congratulations Petronella Edwards , M.Th Gail Manoek, B.Th Ulric Groenewald , M.Th Howard Rose, M.Th. Desmond Lambrechts, PHD Cecilia Moodaley – DFB Chairperson Bishop Joshua Louw Bishop Clarence Bester SocDev 10th Anniversary Archbishop Emeritus D Tutu – 90th 7 October IAMA New Province Archbishop Emeritus N Ndungane – 30th Anniversary to the Episcopal Ministry Henry Mbaya Research Output Award – Stellenbosch University The Ven Dr Makhozi Nzimande – new PEO</p>	<p>Deaths Bishop Merwyn Bishop Edward Bishop Tom Stange Bishop Eric Pike Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya Martha Sam Joy Klimbashe Isaac Heyns David Titus Susan Dyers Tim Bravington Robert Gilbert Barry Wood Don Stephen Peter Van Wyk Gerry Groepe Loraine Tulleken Ordinand Melvin Robain</p> <p>Synod Members – Philip Saunders Rupert Bromley</p>
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ANNEXURE: DIOCESAN SYNOD: 2014 – 2021

<p>VGC 2017 September 2018 September 2019 August 2021 October</p> <p>Bishop's Forum 2017 October 2018 June 2018 October 2019 October</p>	<p>Clergy Formation 2018</p> <p>Conferences 2018 Peoples' Conference 2018 Youth Indaba</p> <p>Virtual Church Wardens & Layministers Forums 2019 Layministers 2019 Church Wardens 2018 Church Wardens 2018 Layministers</p>
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