

My dear Clergy and People of False Bay,

Thank you for your positive feedback given regarding our website as we continue to build it.

The sixteen days of Activism Against Violence Against Women and Children have come to an end. Sadly, the violence continues. What can you do this week is to teach others to cherish all members of our communities? Thank you for the silent protests and healing services held at many of our churches. Please continue to ring bells at noon to encourage people to stop and pray for victims of violence and abuse. Some churches are ringing the Angelus. Let us make this a practice throughout the Diocese throughout the year reminding people of the presence of the Anglican Church and God with us.

In all we do, we continue to ask God to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit. We ask God to help us abide in the Vine so that good fruit will naturally develop in our lives as we walk step by step with the Spirit. As we look back on the fruitful year in our beloved Diocese, God did indeed keep the fire burning within us. We passed through different kinds of terrain. We walked through beautiful valleys where life was full of joy and we felt like dancing. We had long uphill climbs where we seemed to slide back two steps for every three steps of ascent. We walked along slippery slopes where it's easy to fall, and through swampy patches where we can get bogged down. We walk through dark passages where we can easily lose our way, and across flat terrain where nothing seems to change. In some of our areas, the clergy and parishioners walk through dangerous territory where bullets fly and it's easy to get wounded. Through it all, with God's help, we showed endurance and perseverance so that no matter what happened, we kept putting one foot in front of the other.

You have often heard me say, let us create safe spaces and make time to listen to the stories of our people. We need to share our joys and sorrows, the mistakes we have made and lessons we have learnt. Church is about building relationships. Let us keep on the road. However far we have come by God's grace, there's far more ahead to explore. The Spirit is on the move, so let us keep moving too.

Dear friends, let us not get lost in the Christmas rush. It is still Advent where we search for a deeper meaning of life, spirituality and prayer. Remember the Advent Anthems on pg 68 of An Anglican Prayer Book. Enjoy the Advent and the Christmas Carol services. Let us remain anchored in Divine Love.

Immense gratitude for your loyalty and valued ministry.

Love, Prayers and Advent Blessings,

*Resource: We make the Road by Walking. Brian D. McLaren*