

## Dean's Letter, 8 April 2018

Dear Cathedral family

We extend our very warm congratulations to all recent graduates from Rhodes University, particularly those from the Cathedral, and the Cathedral Student Ministry. It is always such a treat to see people returning to Grahamstown at this time, to celebrate their success and to meet families. What an achievement! Very well done to all.

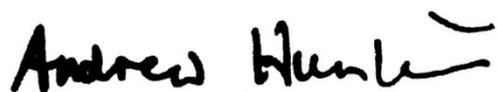
We are in Eastertide, these wonderful weeks of celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, his victory over sin and evil and death. Today's Gospel reading (John 20:19-31) is a story of doubt and faith – Thomas; the commission and gift of the Holy Spirit linked to the forgiveness of sins; and ending with key words which state the purpose of John's Gospel: "But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:31). Our written Gospels are a great gift to us, to tell us about these great truths, and to lead us to life, eternal life, life in Christ. So our daily and weekly reading and reflecting on the scriptures are a vital and immensely important part of our Christian faith. I encourage us to make daily scripture reading a regular part of our lives. Words of wisdom, meaning, depth, truth, beauty, pointing us to life. We live in an age of information overload – social media and TV being a big part of this. Can we ensure that we fill at least part of our hearts and minds with words of life?

One of the great celebrations of this most recent graduation was that of the honorary doctorate awarded to Professor Peter Mtuze, a much-loved and well-known scholar and Anglican priest, currently ministering as rector of St Andrew's Ginsberg, and also as Archdeacon of King Williams Town (West). A double doctorate in his own right, this honorary doctorate awarded by Rhodes University is in recognition of Prof Mtuze's work in the area of literature. From the university announcement: "He is a leading scholar in the field of African languages and was the first black professor at Rhodes University. He has published over 30 works and translated Nelson Mandela's Long Walk to Freedom into isiXhosa."

It is a privilege to count him as a friend and colleague, an elder statesman in the life of our diocese and Province. We congratulate him very warmly indeed!

We are having a series of preachers with us by invitation during the month of April: Lithemba Busakwe, one of our new lay ministers, today; Carlos Respeito, from the College of the Transfiguration, next week; Fr Percy Chinganga, also from CotT, the week thereafter; and a guest preacher from African Enterprise on the last Sunday in April. The AE speaker will be part of a team conducting a mission here in Grahamstown, and that Sunday is the final day of the mission.

My love to you all

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Hunter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.