

Dean's Letter, 8 December 2019 (from Fr Idowu Akinloye)

Dear Cathedral family, Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Today we say farewell to Fr Idowu Akinloye, who has been with us for the past three years. He writes:

Dear Cathedral family, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I arrived Grahamstown (Makhanda) in January 2017 for my PhD programme at Rhodes University and in May that year I was presented the opportunity to serve as a priest in this Cathedral. Since then, you warmly received me into this faith community that invites, welcomes, and honours all people and nurtures them to grow in service with Christ. In the last three years, we have had fellowships to explore our faith together. We have gathered in large and small groups to discuss our ideas about God and Jesus. We have sought to discover what it means to be a Christian. We have worshipped, worked and celebrated together and I have seen God working in your midst.

I thank you for your love, support, care and kindness. Thank you for the times that you invite me into your homes and into your lives; sharing with me the highs and lows that come with life. Indeed, the experience has been impactful, meaningful and life-changing. I have learned more than I could have ever imagined within this period. I have learned that our hearts have an endless capacity to love. A special acknowledgment to the Cathedral clergy, thank you for taking as one of your own. It is a privilege and blessing to serve in God's vineyard with you. Whilst I am happy that I will be joining my family in Nigeria, I am sad that I will miss you all. The Cathedral of St Michael and St George will always hold a special place in my ministry journey and in my heart. I will continue to boast about you to others.

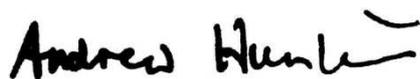
As I mentioned two weeks ago, I will be returning to Nigeria this week, but I eagerly look forward to my return next year for a postdoctoral fellowship at Rhodes University, which will allow another opportunity of fellowshiping together. In the meantime, I urge everyone to continue to fight the good fight of faith and allow the love of God to continually thrive in our midst.

May grace and peace be yours.

Idowu A Akinloye.

We thank God for Fr Idowu, and we send him out with our love and prayers. And we look forward to seeing him at the Rhodes graduation in April 2020!

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.