

Dean's Letter, 26 January 2020

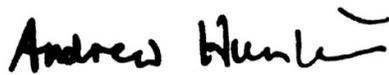
Dear Cathedral family, Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Our prayers are with all our schools at the start of the new school year. There is great sadness, and a fair amount of anger as well, following the drowning of Enoch Mpianzi, a Grade 8 boy at Parktown Boys High School in Gauteng. We hold his family and friends in our prayers, as well as the school itself and the Gauteng Dept of Education. This tragedy raises big questions around safety at schools, and the responsibility of teachers and senior school leadership when welcoming new boys and girls into their community. Enoch's death is a terrible tragedy and I have no doubt that all involved are reeling with the shock and enormity of what has happened. So we pray for his family and the school, for all Grade 8s, and for all students preparing to enter university. So many new things, so much excitement, so much potential. The demands on teaching staff are immense. Some of our Grade 8 classes here in Makhanda are enormous, placing considerable strain on resources, classroom space and general capacity.

In these early weeks of the new year, we are in the season of Epiphany – the Sundays after Epiphany, which take us through to the start of Lent. Ash Wednesday this year is on 26th February. The focus for the readings for these weeks “reveals the truth that Christ is manifested to humankind, to the world, to the entire creation. In them we catch a glimpse of the cosmic dimension of the work and achievement of Christ. They also express the challenge for all Christians to reveal that truth through their own lives.”¹

The Bible consists of the Old Testament and the New Testament. Put together, we have in our hands a record of over 2000 years of people's experience and understanding of God: two millennia, during which God revealed himself to a nation, brought them to salvation from Egypt to the Promised Land, guided them through their struggles and disobedience – and in due time, in fulfilment of prophecy, sent the Messiah, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, to save not only the chosen people but the whole world. We have with us the experience, the history, the prayers, the record of this great journey of faith. God who revealed himself to the chosen people; God who sent his Son Jesus Christ to be born, to live, die and rise again; God who through the Holy Spirit raised up the church of the New Testament.

My love to you all

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

¹ ACSA Lectionary 2019-2020, p. 14