

Dean's Letter, Sunday 9 May 2021

Easter Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

I write to you just exactly two weeks since my licensing and installation as your new Dean, and Canon Melany Adonis as Sub Dean and Chancellor of the Cathedral and our families. It gives me a great pleasure to finally be able to write this first of many issues as Dean. I must state from the onset that I am filled with gratitude to Almighty God and also to you my brothers and sisters through the Parish Church Council for entrusting me with this enormous task to be the incumbent of this beautiful cathedral church, following after great richness of Deans before me. I know this is a weighty responsibility which none can undertake except for the call from God.

I firmly believe there's a huge opportunity for great things to happen in this place. My prayer and hope is that we exercise what we refer to as shared and participative leadership following the example of Christ (Phil 2:6-8), where every member of the Cathedral is given space and chance to be involved and grow irrespective of race, ethnicity and age. A community that practises companionship (togetherness, connectedness, Interrelatedness); that seeks to promote kingdom values (love, sharing, solidarity, fairness, community and service), stewardship and giving not just material resources, but our time and talents; and a lastly a community that promotes good governance.

I am cognisant of the fact that as a community we don't operate in a vacuum; that I am called amongst you as your pastor in a very fragile and uncertain times not just here at the Cathedral, but both locally and globally, where we are faced with an economic crisis due to the Covid pandemic in which people feel strained financially and otherwise. In a climate where there's political instability in our country and where accountability and transparency are key more especially when dealing with public finances. I need not to shy away to the fact that as then Acting Dean with the PCC in sorrow we had to suspend our parish administrator pending an investigation into our parish financial accounts, and I am pleased to inform you that the disciplinary hearing is in the next week so that we put this matter to a close. Another development is that, with the departure of churchwardens Theo Duxbury and Lungile Penxa, we are pleased to welcome Rodney Bridger and Tandiwe Gabavana as stand-in wardens to join Ronaldo Burger.

In our Gospel reading for today (Jn 15:9-17) Jesus says to his disciples and perhaps to me and you my dear brothers and sisters as we begin this transition "Love as I have loved you". What does this mean in the midst of the things that seem to be enormous challenges for us, as the Cathedral, the border church, our country and the world? How shall we love as Jesus loves? How shall we sustain depths of compassion and remain healthy? Jesus offers us straightforward answers that, we need to abide in his love, to rest, to cling and make ourselves at home in his love. To abide in him so as to drink our fill of the source; which is Christ, and spill over to bless those near to us and the world.

My love to you all

Dean Mzi Dyantyi