

GENERAL NOTICES

Cathedral and Diocesan offices are closed for the Christmas break and will reopen on Monday 7th January 2019.

Dean Andrew & Revd Claire will be away from December 31st – 14th January. **The Sub Dean** is on duty and available in times of pastoral need. The parish office is closed and will reopen on Monday 7th January. The Cathedral is also closed over this period, apart from Sunday worship, and reopens on Monday 7th January.

A very big thank you to our team of organists. One of them, Bayanda Mthetho, is playing at our Midnight Mass service this Christmas (as he did in 2017). He will be going into Grade 10 in 2019, and has recently passed his Grade 8 music examination with 97%! Bayanda, we are so proud of you and all that you have achieved thus far. Blessings for the year ahead!

Advent, Christmas and New Year Services are as follow:

Sunday 30th December: 8:30 am Eucharist (SAPB)

Sunday 6th January: 8:30 am Eucharist (AAPB)

Sunday, 13th January: 8:30 am Eucharist (AAPB) & 6pm Epiphany – Service of Lights



Cathedral of St Michael and St George Grahamstown – Grahamstad – iRhini - Makhanda

A warm welcome to those who are visiting the Cathedral. Please introduce yourself to us! If you are new to the Cathedral and would like follow up, please fill in the form at the west (High Street) door and give it to one of the clergy or sides people.

CHRISTMAS DAY 24th December 2018

Time	Services	Preacher	Presider / Officiant
22h30	Midnight Mass - Sung Eucharist		Bishop Ebenezer Ntlali

25 December 2018

08h30	AAPB Sung Eucharist	Dean Andrew Hunter	
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Today's meetings and events:

08h20	Pre-service prayers for service leaders and participants
<i>Flowers and candles are from Fr Ezra Tisani to celebrate his 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Diaconate.</i>	

This Week

Please take note that there will be no weekday services. These will only resume w.e. from 21st January 2019.

Stipendiary clergy contact details and Cathedral Parish Office (046 622 2445):

*Dean of Grahamstown The Very Rev Andrew Hunter.	082 308 8654	046 622 3976	dean@grahamstowncathedral.org <i>(day off Friday)</i>
*The Sub Dean and Archdeacon of Grahamstown The Ven. Mzinzi Dyantyi	073 604 5232	046 622 5633	subdean@grahamstowncathedral.org <i>(day off: Monday)</i>
*Senior Assistant Priest and Cathedral Chancellor The Rev Canon Dr. Claire Nye Hunter	046 622 2445	046 622 3976	claire@grahamstowncathedral.org <i>(day off: Friday)</i>

Clergy Assisting at Cathedral

Revd Luthando Madiba (Diocesan Media officer & CR Chaplain); Revd Idowu Akinloye (PhD student @ RU);
Revd Percy Chinganga (COT); Revd Lunga Dongwana (Deacon & Youth Chaplain);
Revd Siphokazi Njokweni (Deacon & Choir Chaplain).

To contact the Parish Office staff by email, use: office@grahamstowncathedral.org (Administrator - Chantel) and
admin@grahamstowncathedral.org (Parish Secretary – Lou-Anne).

*Members of the Clergy are available for confessions and interviews by appointment.

Vision of the Diocese of Grahamstown:

That all people in the Diocese should know God's love in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us.

PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU!

PLEASE JOIN IN PRAYER THIS WEEK FOR:

OUR CHURCH: We give thanks for the coming of Christ into our world as the Prince of Peace. We pray for all who gather in worship all over the world at this time. May the Lord bind us together in faith, hope and love.

OUR WORLD: We pray for all in authority and positions of leadership and responsibility; for victims of violent crime; for those on the roads over this holiday season. We continue to pray for all places of conflict and violence. May the Lord bring us together in peace.

BIRTHDAYS: 24th Maggy Clarke, Andile Nyarashe, Vuyani Dyasi; 26th Kundai Jimu

PARISH CYCLE of PRAYER: Samuel, Alexa, Kiara, Kia, & Kayla Jack; John Jackson; Nceba January; Wilbert, Rose & Sally Kadye; Robert, Helen & Christopher Keeble; Noxolo Kheswa; Shaun & Tracey Kitchen.

PARISHIONERS who are sick, or house bound: Ernest Bridger, Melanie Appollis, Jeanette Hodgson, Nomathemba Magwa, Fiona Coyne, Danielle Christian.

FRIENDS and FAMILY who are ill: Jackie Shipster.

These names will remain here for a month, unless requested otherwise.

Here are the Gospel readings for the coming week:

Mon	24	John 12:44-47	Thurs	27	John 1:6-14
Tues	25	John 1:1-14	Fri	28	Matthew 2:13-18
Weds	26	John 1:1-5	Sat	29	Luke 2:22-35
Sun	30	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Psalms 148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52

Services next Sunday – 30th December – First Sunday after Christmas

Time	Services	Preacher	Presider / Officiant
08h30	SAPB Holy Communion	Revd Percy Chinganga	

Here are the Gospel readings from 31 Dec 2018 till 6 Jan 2019

Mon	31	John 1:1-18	Thurs	03	John 1:29-34
Tues	01	Luke 2:15-21	Fri	04	John 1:35-42
Wed	02	John 1:19-28	Sat	05	John 1:43-51
Sun	06	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalms 72:1-7,10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12

Dean's Letter - Sunday 24 - 25th December 2018

Dear Cathedral family, brothers and sisters in Christ

As the annual Rotary Carols by Candlelight service ended, a few weeks ago, I said to someone, "It was both utterly predictable and utterly delightful!" We gather for the Christmas celebrations knowing exactly what is to happen, who the main actors are, and the details of the story. Each year, without fail, there is a star, there are shepherds with a variety of animals (certainly here in Grahamstown we expect cows and donkeys, as well as sheep); there are wise men (and women) – some of them remarkably young; there are countless angels, youngsters looking delightfully angelic; and, of course, as the annual stars of the show, Mary, Joseph, and THE BABY!!! The familiar words are read from the Bible. The well-known Christmas carols and hymns are sung. Parents watch anxiously as children wave lighted candles around, dripping wax on the pews and threatening to set alight the hair of people in the next row. But we all make it to the end, the star processes down the Cathedral aisle, to the Christmas tree; the lights blaze out, we sing "Joy to the world" with a fair amount of both jubilation and relief that all went smoothly. Jesus Christ is born!

And so here we are once again, on Christmas Day, telling and listening to the same story. Jesus Christ is born! The immensity and enormity of this, in its familiarity, can pass us by. And for many, of course, it does, with Christmas simply being an extended holiday and time away from work. But our imperfect and at times half-hearted response does not detract from the great and overwhelming reality of what we celebrate today. The Nicene Creed puts it like this:

"... For us and our salvation he (the Lord Jesus Christ) came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man."

It is, quite simply, incredible. That the baby born in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago – and this is not some myth or folk tale we are talking about, but a real birth of a real person – was and is God coming amongst us. God in the flesh. God living a human life with all its joys and sorrows, the everyday - and global – struggles that you and I experience and endure – and by his life (and death and resurrection - but that comes later, when we celebrate Easter) makes it possible for us to have and experience eternal life. As students might say, "How cool is this!"

"Eternal life" is not something we talk about much. Nor is it easy to define. It does not mean living for ever, for hundreds of years (thankfully!) Rather, it is linked to salvation (another 'big' word and concept): freedom from condemnation, living in the light of Christ, forgiveness, hope. (The alternative to salvation is spiritual death, shown in evil deeds and the presence of darkness.)

We celebrate the gift of eternal life, given and offered to us through Jesus Christ. We delight in the birth of Jesus, God amongst us. We embrace salvation received: hope, forgiveness. A life worth living.

My love to you all

Andrew Hunt