

Dean's Letter, 1 April 2018, Easter Day

Dear Cathedral family

Today, Easter Day, together with Holy Week and Good Friday, form the heart of our faith as Christians: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and his victory over sin and evil and death. "By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising again he has restored to us eternal life." We are given a feast of scripture readings for today, both at the early morning Easter Vigil, with its extended set of readings from the Old Testament; and at the mid-morning Easter celebration. Let's savour them and enjoy the depths of meaning and wonder that they give us!

What does the resurrection of Christ mean? We shall spend the next six weeks reflecting on this, Sunday by Sunday. Jesus won the victory over evil and sin and death; we have eternal life and freedom from the power of evil; death has lost its sting and we can face death with hope and peace. The resurrection was and is a cosmic breaking of the powers of evil. Through our baptism, we share in Christ's death and in his resurrection. We live with the grace and strength of resurrection power within us. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is at work in us. We are born again into new life. Through us, the love and transforming power of God is shared with the world. This is powerful stuff!

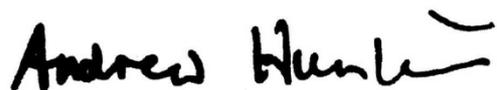
The church calendar helps us to appreciate the different facets – aspects – of the Christian life. So we move each year from Christmas to Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and now Easter. Of course, our lives are not always as simple or as predictable as that. Some are living in a long, drawn-out Lent – a time in the wilderness; others are experiencing their own Good Friday, a time of great suffering, struggle, hardship; others in the excitement of new birth (grandchildren!) or new beginnings. The promise and hope of the resurrection is the promise that "all things work together for good, for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" and that "nothing can separate us from God's love" (Romans 8). We hold on to this during dark times.

We met with the acting Municipal Manager, Mr Ted Pillay, this week, to present him with the Cathedral Vestry resolution on Makana matters: water, roads, sewerage; financial sustainability of the municipality; good governance; and to state our support for all who are seeking to improve things. It was a helpful, positive meeting.

You may have seen recent news items or social media posts regarding allegations of sexual abuse within the life of our church, and the response of the Archbishop on behalf of us all, to these. He will be saying more about this today, Easter Day, and we shall keep you informed. His response of a few weeks ago is on the notice boards. Our goal as the people of God is that the church should be a safe space for all who come here.

Last but not least, I take this opportunity to thank Joy Tandy, on behalf of the Cathedral, for her donation in memory of her late husband Paddy. With her permission, we are putting the gift towards the maintenance of our buildings. Thank you, Joy.

My love to you all

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.