



*Anglican Church of Southern Africa*  
**Diocese of Grahamstown**

*The Bishop of Grahamstown*  
*The Rt Reverend Ebenezer St Mark Ntlali*

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6 April 2023

Dear People of God

Warm greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It has been common knowledge that we are formally retiring on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2023.

We have been informed by the office of the Archbishop that the Holy See of the Diocese of Grahamstown will be declared vacant on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

We now advise as follows:

1. We will be on long leave from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023;
2. A Vicar General will be licensed to look after the Diocese from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023 to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023.
3. We will be invited by the Vicar General and Farewell Committee to attend farewell functions together with my wife during the period that I am on leave.
4. We will be in and out the Diocese during this time.
5. We request the Vicar General to call on us for advice in the event of any emergency that may arise in the Diocese.
6. The Farewell Committee advised that:
  - (a) There will be a Gala Dinner for dignitaries on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023;
  - (b) The Diocesan Family as a whole will bid us farewell on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2023;
  - (c) We will have our last Eucharist Service in the Cathedral on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023.
7. The Provincial Vicar General will be licensed by the Archbishop or his representative on 30<sup>th</sup> July and the process of the Elective Assembly in the Diocese will be set in motion. The Chair of the Advisory Committee will be elected by Synod and this body will be active in the Diocese until 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – because the Archbishop has set aside the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 as the dates for the Elective Assembly of the Diocese of Grahamstown which will be chaired by the Archbishop.

We call upon all baptized and confirmed Anglicans, Priests and Deacons to continue to pray sincerely to God, in the power of the Holy Spirit for a Shepherd that will take the Diocese forward.

We pray for peace and a prayerful environment during the time of transition and we assure you of our prayers as we continue to thank you for your unceasing support in our 15 years in the Episcopate.

Grace and peace

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bishop of Grahamstown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BISHOP OF GRAHAMSTOWN

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**Christ has no body on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours.  
Ours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out;  
ours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and ours are the hands with which  
He is to bless us now. (St Teresa de Avila)**