



*Anglican Church of Southern Africa*  
***Diocese of Grahamstown***  
*The office of the Vicar-General*  
*Ven. BTM Mfenyana*

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Dear People of God

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We thank our Bishop Ebenezer for shepherding the flock of the Diocese of Grahamstown these past 14 years and 10 months. His love and warmth has been felt through the Diocese. He was generous with his gifts, time and talents. We wish them well as they start their retirement and we pray that they enjoy much needed and deserved rest and peace.

Now that the Bishop has retired, the Diocese is expected to prepare for the election of a new Bishop. The Elective Assembly will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and, if necessary, the 19<sup>th</sup> November at the Cathedral, in Grahamstown. Pray for those you would be electing to represent you at the Elective Assembly.

Please give yourselves to prayer and fasting, so that being of one heart and of one mind, and drawing near to God, with one voice, you may obtain from God, for the filling of the office, the blessed gift of a Ruler and Pastor stained by no fault, deserving no blame, but approved of Christ, accepted by people, who shall by one's life and doctrine witness truly for her/his Lord, exercise godly discipline, feed in faith and love the flock committed to her/his care, and at length present it faultless before God whom she/he serves; one also who will co-operate in sisterly and brotherly love and humility with the Bishops of this Province, and in a spirit of loyalty to the Order and Constitution of the Church.

We now enter a time of discernment to seek a worthy shepherd for the flock of the Diocese of Grahamstown. Once nominated, hold all candidates in prayer as they will become vulnerable. I encourage tolerance and love, as we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit. At the assembly, I pray that we do not lose respect for one another but maintain our dignity.

Please take note that the Canons do not allow for campaigning nor should anyone be intimidated and threatened into supporting a particular candidate. There will only be one official channel of communication, my office as Vicar-General about elections. Only the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee will be allowed to communicate according to what is stipulated by the Canons. Please familiarise yourselves with Canon 4 and Act XI. Note

specifically Canon 4.8.(e). May you please assist your congregants pertaining to this matter.

Please pray this prayer until elections:

**Almighty and everliving God, in all ages you have raised up faithful shepherds to Pastor and Guide the faithful. Increase in us the gifts of discernment and understanding that, the Elective Assembly of the Church in the Diocese of Grahamstown, soon to meet, might know and do your will as we prepare to elect a Bishop for your church.**

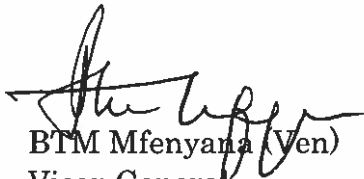
**Send your Holy Spirit among those who would be gathering in the Elective Assembly.**

**Open their minds, hearts and eyes that they may see you and choose as you would, a new Bishop of faith and godliness; who with compassion and grace, May lead the faithful for the renewal of your Church's Mission in this Diocese.**

**Gracious and loving God, you are our guide and Good Shepherd, in you we place our hope and trust: hear the prayers of your faithful people, lead us to one mind and one heart in you, and show us the shepherd who will feed and tend your flock and, in turn, give glory and honour to your name.**

**Grant this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

Yours in Christ



BTM Mfenyana (Ven)

Vicar-General

Diocese of Grahamstown