

QUILL & QUIVER

"Capturing the Spirit of our Faith"

The Official Newsletter of The Diocese of Saldanha Bay
Anglican Church of Southern Africa

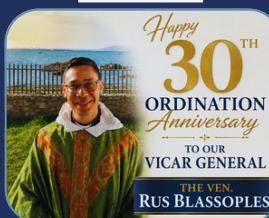


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AYF ELECTIVE CONFERENCE



A Journey Through the Diocese: A Nine Day Pilgrimage Up North



The road to Port Nolloth. We went to Steinkopf, Mario's hometown



A central lesson of the pilgrimage was that God is already present among His people. Rather than believing they were bringing God to the communities, they discovered that they themselves were being reshaped and transformed through the people they encountered. The pilgrimage became an experience of humility, listening and openness, allowing them to learn from the joys, struggles and faith of those they visited.

Mario reflected on the pilgrimage: "Dit was wonderlik om net te luister na mense, om deel te word van hulle stories, om te sien dat hulle deel is van die liggaam van Christus. Dit was goed om te sien dat die kerk, die kerk is, 'n oomblik waar mense hulle seer en vreugde deel met mekaar en met die Vicar General van die Bisdom".

This experience reinforced the message that people belong, that they matter and that their stories matter, revealing the profound dignity and hope found in community.

The Archdeaconry of Namaqualand South



FROM PINELANDS TO PORT NOLLOTH literally...

The nine-day pilgrimage from Pinelands to Port Nolloth was a deeply meaningful journey through the rural and northern parts of the Diocese. **The Vicar-General, Ven. Rus and The Revd. Mario Christian** travelled without a formal agenda, seeking to meet, listen and share in the lives of clergy and parishioners. Through Eucharists, Evening Prayer, visits to homes and personal encounters, they experienced the beauty of the Northern Cape, the warmth of its people and the richness of community life.

The landscape and connection to their place of birth also brought a sense of remembrance, renewal and spiritual perspective.



The Archdeaconry of The West Coast



~Continues on Page 2

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

Romans 12:12

~Continues from page 1



The heavens over Springbok



~Photos: Barbara Oosthuizen

DIE HEMELSE KLOKKE HULLE LUI

Far from the seducing city lights and demanding suburban life, beyond the boisterous walls of the Clanwilliam Dam, not far from the Gifberg lies the valley of Klawer.

To many people this is an unknown place, a place almost lost in the business of the N7 boasting the Cape Namibia Route, but for those who lived there and who still live in Klawer it is home, a piece of heaven on earth. In an early portion of my priestly ministry I lived in Klawer and served as a parish priest, the spiritual and geographical bounds of that ministry extended far and wide beyond the landscape of Klawer. Vredenal, Lutville, Uitkyk, Van Rhyns dorp was the grazing pasture of my spiritual flock.

My Rector at the time was **Archdeacon Jerome Prins** who licensed me in St. John's Church. Clanwilliam as well as **The Revd. Anthea Brache** who was an ordinand at the time. My priestly link to this community is tethered by priests such as **Fr. Basil Adams, Fr. Austen Jackson, Fr Eddie Adams RIP, Fr Stephen Tekana and Fr. Desmond Lambrechts** with whom I share a very special and unique bond. Life in Klawer was tough and could at times be grim, today still the challenges are deep and daughting even though Klawer is surrounded by arching vineyards and scenic soaring hills it has been ripped by the effects of the apartheid laws and its gloomy host of aftershocks. The name of the Parish is St. James the Great and it is at this time that we prepared to celebrate our patronal festival on 25 July.

It was in this Church where **Fr. Titus Daniels** met his beloved wife Ilse. This was always a special time of prayer and preparation.

The pilgrimage also brought encouragement during the Diocese's period of waiting for God to send a new Bishop. From Port Nolloth to Saldanha, Rus and Mario were warmly welcomed, experiencing the people's hospitality, embraces and sense of belonging.

They saw the Church alive in the simplicity of rural life and expressed gratitude to **Archdeacons Valiant Valentyn, Paul van Reenen and Tommy Adams**, as well as the clergy, for their faithful ministry and for making the pilgrimage possible. The journey left them profoundly blessed and reminded them of the strength, faith and hope present throughout the Diocese.

Even though there was much struggling and pain in the community and even though many were still struggling to come to terms with their displacement as a result of the Group Areas Act the people could still sing the Lord's song in a strange land as it was these songs of faith which deepened their relationship with God and encouraged them to continue with life. One of these songs was "Die hemel se klokke hulle lui, hulle lei vir jou en vir my" this was sung with much gusto and faith by young and old.

It was the song of stalwarts like **Antie Pink, Antie Miemie, Ouma Naakie, Oussie Bet, Antie Annie, Antie Lucy, Antie Bettie Joubert, Antie Sophie, Antie Freda, Antie Lok, Antie Dina Don, Peetpa Appolis, Oom Hans en Oom Tangs**, it was the song of all! Regardless of the struggle and divisions created by human beings which they endured, by deepest faith there was a realisation that God's grace is boundless and that heaven cannot be controlled by humans, regardless of creed or colour, regardless of status or social standing. Once you have been in a place like Klawer you never forget it, it leaves an indelible mark in your life. A significant feature of the village of Klawer was it's unique church bells which were rung at various times of prayer, weddings, baptisms, funerals, crisis, and upon the news of death of loved ones and therefore singing of heavenly bells, hemelse klokke was sweetened by this earthly feature.

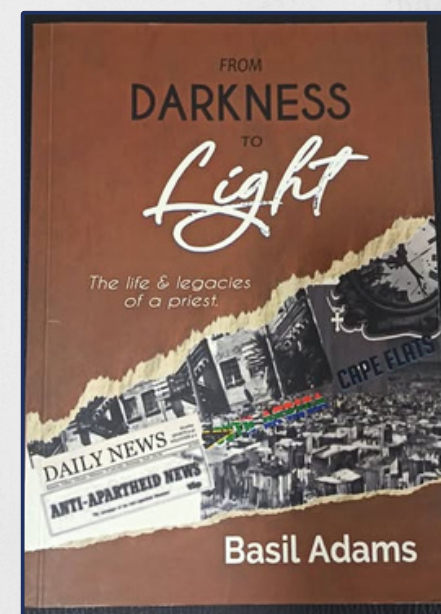
It was the heavenly bells that wearied souls were striving to listen to as they made their certain progress from this earthly life with the hope of enjoying eternal bliss, that even when life was at its toughest moments the hope to hear the heavenly bells after this earthly life paved the way for the rest of the journey.

"Die hemelse klokke hulle lui"

~The Revd. Craig Abrahams

"In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Proverbs 3:6



Basil Adams

I REMEMBER...



This book describes the experiences of a young priest during a turbulent time in the history of South Africa. The account starts by providing a historical background of the context and daily experiences of his upbringing, the journey and transitions into employment in the City of Cape Town. It then goes on to discuss his "calling" to the priesthood in the Anglican church, the stories of the apartheid system. While there is no claim to this being a unique experience it does highlight particular viewpoints and personal experiences in a specific temporal and contextual space. It thus provides personal insights but opens the space for various inferences, interpretations and points of view.

SHOAR
BOOK DISTRIBUTOR



Joyful Silver Jubilee Celebration

"The fruit of silence is prayer, the fruit of prayer is faith, the fruit of faith is love, the fruit of love is service, the fruit of service is peace." St. Teresa of Calcutta



It was with great joy and delight that the parish of St. Michaels and All Angels hosted the Jubilee Celebration of their rector, **The Very Reverend Elizabeth Alfred-Muturi**, on Sunday 5 July 2026.

Parishioners from Bishop Lavis, Bothasig, Milnerton, Brooklyn and Edgemead gathered to give thanks for the ministry of Elizabeth. God began Elizabeth's ordained ministry in Kenya in 2001 and then brought her to our Diocese in 2012, while she was serving as Provost of the Cathedral in Siakago, Kenya. She was licensed as our Senior Priest in 2020 and served as our Vicar General severally in the Diocese.

Bold brigade music and graceful spiritual dancing from St. Joseph the Worker Bishop, Lavis set the tone of gratitude and thanksgiving at the celebration service. Speeches from the Diocesan clergy, laypersons and the family of Elizabeth expressed their gratitude to God for her ministry over the past 25 years. Mention was made of her example of prayer, compassion, and humility and her heart for justice which have been used by God to cross so many boundaries of gender, class, race and citizenship in both her administrative and pastoral roles. May God continue to bless her as she ministers to, and represents minorities in the church and society.

~The Revd. Melanie Williams-Kolbe

Celebrating a Pearl Anniversary of Ordination – The Ven. Rus Blassoples Rector St Stephen's Pinelands. Archdeacon and Vicar-General



A joyous and very special parish celebratory evening was held on Tuesday, 18 August, at the UNIBO Chapel in Mmabatho, to commemorate the Pearl Anniversary of the ordination of **The Ven. Rus Blassoples** to the Priesthood.

The evening was a beautiful celebration of 30 years of faithful ministry and service to the Church. It provided an opportunity for parishioners, friends, colleagues and members of the wider church community to come together in thanksgiving for the journey of ministry that the Vicar-General has surprise.

The **Ven. Rus** was ordained to the Priesthood at the UNIBO Chapel in Mmabatho by the **Rt Revd. Njongonkulu Ndungane**, then Bishop of Kimberley and Kuruman. Thirty years later, the anniversary celebration brought together people from different chapters of his life and ministry, making the occasion especially meaningful and memorable.

One of the highlights of the evening was the sharing of special messages and greetings from people and communities who have played an important role in The Ven. Rus's journey.

Messages from his hometown and St Cyprian's Cathedral, as well as greetings from the Archbishop of Jerusalem, the University of the Western Cape (UWC), and friends in the United Kingdom, came as a wonderful and unexpected surprise.

The Diocesan Family of the Diocese of Saldanha Bay joins with the Ven. Rus, his family, friends and the wider Church community in giving thanks to God for his 30 years of priestly ministry. We celebrate his dedication, commitment and continued service to the people of God.

As this significant milestone is celebrated, we pray that God will continue to strengthen, guide and bless the Ven. Rus in the years ahead.

~Barbara Ossthuizen

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13

The Guild of St Mary Magdalene Visited The Diocese of Saldanha Bay Ahead of Provincial Conference



The Mother's Union of Paarl Archdeaconry gathered in joyful fellowship to celebrate Mary Sumner Day, Honoring the life, vision and legacy of the founder of Mother's Union



Mother's Union reflecting on the call to strengthen families, support each other & Serve God



On Friday 14 August 2026, The Vicar-General **The Ven. Rus Blossoples** warmly welcomed members of the Guild of St Mary Magdalene Provincial Council to St Oswald's Parish, Milnerton, as the Council continued its engagements and preparations within the Province. The gathering brought together clergy and representatives involved in the ministry and work of the Church. Among those accompanying the Provincial Council were **The Revd. Siyabulela Tshatshu** from the Diocese of Cape Town, who also serves as a Chaplain of the St Mary Magdalene Guild in the Diocese.

Also present was **The Revd. Yolisa Mpambani**, Chaplain of the St Mary Magdalene Guild in the Diocese of Saldanha Bay, together with **The Revd. Mxolisi Mpambani** from St Luke's Chapel.

The visit provided an opportunity for fellowship, prayer and engagement as members of the Provincial Council gathered at St Oswald's Parish. Their presence also highlighted the importance of collaboration between dioceses, clergy and Guild members in strengthening the ministry and mission of the Church.

The visit forms part of a significant period for the St Mary Magdalene Guild, as members prepare for the Provincial Conference under the theme:

"Listen. Reflect. Renew."

On Saturday, 15 August gathered in prayer on for a special Prayer Service for the Provincial Conference, held at St Joseph the Worker, Wallacedene from 15:00 to 16:30.

Guided by the theme *"Listen. Reflect. Renew."*, the prayer service provided an opportunity for members to seek God's guidance and prepare spiritually for the Provincial Conference.

The service focused on three key prayer points:

Prayer for seeking guidance in decision-making, based on Proverbs 3:5-6.

Prayer for harmony, drawing from Ephesians 4:2-3.

Prayer for spiritual growth, inspired by 2 Peter 3:18.

The service was led by **The Revd. Canon Markhosini Maci**, Priest in Charge of St Joseph the Worker, Wallacedene, and **The Revd. Siyabulela Tshatshu**, the Rector of the Parish St Cyprian's, Langa in the Diocese of Cape Town.

The gathering encouraged members to place the Provincial Conference before God in prayer, asking for wisdom, unity, spiritual growth and guidance in the decisions that lie ahead.

On Sunday 16 August, the Council Members attended a Robing service of St Mary Magdalene members of St Joseph the Worker.

~Anita Somhlahlo-Nkwana

St. Mary Magdalene Provincial President



"But according to his promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness will dwell"

2 Peter 3:13

Mary Sumner Day Celebration – Mother's Union - Paarl Archdeaconry



The Mother's Union of Paarl Archdeaconry gathered in joyful fellowship to celebrate Mary Sumner Day, Honoring the life, vision and legacy of the founder of Mother's Union



Mother's Union reflecting on the call to strengthen families, support each other & Serve God



The Mother's Union of the Paarl Archdeaconry gathered in a joyful spirit to celebrate Mary Sumner Day, honouring the life and legacy of the founder of the Mothers' Union. The celebration was a wonderful time of fellowship, thanksgiving and friendship, as members from Annunciation, Ascension, Holy Trinity and St. Bernard Mizeki came together over tea and cake. There was much laughter, conversation and sharing as we remembered Mary Sumner's vision of strengthening family life and supporting women and families in the Christian faith.

The afternoon was a beautiful reminder that, like Mary Sumner, we are called to serve God by serving others with love, compassion and commitment. We give thanks to God for the Mothers' Union in the Paarl Archdeaconry and for the fellowship we continue to share as we live out our calling together.

*~The Revd. Judith du Plessis
Paarl Archdeaconry MU Chaplain*

St Timothy's Church, Facticeon Celebrated the Legacy of Mary Sumner Through Compassion in Action

On Sunday, 9 August 2026, St Timothy's Church, Facticeon, celebrated Mary Sumner Day, honouring Mary Sumner, the founder of the Mothers' Union. Her vision was to empower women to strengthen families, support one another and bring Christ's love into their homes and communities. Her legacy continues to inspire people to believe that meaningful change can begin with one person willing to make a difference.

The celebration at St Timothy's combined worship with fellowship and practical service. After the service, parishioners shared soup and bread together, creating an opportunity for fellowship and Christian community. They then extended this spirit beyond the church by serving more than 100 cups of hot soup to people living in an informal settlement.

The outreach reflected Mary Sumner's belief in people working together to make a difference. The simple act of sharing soup became an expression of dignity, kindness, compassion and hope, reminding the community that Christian faith is not only something to be spoken about but something to be lived through service.

The day ultimately celebrated Mary Sumner's continuing mission through the people of St Timothy's. Her example encourages the church to strengthen families, serve communities and reach out compassionately to those in need, demonstrating that **"Stronger together, we can make a difference."**

~Samantha Miles



Mothers of St. Timoty Church putting Mary Sumner's vision of faith in action to practice



Through a simple act of kindness, the church continues to bring dignity and care to those in need



Mary Sumner's Legacy: Compassion in Action

"But according to his promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness will dwell"

2 Peter 3:13

AYF Elective Conference: Celebrating its Twenty Years of existence in the Diocese of Saldanha Bay



Celebrating 20 years of AYF - Young People and Clergy gathered in Fellowship during the AYF Elective Conference



The Vicar-General, The Ven Rus Blassoples blessing the newly elected executive



United in Worship



AYF Members take part in a reflective outdoor activity

The Anglican Fellowship (AYF) began its "20 YEARS" celebration of its existence in the Diocese of Saldanha Bay with an Elective Conference held in different places. This pilgrimage elective conference kicked off with the 1st Opening Eucharist reflection from the altar of the Parish of St. Laurence, Du Noon, in the week of the 15th of August. Thank you to Revd. Yolisa Mpambani for presiding over this with the assistance of Revd. Thozamile Shweni and Revd. Nwabisa Mbewana.

The following weekend, AYF was blessed by visitors from the Diocese of George, Diocese of Port Elizabeth, Diocese of Cape Town and Diocese of False Bay. This blessing is born from the vision of the

AYF that calls on young people of the Anglican Church to celebrate together across ACSA where possible, particularly in ensuring that the church grows young people in knowing Christ and make Christ known. The Dean of Studies, Canon Maci, blessed this Conference with the Welcoming 2nd Eucharist reflection. Thank you to our Alter party, who assisted with communion at Groot Drakenstein Cultural Centre.

After many years of discernment, in the Celebration Journey, the AYF launched its service book, that will assist in guiding and induction of AYF services. One Young Person said "this is what we have been waiting for, a clear guidance" by Br. Yawa.

The 3rd Eucharistic reflection was presided by the Vicar General, Achdeacon, Rus Blassoples, assisted by the Host Revd. Siyolo Dano on the altar of St Bernard Mizeki Paarl. What a joyous and touching Moment!!! "This was a reminder of my UWC days", the words of the Vicar. This service was concluded by the commissioning service of the NEW AYF EXECUTIVE. From the Chaplains 'corner: The executive wish to thank all members of this organisation for making such a wonderful experience for young people. May God continue to find, transform and send you to proclaim His gospel in the peripherals of your communities for Christ's sake. Thanks to all priests, Former AYF members who support AYF in different means possible.

~The Revd. Simbongile Mvinjelwa



"But according to his promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness will dwell"

2 Peter 3:13

Church Men's Society Marks Mandela Day Through Community Outreach

The Men's Society of the Parish of Wellington marked Nelson Mandela International Day on 18 July 2026 by turning the spirit of service into meaningful action within the local community. Through its first-ever Men's Society Mandela Day Outreach, members came together to share warmth, nourishment and fellowship with people in need.

The initiative reflected the true spirit of Mandela Day, which encourages individuals and communities to dedicate their time and resources to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

For the Men's Society, the outreach was an opportunity to put faith into action. Members prepared and distributed warm soup and bread to people in the community, offering not only a meal but also a moment of human connection, dignity and care.

The outreach demonstrated that meaningful community service does not always require large resources or elaborate programmes. Sometimes, a warm meal, a welcoming smile and a willingness to serve can bring hope and encouragement to someone facing difficult circumstances.



While the outreach was organised in recognition of Mandela Day, the Men's Society hopes that the experience will become the beginning of a continued commitment to community service.

A heartfelt word of appreciation goes to every person who contributed their time, resources, energy and support towards making the first Men's Society Mandela Day Outreach a success.

Your generosity helped make it possible to provide warm food and fellowship to members of the community, while demonstrating the Church's commitment to compassion and practical service.

The Men's Society also extends its gratitude to all those who participated on the day. Your willingness to serve is a powerful reminder that positive change begins with people who are prepared to act.

As Nelson Mandela's legacy continues to inspire generations, the Men's Society of the Parish of Wellington has shown that his message can be lived out through simple, practical acts of kindness.

Together, we can make a difference — one meal, one act of kindness and one person at a time.

~From The Parish Facebook page

St. Anne's Parish Celebrated 140 Years of Faith and Service



Current & former Clergy of Maitland Archdeaconry gathered outside St Anne's Parish before the 140th anniversary celebrations.



A joyful gathering of clergy and parishioners during St Anne's 140th anniversary celebrations



United in worship and thanksgiving as St Anne's Parish celebrates 140 years

St Anne's Parish recently celebrated its 140th anniversary with a joyful and memorable service filled with music, song, prayer, dance and inspiring words.

The special celebration brought together clergy, parishioners, past rectors and friends of the parish, creating a wonderful opportunity to honor the rich history and ministry of St Anne's. The service was led by vicar-general, The Ven. Rus Blassoples, who served as preacher and celebrant, with the liturgy

prepared by the Rector of the Parish. The celebration reflected the vibrant faith and deep sense of community that have characterized St Anne's throughout its 140-year journey.

It was also a special occasion for many to reunite with old friends and reconnect with the parish community.

~Pictures by: Barbara Oosthuizen



From left: The Revd. Mario Christian (rector of the Parish), The Revd. Pam Parenzee, The Ven. Rus Blassoples (Archdeacon) of Maitland & The Revd. Velma Jansen

"Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe."

1 Timothy 4:12

Ascension Hospitality Ministry Continues Food Security Outreach in Paarl



The handknitted items by Lelliefontein Boparding Kennels crafts for mission (Christ Church Paarl)



Preparing nutritious meals, demonstrating Christ's call to care for others



The dedicated Hospitality Ministry team, working faithfully to bring hope to those in need



Members of the community coming together during the outreach

In celebrating the Month of Compassion, The Church of the Ascension Paarl was reminded of Christ's call: "Be compassionate, as your Father is compassionate." — Luke 6:36.

This special month provides an opportunity for us to open our hearts and share what we can to bring warmth, nourishment and hope to those in need within our community.

A sincere thank you goes to Christine from Durbanville and the NPO Network, as well as DFW, including Oom Daan and Anthea, and everyone who has contributed so generously towards the Hospitality Ministry.

The generosity received has provided practical assistance in many forms, including clothing, household items, food and other essential supplies. These contributions, together with the dedication of our volunteers, enable the Hospitality Ministry to continue serving others with warmth, dignity and compassion.

Our Soup Drive Ministry is an important part of this outreach. Through the Love Basket, members of our congregation are encouraged to donate non-perishable food items to help feed those who are hungry and bring hope to people in our community.

We are especially grateful to the members of the congregation who faithfully participate in this holy ministry. Their generosity, time, compassion and willingness to serve are a beautiful expression of God's love in action.

The Month of Compassion challenges each of us to show God's love, serve with compassion and bring hope. Through feeding, caring and sharing, we can become the hands and heart of Christ to those around us.

We would love to hear from your parish, send articles and photographs to the Quill & Quiver. The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed by contributors, nor do their views necessarily reflect the policy of this paper or of the Diocese.

Events & Notices

• Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council Meeting will be on the 3rd of October 2026. Venue: TBA

• The Guild of St. Mary Magdalene Provincial Conference

The Diocese of Saldanha Bay will host the Provincial Conference of The Guild of St. Mary Magdalene, from the 15-18 October 2026. The Conference will be at St. Joseph the worker, Wallacedene & Good Shepherd Kensington.

• The Diocesan Choir Festival

The Diocesan Choir Festival will be on Saturday, 26 September 2026 at Saldanha Multi Purpose Center

• The Guild of the Servants of The Sanctuary Training the Trainers

A training and formation workshop aimed for those who are responsible for training servers, will be on the 3rd of October, God willing at the Parish of Bellville South, The Church of St. John

The Editorial

Welcome to another edition of Quill & Quiver. May these pages remind us of who we are, whose we are, and the difference we are called to make in the world.

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it." — Psalm 24:1

As we journey through another meaningful season in the life of the Church, we are invited to pause, reflect and consider what it means to live out our Christian calling in a world that continues to experience profound challenges.

The Month of Compassion calls us to look beyond ourselves and to recognise the needs of those around us. Compassion is at the heart of the Gospel. Through our soup kitchens, outreach programmes, acts of generosity, pastoral care and practical support, we become instruments of God's love in our communities.

Women's Month provides another opportunity for us to celebrate and honor the invaluable contribution of women in our families, communities and the Church.

As we now enter the **Season of Creation**, our attention turns to the beautiful yet fragile world that God has entrusted to us. The environmental challenges facing our world remind us that our responsibility as Christians extends beyond one another to the whole of creation.

As the Diocese of Saldanha Bay continues its journey of faith and service, may we remain people who pray with compassion, serve with courage and care for God's creation with responsibility..

May God renew our hearts, strengthen our hands for service, and deepen our commitment to being faithful stewards of one another and of the wonderful world God has entrusted to us.

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