



The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

The Diocese of Saldanha Bay

Vicar-General during the Vacancy in See

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A Season of Creation

To God's beloved in our Diocese:
Rectors, priests and people

1 **MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP THABO**

Three weeks ago, Archbishop Thabo called a meeting with our Chapter, Trust and Finance Boards. It was an inspiring and important time.

My sincere and humble apologies for only writing to you now.

Following that meeting, I was privileged to attend the Synod of Bishops, held on TEAMS over four days, and then immediately after that, Provincial Synod, held in Johannesburg. Archbishop Thabo, however, excused me from attending the latter because my dad had suddenly progressed in his dementia. I am profoundly grateful for your prayers. They are appreciated and felt dearly.

My dad, subsequently, died with dignity and grace, yesterday morning, here with me at home. It is heartbreaking and heaven all at once.

2 **PREPARING FOR A NEW BISHOP**

When a Diocese is preparing to elect a new Bishop, a profile is called for, including a financial one. Doing this necessary preparatory work requires an in depth look at the finances of the Diocese.

The office of the Archbishop has identified a number of areas which are of concern to them and which are perceived to be contributing to our financial state at present. These areas require looking at in more detail.

The Archbishop has called on the Vicar General to establish a small task team to help us through these waters and to provide a frame that will stabilize and begin to strengthen our financial position. To help us look with holiness and honesty at where we are, and what we will present to our incoming Diocesan Bishop and Boards.

Suggested things we can do immediately:

- Continue to uphold the Diocese in our prayerful hearts. This moment is perhaps more sacred than simply ‘strategic.’
- Meet on TEAMS more regularly – thus eliminating the cost of printing, catering and travelling expenses.
- Encouraging more EFT banking and less cash.
- Acquaint ourselves with Diocesan reimbursement rates, *and stick to them*, for travelling and services when using clerics with a PTO.
- We have so many talented laity among us who can help us *think creatively* about gaining generation revenue from Church property.
- These are just a few but powerful ways to reduce spending and which, over time, would lower costs in a significant way.

3 **DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING**

The Task Team will delve deeper into more substantial ways of reducing costs. To better prepare for the Diocesan Council meeting scheduled for this Saturday 10 October, it is now **moved to Saturday 7 November 2026** and will be held at **St Stephen’s Church in Pinelands at 8 in the morning.**

Please be so kind as to diarize this date and advise your Diocesan Council representatives. It would be greatly appreciated.

You are remembered on in my heart and when I pray.
With continued affection for your all.

Sincerely, Rus