

The Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist

(Anglican Church of Southern Africa in Limpopo)

Bishop: Martin Breytenbach

martin@stmark.org.za

Tel: 015 297 3297 Fax 015 297 0408

Secretary at Diocesan Centre: reception@stmark.org.za

Diocesan Administrator: administrator@stmark.org.za



P.O Box 643
Polokwane, 0700

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To All: Clergy
Churchwardens
Leaders of Organisations
Diocesan Youth Council

Dear Friends in Christ,

1 Personal

Exciting news: Colleen Thomas and I are engaged to be married! We plan to have two ceremonies:

- ✦ Marriage Service at Christ Church Kenilworth in Cape Town on 14th October 2017.
- ✦ Marriage Blessing at Christ Church Cathedral in Polokwane on 28th October 2017. ***You are all invited to join us for the Polokwane celebration and the start of our shared life, mission and ministry in the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist!***



God has been very good to us and is restoring us after the difficult times or loss and grief we have both been through. Please keep us in your prayers as we prepare for our new life together.

2 Training Events in 2017

One of the most important things we can do at Diocesan level is to make training available to those in ministry and leadership. So, once again, this year we have several training events coming up. Please make full use of these opportunities!

2.1 Parallel Schools on Pastoral Care

Tuesday 2nd May at 17:00 to Friday 5th May at 16:00
At Mater Dei Pastoral Centre (between Mokopane and Mookgopong)
Cost: R700 per person
 Closing date for registration: 21st April

Two training schools for clergy and lay leaders will take place in parallel – both on the broad theme of Pastoral Care.

1) Hilary McLea: **Managing Loss, Grief & Continuous Trauma**

This specialised course is designed for Social Workers, Psychologists, Nurses and Clergy and Pastoral Carers who often deal with these things and have some training in this area.

There are only 15 to 20 places available, so there will be a selection process. But if you are not selected, I hope you will come to the course on Pastoral Care!

2) Duncan McLea: **Pastoral Care: Why, How, What and Where** (with †Martin and Colleen Thomas)

This course is specially designed for Clergy and Pastoral Carers. Youth Pastors are welcome.

Please remember, this is an official Clergy School of the Diocese, so parishes should pay for their clergy to attend.

Diocesan Vision: To make disciples in vibrant, self-sufficient congregations established and linked to each other by sharing in resources; ministry & service; outreach & evangelism.

2.2 Langham Preaching

We have been hosting Langham Preaching since 2009 – in fact we were the first church in South Africa to do so, and it is now spreading widely in South and Southern Africa!

Our next Langham Preaching Course takes place at **Mater Dei from Monday 22nd to Friday 26th May**. As far as I know all three levels will be offered: Introduction, Old Testament and New Testament. Please contact Walter Setshedi in the Diocesan Office for more information and details of registration.

2.3 Rooted in Jesus (RinJ) and RinJ Junior Parallel Training Conference

After a break last year we are once again organising parallel training Conferences in:

- ✦ **Rooted in Jesus:** Discipleship for adults. This is a practical, Bible-based course that equips people to live as disciples of Jesus – and to make disciples of others. I believe every member of our churches should participate in Rooted in Jesus!
- ✦ **Rooted in Jesus Junior:** Discipleship for children and young teens. Based on RinJ, it introduces young people to Jesus in a practical way, so that they can follow him in their everyday lives and help others to do so too.

Discipleship is what we are all about! It was Jesus' great commission to the church (Matthew 28:18-20) and it is central to our Diocesan Vision. (see the bottom of this page).

These conferences will take place from **6pm on Thursday 15th June to 4pm on Sunday 18th June at Mater Dei**. Friday 16th is Youth Day, so schools will be closed and no one will need to take leave. Please contact Walter Setshedi in the Diocesan Office for more information and details of registration.

2.4 Youth Pastors' Training

Last month I wrote to you about the very successful first training event for Youth Pastor's at the beginning of the year. Walter and his team are arranging a repeat of the training **at Jane Furse Memorial Village from 8th-10th September**.

Our goal is to have two Youth Pastors in every parish by the end of this year! So far about half our parishes have at least one, so this is a plea to the rest of you to **identify at least two suitable young people who are serious about following Jesus and send them for training**. It could make a huge impact on their lives and on your parish.

After that we aim to work towards having two trained, licensed Youth Pastors in every chapelry. Just imagine the impact that could have on Limpopo (not just the church!). Walter will soon send out information about that training. It is from among the Youth Pastors that we plan to elect the new Diocesan Youth Council.

3 Season of Intentional Discipleship and Disciple Making

The worldwide Anglican Communion has embarked upon a Season of Discipleship and Disciple-making. The Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA) was one of the first to endorse it when I proposed a motion at Provincial Synod last year. And we launched it officially at the Anglicans Ablaze Conference in October. I have now been invited to become part of the international Discipleship oversight group, which is a great honour and joy to me.

So I will be travelling to London for the first meeting from 23rd to 27th April. When I return on 28th April, Colleen will fly up from Cape Town to visit me here until about 9th May. She will stay with Luke and Jenny Pretorius and will have a chance to join me in some parish visits and other events. Please pray that God will have his hand of blessing and protection over us in all this – and that God will be glorified and the church strengthened through the season of Discipleship.

Have a blessed
Easter – Christ is
Risen!



†Martin: St Mark the Evangelist