

AD CLERUM – JULY 2010

Dear People of God

It all started with 3 conversations, each hard on the heels of the other. The first was a discussion about our diocesan vision which raised the question as to whether or not our parishes are still intentionally working at making our diocesan vision a reality. In the second, a priest lamented that he felt that he was working in a parish that was still firmly in Lumko Stage 1, where the priest is expected to do everything. The third was a conversation with a priest from outside the diocese about change and managing change in which he commented that our diocesan vision had given to us a clear sense of direction that could be seen in our willingness to explore options and experiment with new ways of doing things that would help us achieve our vision in the midst of a rapidly changing world.

In my prayers the next morning, those three conversations of the previous day came to mind and somehow coalesced into a meditation about vision and what it means to be obedient to a vision that we believe is God-given. A number of thoughts flashed through my mind in quick succession:-

- Do we really believe that our diocesan vision is from God?
- If the answer is yes; then ... are we just paying lip service to it?
- Again, if the answer is yes; then ... why?
- And then ... what steps do we need to take to recover and implement that vision?

As I moved on to a lectio on the lectionary readings for the office that morning, I found myself listening to the text from the perspective of the 5 key points of the vision. What does this passage of scripture say about the ministry of all believers; what does it say about visionary servant leadership; etc? Each of the readings spoke into one or more key points of the vision in ways that challenge the way I do ministry (and each of the lectionary readings since then has continued to speak into the vision).

That the lectionary should speak into the vision is not surprising. If our vision is indeed from God, then the scriptures can be expected to address that vision and to bring fresh insights into what God is asking us to do or be. But the overwhelming sense of that morning's meditations was that of being attentive to God. I was reminded of the opening words of the Rule of Benedict: "Listen carefully, my child to my instructions ... welcome it and faithfully put it into practice." Although Benedict is speaking of the instructions of the Rule, the whole Rule is so shaped by scripture and permeated by it that it has endured for centuries as a way of living out the call and command of scripture. Scripture shapes the Rule; the Rule shapes the way the Word is heard and responded to.

When Benedict outlines the daily timetable of monastic life, it is times of worship that provide the rhythm and structure of the day. Worship begins in the darkness before dawn with a vigil that is essentially one of listening to the Word in psalm and scripture. It ends in a similar way with the meditative office of Compline before retiring for the night. Six additional sacred offices are then woven into the threads of everything else that is done, so that the whole day

is permeated with an ongoing process of attentively listening to God and living out what has been heard.

For Benedict, this attitude of attentive listening is so critical and central to the spiritual life that, over and above the 3 ½ to 4 hours per day that he sets aside for communal worship and listening, he still makes provision for personal prayer, private study and Lectio Divina. If this attitude of attentive listening is, indeed, at the heart of the spiritual life then it is essential that we, as clergy and spiritual leaders, should be intentional in making space for it in our lives – our own spiritual growth and our ministry to others depends upon it.

We have moved away from the 7-fold offices of the monastic tradition in our Anglican Prayer Books, replacing it instead with the offices of Morning, (Midday) and Evening Prayer. Nevertheless, they are intended to serve the same purpose of creating in each of us an attitude of constant and intentional attentiveness to God. Perhaps, because they are a truncated form of an intentional spiritual formation process, we need to be especially diligent in the saying of our offices (and the encouraging of others to do the same), but also in making certain that we make adequate space in our lives for private reading and lectio.

The psalms and scriptures recited and heard in those 7 daily offices would have been heard and absorbed in the light of their communal life based upon the Rule. While I am not in any way trying to liken our Diocesan Vision to the Rule of Benedict, I am suggesting that there is good precedent in the Rule of Benedict for carefully listening to, and acting upon, scripture in the light of the vision that we are trying to make visible in our midst.

If God, in Christ, is calling our diocese to make visible in our communal life together certain specific aspects of gospel life, then we have to take that call seriously. It means, therefore, that we must attentively listen to God and intentionally seek to become what God is calling us to be. The daily offices and our spiritual reading and meditation provide the vehicle for attentive listening; our daily ministry and parish activities provides the point of application. We cannot pray, as we do every day, “... your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,” unless we are listening attentively and actively and intentionally working to make it a reality within our lives and diocese.

For self reflection:

1. How do I cultivate attentive listening to God in the frenetic demands of my daily life?
2. Do I truly believe that our diocesan vision is God given? (If the answer is no, then what is God's vision for your own life, your parish, your diocese?)
3. If the answer is yes; then ... am I just paying lip service? Why? What steps do I need to take to begin implementing God's vision for my life, my parish, my diocese?

For group discussion:

1. How are we, as a parish, helping our people to listen more attentively to God in their daily lives and to be obedient to what God is saying to them?
2. How consistent and intentional have we been in implementing the diocesan vision in our parish life? What could we do differently (or better)?

Listen attentively; act obediently,



Xenophobia and Post World-Cup Violence

There have been a number of reports about a possible eruption of xenophobic violence following the 2010 World Cup. Governmental leaders have dismissed these reports as rumour-mongering by persons jealous of the success of the World Cup and the effective police presence at events. While I sincerely hope that the reports prove to be nothing more than rumour-mongering, I am concerned that such stories are doing the rounds in some of our communities and, most disturbingly, in some of our informal settlements.

A number of economists are warning of a possible “double dip” in the recession, while others are warning that there will be significant job losses following the World Cup. Both of these are likely to exacerbate xenophobic feelings and so I am asking, therefore, that we all begin addressing the issue in our Sunday services and begin praying for an end to xenophobic stereotypes and prejudices. It might also be helpful in dealing with the issue if parishes were to discuss how they will respond and act should there be any incidents of xenophobic violence.

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Synod

The second sitting of Synod will take place on **Saturday the 31st of July** at St Joseph's and Sparrow School. Because so many people did not receive their agenda books for the first sitting of Synod the Exec has decided that instead of posting the agenda book to each parish / delegate, we will post it on the website as a downloadable document and are asking that each parish / delegate access the website and download it. Those of you who are for some reason unable to access the website are asked to please contact Phumza or Noxolo at the Diocesan office who will either send it to you as an email attachment or print the document for your collection.

Those of you wishing to read the minutes of the first session of Synod will be able to access them on the website as soon as they are finalised. I will advise you of when this occurs and send you the link as soon as I am able.

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Spiritual Formation

Clergy Day: The next Clergy Day will take place on Tuesday the **6th of July** at St. Martin's-in-the-Veld, Rosebank. Dr Mandla Adonis will be the guest speaker and will be looking at Systems and Processes for effective Management.

The Clergy Day in August will take the form of a 3 day Workshop on Pastoral Care lead by Professor Masango. The dates for this workshop are the 3rd, 4th and 5th and the venue, St. Michael & All Angles, Alexandra. All full-time clergy are expected to attend and you will be catered for.

Self Supporting Clergy Day: The next meeting for Self-Supporting Clergy will take place at St Thomas, Linden on Saturday the 17th of July. Bishop Brian will be leading the morning through the outcomes of the Diocesan Strategic Planning sessions.

Centre for Christian Spirituality: Please see the attached document for the July Program.

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Reading Recommendations

An interesting read is Karen Armstrong's "**The Battle for God.**" Subtitled: "A History of Fundamentalism" it explores the rise of fundamentalist movements in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. She examines the historical-cultural contexts and consequences of these movements, and attempts to explain both why such militant movements have proved attractive to so many and why she believes that, ultimately, they are doomed to fail. You may not agree with everything she has to say, but you cannot but be challenged by what she says.

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Provincial News

- On the 16th of July the Province will celebrate the inauguration of the **Diocese of Mbotse**. Please would you keep all those involved in your prayers.
- **Ishmael Gaborone**, formally a priest of this Diocese, died in Bloemfontein. His funeral will take place in the Cathedral Church of St Andrew and St Michael, Bloemfontein on Friday 2nd July. We give thanks to God for his ministry and pray for his family in their time of mourning.

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Diocesan Family News

- Please find the July **Prayer Diary** attached.
- Our sincere congratulations to **Lefelho Lethoko** as he celebrates the 20th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on the 8th of July.
- We have just received an update on **Michael and Rosemary Faure**; Michael as many of you will know has Alzheimer's and has now reached the point where he needs constant supervision and care. Rosemary has been diagnosed with cancer and is currently undergoing chemotherapy. Please keep them and their son Micah who is still in South Africa, in your prayers.
- As many of you will know the Anglican Aids Healthcare Trust has announced the expiry of the funding of **Siyafundisa** as of the 30th June 2010 and as a result have terminated the services of our two Field Workers, Mr. Jabulani Miya and Ms. Anna Moloi. The good news is that the Diocesan HIV and AIDS Task Team, together with Bishop Brian, has decided to retain the services of Anna Moloi under the Diocesan HIV and AIDS Office in an attempt to keep the program running. Please visit

www.anglicanjoburg.org.za/aidsministry/ to find out more about these developments and about how you as parishes can get involved in the HIV & AIDS Testing Campaign.

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Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

July Birthdays: Wishing you a very blessed birthday!

1 st	Tebogo May	14 th	Liz Klingenberg
3 rd	Yvonne Meyers	18 th	Agnes Witbooi
4 th	Morgan Ellis	18 th	Rodney Taylor
4 th	Lyn Bewsher	21 st	Xolani Dlwati
4 th	Rachel Mapheng	22 nd	Eric Richardson
5 th	Trevor Slade	24 th	Precious Chaane
6 th	Eunice Marubelela	25 th	Mamosebetsi Maloka
6 th	Barbara Siaki	25 th	Helen Els
7 th	Lucas Mekgwe	26 th	Roseline Francis
7 th	John Westwood	26 th	Paul Germond
9 th	Wendy Mollink	28 th	Bernice Stevens
9 th	Ivan Lane	28 th	David Eades
10 th	John Ntsoko	31 st	Ranthite Namu
11 th	Linda Mokgathe	31 st	Nomhle Moselane
13 th	Joe Maboe	31 st	Erna Basson
13 th	Alf Khumalo	31 st	Sarah Van der Watt
13 th	Kirstie Long		

July Anniversaries: “Our wedding was many years ago. The celebration continues to this day.” Gene Perret

1 st	Barrie & Val Lodge (44yrs)	12 th	Wilhelm & Liz Klingenberg (41yrs)
3 rd	+Brian & Susan Germond (39yrs)	21 st	Gerard & Pearl Sharp (26yrs)
9 th	Allan & Linda Williams (36yrs)		

August Birthdays: “With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come.” William Shakespeare

1 st	Jos Mncube	12 th	Koto Mloi
2 nd	Stewart Basson	13 th	Lee-Anne Cotton
2 nd	Dan Ngqumeya	17 th	Bradley Mloi
2 nd	Michelle Pilet	19 th	George Boyce
4 th	Philip Dixie	19 th	Lynette Wessels
5 th	Mandisa Nxumalo	19 th	Abegail Tserere
7 th	Brian Smith	22 nd	Wouter Uitzinger
7 th	Ian Stevens	23 rd	Gerald Steward
8 th	Archie Motaung	24 th	Jeremy Jacobs
9 th	Samuel Mloi	25 th	Zanele Mtshali
10 th	Alinah Mohomane	26 th	Molebe Mosima
11 th	Gavin Smith	31 st	Motshabi Motlabane
12 th	Neo Modise		

August Anniversaries: “Love is a friendship set to music” Joseph Campbell

4 th	Trevor + Gwyn Slade (37yrs)	17 th	Tshepo + Mamosebetsi Maloka (W/A)
4 th	Gerald + Margaret Steward (32yrs)	23 rd	Ian + Wendy Macintosh (52yrs)
11 th	Geoff + Christine Lowick (45yrs)	27 th	Roy + Barbara Collins (44yrs)
15 th	Nombuyiselo + Meshack Nhlapo (37yrs)	28 th	Rusty + Paddy Seller (45yrs)

Although we endeavour to keep our records up-to-date, experience tells us that we often miss out on special dates. If you are celebrating a special occasion in the coming month that is not on the list please email Phumza at phumza.ntuli@anglicanjoburg.org.za so that we can update our lists.

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Dates for Diary

JULY		Diocesan	Bishop
Sunday	4		Pastoral visit: St Stephen, Wedela
Tuesday	6	Clergy Day	Clergy Day
Thursday	8		LEAVE
Friday	9		LEAVE
Saturday	10	Anglicare	LEAVE
Sunday	11	Football World Cup Final	LEAVE
Monday	12		LEAVE
Tuesday	13	Independent / Government Schools Open / Strategic Management Planning	Strategic Management Planning
Wednesday	14	Strategic Management Planning	Strategic Management Planning
Thursday	15	Strategic Management Planning	Strategic Management Planning
Saturday	17	Archdeaconry Region 5 Council Meeting / Ordinand Training / Self Supporting Clergy Day	Self Supporting Clergy Day
Sunday	18		Pastoral visit: Mary Magdelene, Protea South
Saturday	24	Region 4 Archdeaconry Meeting / POST / Saints Lay Training	Retreat: Desert Mothers & Fathers
Sunday	25		Retreat: Desert Mothers & Fathers
Wednesday	28	DFB	
Saturday	31	AWF Manche Masemola Pilgrimage / STILIM Graduation	STILIM Graduation

AUGUST		Diocesan	Bishop
Sunday	1	Confirmation Archdeaconry Region 1	Confirmation Archdeaconry Region 1
Monday	2		
Tuesday	3	Clergy Workshop	Clergy Workshop
Wednesday	4	Clergy Workshop	Clergy Workshop
Thursday	5	Clergy Workshop	Clergy Workshop
Saturday	7	Confirmation Archdeaconry Region 2	Confirmation Archdeaconry Region 2
Sunday	8	Confirmation Archdeaconry Region 3	Confirmation Archdeaconry Region 3
Monday	9	NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY / AWF National Day of Prayer	
Tuesday	10	Archdeaconry Region 1 Clergy Day	
Saturday	14	Diaconal Training / Transformers / FOX / Confirmation Archdeaconry Region 4	Confirmation Archdeaconry Region 4
Sunday	15	Confirmation Archdeaconry Region 5	Confirmation Archdeaconry Region 5

Wednesday	18	Archdeacons Meeting	Archdeacons Meeting
Thursday	19		
Friday	20	St Peter's School 60th Anniversary Eucharist	
Saturday	21	Confirmation Archdeaconry Region 6 / Ordinand Training / Anglicare / Archdeaconry Area 1 Council Meeting	Confirmation Archdeaconry Region 6
Sunday	22		Pastoral Visit; Dobsonville
Monday	23	Archdeaconry Region 2 Clergy Meeting	
Saturday	28	POST / Saints Lay Training	
Monday	30		Retreat
Tuesday	31		Retreat

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General Notices

- **Communion wafers** are now for sale at the Diocesan Office. Prices are as follows: Priest Wafers - R25.00 per box, Peoples Wafers Plain - R20.00 per box and Peoples Wafers Stamped - R25.00 per box. Please contact Noxolo to place your order.

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