

St. Michael and All Angels

Anglican Church

The Diocese of Saldanha Bay



Our Mission

To honour God by proclaiming His Word in a spirit filled church, nurturing leadership, holistic growth, missions and care groups in a Discipling Environment

Address: Letchworth Drive, Edgemoor Cape Town, 7441

Phones: (021) 558-4139 or 558-8628, **Fax** (021) 558-0881,

E-mail: edgemooranglican@telkomsa.net **Website:** www.stmichaelsedgemoor.org.za

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1633691556945807/>

RECTOR: The Revd Canon David Mills

17th July 2020

Dear parish family,

Greetings in our Lord's Name.

After each meeting of the PCC we try to send information to you all by way of updates and in an ongoing attempt to keep in touch, during this very challenging time in all of our lives. I am grateful to Carin Engelbrecht from our PCC who assists me in compiling these newsletters.

Parish Online Survey results

Following the results of our parish online survey, in which 69 people participated, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all in sharing your thoughts for our way forward, on our communication styles and platforms. Please allow me the opportunity to share some thoughts regarding the same as - not all have the same level of technical expertise and access to unlimited fast data, which this survey has brought to light, that data is needed, even to receive SMS and WhatsApp messages.

Communication During Lockdown

With us not being able to meet face-to-face as of 27 March, almost without any warning, we needed to find other ways of staying in touch with you, our parish family. Several methods were tried and, at the end of the day, we have settled for the following, for the reasons given:

a) **Parish WhatsApp group:** we have just over 180 contacts on the Parish WhatsApp group, which has three administrators - Sean, Taynà and myself. The primary purpose of the WhatsApp group is to communicate between the parish leadership and you our parish community.

Some comments from the online our survey have suggested that this might be more interactive. We have given thought to this, however feel that with this platform comprising so many members and if everyone could post, we would soon be overwhelmed by input which would defeat the object of this platform. Responses and or questions about what we share are of course warmly invited and can be sent to the Parish Admin phone, which Taynà keeps, on: 072 298 1959.

b) **Parish Facebook Page:** The survey has indicated that many in our parish access the Facebook page regularly and happily I can confirm, we have 222 members on the St Michael's Facebook page (not all these are parishioners). The content has been updated and I am extremely grateful to Fr Allan for posting inspirational material of encouragement and prayers.

c) **Parish Website:** This has undergone some design changes during Lockdown to make it easier for folk to access information, especially the Sunday services, Audio recordings, among others. This platform is accessed by some as a direct source of information and serves as the electronic platform for Sunday services and audio only recordings, whether accessed via the WhatsApp group or through the FB page. Sean has also tried adding birthday and anniversary news at the end of the Sunday service, however this may not be possible going forward as, if the service gets too long there are technical problems in uploading and accessing it.

d) **Email and the Pew Online News:** Online Parish News is now directly posted on our Website, Facebook and onto the WhatsApp group.

We find ourselves in very different places in terms of how much data we as parishioners can afford, available data speed, and also at times how to use cell phones and other devices to access the information that we make available. This means that while live streaming of a Sunday service would be great, if we could do it, even via YouTube, there might be parish members and friends who would not be able to log on and see it.

There have been suggestions that we include more for our young people in the Sunday services - these are well received. There are 2 ways in which we can do this: that parents whose children are open to being video recorded as a reader, or leading the prayers, to please let Taynà know; the second way is for us to source appropriate cartoons (like that of Sunday 5th July) and other material to include in the service content - with Sean's help we will look at how to do this.

Parish Financial Administration

We would like to, thank each and every one of our parishioners for keeping up your financial support for the work and ministry of St Michael's - this is deeply appreciated, especially in these very challenging times.

To report that the PCC and Exco have taken three actions to ensure that we are doing everything possible to contain expenditure:

A) Rationalization of the office and rectory telephone system - this has been done yielding considerable saving to the parish.

B) Installation of Electricity Pay Meters - after investigation it has been shown that installation of these meters will help provide a considerable saving on these monthly costs.

C) Reforecasting of the 2020 Budget - at the last PCC meeting we looked at a re-forecasted budget which Allison Koopman (Finance Warden) had prepared. This was detailed and we felt it was very fair and realistic, looking at how we can be enabled through God's grace to meet parish financial commitments in the future.

I leave you with this word and may you find comfort to know that God is our steadfast provider – “ And God is able to bless you abundantly , so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (-2 Corinthians 9: 8 NIV-).

God bless you all,
Fr David

Our Vision

To be a Multi-Generational Church creating a culture of discipleship where all people can Believe, Belong and Become
*Relevant *Effective*Dynamic
Followers of Jesus Christ.