



THE BISHOP OF TABLE BAY

DIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

Anglican Church of Southern Africa

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My dear brothers and sisters,

Eastertide greetings to you!

Allow me to extend my sincere condolences to the families and their loved ones who have lost a part of their soul and add my prayers to those who have been hospitalised or recovering at home, after this tragic bus accident near Swellendam on return from a wonderful week at Carmel Retreat Centre in Wilderness.

Although the trip was arranged by parishioners of St Aidan's, Lansdowne, those who went along were from across the diocese and beyond. It was the first trip after the Covid pandemic and there was great excitement. Looking at the daily Facebook updates and comments, it was clear that everyone had a great time. So, it was a great shock when the news of the accident surfaced.

Four people tragically lost their lives, and many were seriously injured, whilst some have been discharged, others are still at hospitals across the province. Their families have been informed and were able to make contact.

Allow me to thank the parish rector, Reverend Terrence and others, who immediately went to the accident scene to give assistance as well as the Archdeacon, Venerable Allen Goliath, parish leaders and others who were at their posts to give information to family members as it came through.

A big thank you to the leadership, clergy and people of the diocese of George, who graciously assisted us as the accident took place within their diocese. Thank you to the various Provincial Departments who played their roles, especially the Provincial Health Department, who was in constant contact with us and willing to assist in any way possible. They have offered trauma counselling and I would like to appeal to everyone who were affected by this event to take up this offer.

As we celebrate the feast of the Good Shepherd today, let us know that Jesus is our Good Shepherd, and he will continue to watch over us even when things look dark and uncertain. It is at a time like this that we are called to rally together and to support in any way possible. We are called to be people of prayer, so let us keep each other in prayer especially the bereaved and those in hospital and know that God hears our prayers.

We await further information with regard to funeral arrangements from respective families and will communicate as soon as we have been informed.

Yours in Christ

+ JOSHUA TABLE BAY

The Right Revd Joshua Louw
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