**Please pray for the churches and people of our link diocese of Mzimvubu in South Africa**

Following a difficult few years, communications with our link diocese of Mzimvubu have improved this year, following the installation of the Rt Revd Tsietsi Seleoane as Diocesan Bishop on 1 February. Of course, the development of his new ministry has been hampered by the spread of the worldwide pandemic Covid-19, which has hit this region of the Eastern Cape and Natal hard.

A Church Times article last month confirmed that the health system has collapsed in this area, and that aid provided for vulnerable communities by Hope Africa has now dried up. We know already that this is a deprived rural area, with little employment. There are many orphans (due to HIV-AIDS) and vulnerable children and we were able to send out funds to help them until communications broke down a few years ago.

Bishop Tsietsi has confirmed that there is a parish system in place to identify families in need of help. He says: “This system is very transparent and aimed at reaching every needy family”. Those that were not eligible for grants from Hope Africa were supported by the provision of food parcels, but both sources of funds are now exhausted.

We have asked Bishop Tsietsi for contact information, and hope to send out some financial aid to help orphans, vulnerable children and families from the donations which we have already received for this purpose in Mzimvubu.

Please pray:

* Give thanks: for Bishop Tsietsi and his clergy and staff; for the re-establishment of communications with Mzimvubu; and for the system enabling them to identify those in need.
* Pray for those in need: those bereaved by or suffering from Covid-19; those in the healthcare system; those who have lost jobs or otherwise have little or no income; the orphans and other vulnerable children.
* Pray for the Archdeacons, their archdeaconry co-ordinators and members of the Mothers’ Union. May God help them as they continue to identify the needy and to provide vital assistance.
* Pray for further grant aid for the region from Hope Africa or other sources.
* Give thanks for those in the Diocese of Truro who have given and are giving generously to help orphans, vulnerable children and their families in the Diocese of Mzimvubu; pray that they will continue to give, and that others will be moved to offer assistance. Pray that any funds we may send will be used effectively to help those in need.

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