



Statement from St George's Cathedral: A Call to Peace, Prayer and Our Common Humanity

As South Africa approaches 30 June, St George's Cathedral invites all people to choose peace over fear, compassion over division, and hope over hostility.

For generations, this Cathedral has stood as a place of prayer, justice and sanctuary; a home where the dignity of every human being is affirmed.

We recognise that many South Africans carry deep frustrations about unemployment, poverty, crime and insecurity. These concerns deserve to be heard and addressed with wisdom, justice and integrity. Yet no grievance can justify violence, intimidation, or the dehumanisation of another person.

The Apostle Paul reminds us: "If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." (Romans 12:18)

These words are not a call to ignore injustice, but an invitation to respond to one another in ways that preserve our common humanity. Every person is created in the image of God and worthy of dignity, respect and compassion.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu reminded us:

"My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together."

Those words remain as urgent today as ever. When fear tempts us to divide the world into "us" and "them," we are called instead to recognise our shared humanity. The measure of our society is not found in how we treat those who are like us, but in how we treat those who are most vulnerable among us.

In this spirit, St George's Cathedral will host a Silent Vigil for Peace and Human Dignity with the Central Methodist Mission and the Groote Kerk. Silence is not an act of indifference. It is an act of witness. In silence, we lament fear and division, we pray for wisdom for those entrusted with leadership, and we stand in solidarity with all whose lives are marked by uncertainty and vulnerability.

We invite people of every faith and none, South African and foreign national alike, to join us in bearing witness to the truth that our shared humanity is stronger than fear.

May we have the courage not merely to ask, "Who belongs here?" but instead to ask, "How shall we belong to one another?"

For as Christ teaches:

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

Silent Vigil for Peace and Human Dignity

Tuesday, 30 June 2026

St George's Cathedral, Cape Town

Standing together in prayer, silence, and hope for the dignity of every person.



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