

FRIDAY 24TH MAY, 2023  
ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH, YABA  
Time: 7.00 AM MATTINS

Presiding: The Rt. Rev. B. C. Akinpelu Johnson  
Conductor: Rev Michael O. Adesina  
Assisting: Rev Chinedum Udeze  
Preacher: Rev. Kingsley E. Ehillegbu

Theme: "We are but Aliens and Strangers"

Topic: "If only in this Life"

O.T Lesson: Daniel 7:13-27, Mr. Peter Ndeche

N.T Lesson: 1 Cor. 15:12-25, Mrs Oluwatoyin Ajayi

Intercession: Rev. Chinedum Udeze

## SYNOD PRAYER

Almighty and Ever-living God, the Creator and Maker of all, we give Thee hearty thanks for Your Fatherly care and sustenance as we journey on our earthly pilgrimage. You O God are immortal, and we humbly bow before you acknowledging that we are mere mortals formed from the dust of the earth; and to that dust we will return, for we are but strangers and aliens on this earth.

Grant us the grace to continue to trust in Your presence with us at all times.

May we, believing, obeying, and following the examples of Your Son and our Saviour Jesus Christ, always give our lives to Your service; shunning worldly passions and pleasures, knowing that we are in the world, but not of the world.

In spite of the changes and chances of this world, help us to abide in Christ as we continue to bear fruits that will glorify Your holy name; even as we live in anticipation of that day when we shall see You face to face in Your Kingdom, where You live and reign forever and ever, Amen.



## SYNOD HYMN

CH 607 - I AM A STRANGER HERE

1. I am a stranger here,  
Heaven is my home:  
Earth is a desert drear,  
Heaven is my Home;  
Danger and sorrow stand;  
Round me on every hand;  
Heaven is my Fatherland  
Heaven is my Home
2. What though the tempest rage,  
Heaven is my home;  
Short is my pilgrimage,  
Heaven is my Home;  
And time's wild wintry blast,  
Soon shall be over passed;  
I shall reach home at last,  
Heaven is my home;
3. There at my Saviour's side  
Heaven is my home  
I shall be glorified,  
Heaven is my home;  
There are the good and blest,  
Those I love most and best;  
And there I too shall rest;  
Heaven is my Home.
4. Therefore I murmur not,  
Heaven is my home.  
Whate'er my earthly lot,  
Heaven is my Home  
And I shall surely stand  
There at my LORD'S right Hand;  
Heaven is my Fatherland,  
Heaven is my Home. Amen



**DLAM**  
DIOCESE OF LAGOS MAINLAND  
ANGLICAN COMMUNION

3RD Session of the  
**Sixth Synod**

23RD - 27TH  
MAY 2024

VOLUME 1  
NEWSLETTER  
Issue 1: Thursday 23rd May, 2024

We are but  
**STRANGERS  
& ALIENS**

Hebrews 11:13b



## OPENING SERVICE

THURSDAY 23RD MAY, 2023  
CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST JUDE EBUTE-META, LAGOS  
Time: 4.00 PM Evensong

Presiding: The Rt. Rev. B. C. Akinpelu Johnson  
Conductor: Rev. Canon Emmanuel C. Chibueze  
Assisting: Rev. Dr. A. A. Agbeleye  
Rev. A. C. Nwachukwu  
Rev. Adedotun A. Adesina

Preacher: Rt. Rev. Dr. James O. Odedeji

Theme: "We are but Strangers and Aliens"

Topic: "We are but Strangers and Pilgrims"  
(Heb. 11:13b)

O.T Lesson: Isa. 25:6-9, The Chancellor

N.T Lesson: Heb. 11:8-16, The Deputy Chancellor

Intercession: Rev. Dr. Ademola A. Agbeleye





**INTERVIEW WITH THE  
DIOCESAN  
THE RT. REVD B.C  
AKINPELU JOHNSON, M.PHIL, AKC**  
DIOCESAN BISHOP & PRESIDENT OF SYNOD



**Question:** Casting our minds back to last year's synod with the theme "Confirmation, Our Youth and the Eucharist-Sustenance for the future", can you give us a brief overview of the outcome of the resolution of the last synod and how it affected the Parishes, the youth and otherwise?

**Bishop:** I may find it difficult to answer the question you are asking because there is a synod resolution committee but if you are talking about the theme of the synod what I hoped to achieve by it and the benefit that is slightly different, from what I hoped to achieve by it and the benefits to the people. First of all, saying that in choosing the themes for the 6th of the synod, I have decided to make it something of a teaching theme that would enable me to teach as far as rites of passage in the church. The church deals with people's rights from birth to death and in between we have something like baptism and confirmation. We start with Baptism and Sunday school which is the foundational part of our membership in the church. Then the next step in our rites of passage will be confirmation, the youth stage, and the Eucharist at the end, the final stage will be the last part, which is why we have the

theme "We are but strangers and Aliens" dealing with death. Concerning last year's synod theme, it was for people to perhaps get a better understanding and appreciation of the Eucharistic services; St Luke's gospel speaks of the two disciples who were on their way to Emmaus and Jesus joined them, they did not know it was him until it was time of the breaking of bread, and then they knew that it was the Lord and he disappeared and they recognized him and understood. So, it is the same thing trying to get our people to see the significance of what we now call the Lord's Supper and to bring it a greater degree of seriousness based on a better understanding of what it was. Talking about the youth, usually within our communion it is at that stage early youth of around age 12-14 that people start coming forward for confirmation, so bringing them together, the benefit of such a thing of those themes are teachings would have been better accessed at the parish levels particularly also during Lenten services where such themes were broken down so that it will get to the



grassroots. **For me the sacraments are very important; baptism and the Eucharist are the two sacraments that Jesus Christ left us, which he commanded us to do.** When we come to the theme of the last session about "We are but Strangers and aliens", those two sacraments are based on a retaining of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ which is for us our bases for our hope of immortality and eternal life. St Paul in Romans chapter 6 talks about baptism as being a death to sin and a rising to new life, that is why we Anglicans say rebirth while the New Generations church says it is something else. Unfortunately, the Anglicans prefer the New Generation's understanding.

*When we come to the Eucharist too which talks about his death, St John's gospel portrays Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The chronology of the death of Jesus in St John's gospel is different from that of the synoptic gospels. In the synoptic gospel, Jesus eats the Passover feast with the disciples, while in St John's he dies at the time of the Passover being slaughtered, to let you know that it is the shedding of his blood and that he is the lamb that has died in our place, that is the chronology of the St John's Gospel slightly different. It was to get the members of the Diocese and all those who participated or those who have benefited from it to get a better or deeper understanding of the sacraments and also to see the spiritual benefits of taking them a little more seriously. Bringing to bear*



the awe and reverence, especially at the Holy Communion services not only for the lay members but also for the clergy themselves because if the clergy at the altar does not understand or appreciate what they are doing, you can see the kind of mind that they bring to the conduct of the service. **The Churchmanship to which we belong determines the eyes with which we see the sacraments.** So, I think that both the Eucharist and the lord's Supper talk about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and that is what justifies our faith and confidence that this place is not our home, that life does not end here that there is somewhere else that we go to which is eternity. The confidence we have is derived from both sacraments.



*"The Churchmanship to which we belong determines the eyes with which we see the sacraments"*



**COLLATION OF NEW ARCHDEACONS**





**THE TURNING OF THE SOD FOR T.K.E. PHILIPS SCHOOL OF MUSIC**



**Question:**  
*Thank you, sir, you have already alluded to the theme for this year, but it will still be nice to expound on the theme "we are but strangers and aliens", what*

*exactly do you look forward to?*

**Bishop:** I can't say, however, people don't like to talk about death which came to me as an encouragement not to mention it through the Archdeacons but then I always tell them we have to remind people of death. Maybe because of this year, I decided not to write a very long charge, so the issues of elders were removed from my

*Interview continues...*

charge. If I left it would look as though the theme and death is talking primarily to the elders alone however that is not. Let's leave this one as it is, so I decided to focus on the rites of passage from the beginning of life till the end of life the church offers that care and we are looking at the letter to the Hebrews letting us know that life does not end here and hoping that if we know that life does not end here because the bible tells of a time when all life will cease and then we will be in life fellowship with the father and each other. That is what the entire teaching is based on, if we have this at the back of our minds, it will help us to understand how to live better in this life. It is a teaching, a bit of eschatology, the development of ideas of how eschatology was developed from the Old Testament pages; like whenever I hear the Yoruba song that says "A laiye lo ma yin o, oku ko le yin o", I always ask about the vision in the book of Revelation where we are standing before the Lord singing, with a myriad

of people. This indicates the trueness of the New Testament view that both the living and the dead worship the lord as we have it in our liturgy where we worship in the communion of the saints-militants or triumphant. The early Hebrew thought is a good place to start the teaching of the Yoruba song i mentioned awhile ago in Psalm115:17 "The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence". But it is a development of thought that has changed because in the Old Testament when people died, they go into the place of silence, and slowly that perception began to change.



*The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence*



**MAUNDY THURSDAY**





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**STRANGERS  
& ALIENS**

Hebrews 11:13b

*Interview continues...*

**Question** We are about to clock one year of the current Federal Government administration. How would you assess two issues; economic and the security of the citizens and effect on the Diocese?

**Bishop:** I am more optimistic about this administration than the last. It is worthy of note that things were really bad and before they could get better it will take a while and hopefully it will not be as bad as it was before now. The truth of the matter is that it is not just the administration or leadership but the followership is the problem. It is also good to know that if we pursue money, we should know that we will not take it anywhere, perhaps corruption will be reduced and from what I have seen in this life, those who make that money through corruption tear their family apart. For the country let us hope that things will get better, we the followers should cooperate with the leaders, knowing that every leader is a product of the society he was raised and the society itself has issues and until a national re-orientation occurs, then can we produce leaders who have the orientation needed and the followers will be reoriented.

**Question:** Following from what you have just said now, who can do the re-orientation, can the church do it?

**Bishop:** Church? The issue is that our systems here is different from anywhere in the world. Unfortunately, I do not think the church can re-orientate the nation at the moment because in a way the church is a product of society and many people complain that the politics in the church is even more than the one of the nation and states. The church has its struggles globally, can the church look at itself as the moral compass or conscience of the nation with the kind of stories we read about? If the church is not the moral custodian of the morality and values that the society can depend on, how can it solve the problem of the

Nation? Until we can reverse it by being what we are supposed to be; the light of the world and the salt of the earth but when we are not then we have to be born again.



**SYNOD BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP AT BISHOP ADELAKUN MEMORIAL CHURCH**