



CATHOLIC NEWS BULLETIN

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN



JANUARY 2017

CARDINAL'S CORNER

The Year Ahead

When I wrote for the first time of my exposure to the Whoonga problem among the Homeless on the streets of Durban, I ventured to say that progress in dealing with this growing scourge would not be likely unless we heeded Jesus' words: "This type can be cast out only by prayer and fasting!" As a consequence no meeting of the Committee working to launch the Napier Centre for Healing is completed without it identifying three (3) prayer intentions to be referred to the Prayer or Intercessory group headed by Sister Helen Veronica O.P. of the Ekukhanyeni Convent.

That this was a wise decision is supported by something similar undertaken at Bishops' Conference level, namely the Workshops on Healing, first one for Bishops, then one for Priests, Deacons and others, and finally one for Exorcists or those still to be appointed as such! Add to this the S.A.C.B.C. Pastoral Letter on Racism, as well as the services and actions during the 16 day of activism against Violence towards Women and Children, and you can see that 2017 already has some significant social issues on the Church's agenda, demanding sustained Catholic Social Action.

A third item for inclusion on Parishes Pastoral Action Lists is the closure of Glenmore as mainly a Conference Centre, its revamping and reopening in the course of the year as a Pastoral Centre focusing on Marriage Matters highlighted by the Synods of 2014/2015; Ministry to Men; Catholic Education; Adult and Youth as well as Children's Faith Formation; Liturgical Formation, Music, etc;

A fourth concern that is forcing itself upon us, is the tragic anniversary of the passing of the Termination of Pregnancy Act 20 years ago. That Act is surely responsible for our country and its people being scarred by the unwanted reputation of being one of the most violent societies in the world. It has been said no other country has as much violence in peace time. Perhaps this is another way of saying we are a country at war with itself!

With abortion on demand claiming tens of thousands of innocent and defenceless lives every year, is it any wonder that we have so much violence particularly against the defenceless, namely, children of all ages and women?

Another reason for engaging seriously in prayer and fasting in order to cast out yet another demon!

Back to the problem of drugs. Here are some ideas from the meeting of Bishops and Religious Superiors:

- a) Try to identify and address some of the major causes, such as joblessness, family breakdown, poor schooling, lack of sporting or recreational facilities, active “pushing” by drug lords and their agents;
- b) Target specific areas for action e.g. sales points (clubs, schools, etc);
- c) Engage with Community Policing Forums including the designated person in the Police Station;
- d) Inform Home Based Carers so they can recognise the problem in the homes or communities they serve;
- e) Engage Men’s organisations;
- f) Make this a special concern of the Catholic Schools Office, Schools Chaplains, Religious Education Coordinators so that a well thought out, planned, coordinated and sustained effort can be made;
- g) Prayer and Fasting, but also use the special drama called “Ulwembu” by theatre group led by Neil Coppen.

Yours in Christ

+ Wilfrid Cardinal Napier OFM
Archbishop of Durban

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

We have pleasure in announcing the following clergy appointments:

Fr. Phelelani Mswane: Parish Priest – Tongaat; and St Ambrose Formation House

Fr. Nkosingiphile Sithole: Parish Priest – Kwa Mashu (Our Lady of Lourdes)

Fr. Gabriel Kwedho IMC: Parish Priest – Woodlands Pietermaritzburg

Fr. Nkosinathi Njoko OFM: Parish Priest – Newlands East

Fr. Thabani Shoba OMI: Acting Parish Priest – Inchanga

Fr. Modestus Adiele SDV: Acting Parish Priest – Montebello

St Agnes, Maqongqo will be served by the Mariannahill Community with Fr. Gideon Sibanda as Moderator.

Thank you to all for graciously accepting these appointments. We pray that the Lord may guide you in the exercise of your ministry and that his Spirit may be with you in the service that you render to his people.

STUDY DAY FOR CLERGY AND PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

A Study Day will be held on Tuesday **7 March 2017** at St Joseph's Parish Hall, Florida Road, Morningside beginning at 9.00am. The theme is Adult Faith Formation and all Clergy and Pastoral Assistants are invited to attend.

CLOSURE OF GLENMORE PASTORAL CENTRE

It is sad but true that our country is experiencing difficult economic times. As a result there is an increase in loss of jobs, lower income levels and more obvious poverty.

This is having a direct effect on the Church as well, since those who support the Church are also affected.

One of the direct consequences of this decline in income is that the Archdiocese is forced to examine and work out how to keep its projects and institutions going on reduced resources.

Part of this process has been a serious review of the status and future of Glenmore Pastoral Centre. Given the available finances, the Archdiocese has taken the decision to close the Centre with effect from February 2017.

A final decision has yet to be taken in regard to the future of the building. In the short term, they will undergo renewal and remodelling to service the needs of the Archdiocese better as a Pastoral Centre, as well as hired out as a conference centre.

PARISH REGISTERS AND ECCLESIASTICAL RETURNS

A reminder to parishes that all duplicate Baptism, Marriage and Confirmation Returns for 2016 must be completed and forwarded to the Chancellor by the end of February 2017. Half yearly Financial Returns must be forwarded to the Financial Administrator as soon as possible.

2017 DIOCESAN DIRECTORY

We are in the process of updating the Directory for 2017, and all Parishes, Religious Congregations, Commissions, Sodalities, etc. are asked to forward any changes in personnel, contact numbers, email addresses or Mass times to Helene by the end of February.

Please email the **changes only** to: vg@catholic-dbn.org.za or fax 031 3121848

DIOCESAN DIARY

February 2017

1	Diocesan Clergy Social, Ntshongweni	
2	Diocesan Curia	
3	Building Committee	Cardinal
4	SPRED Workshop	Cardinal
5	Confirmation: Virginia	Cardinal
	Confirmation: Pinetown	Bishop

6	Chancery Meeting	
7	Catholic Schools Board	Cardinal
	Liturgy Commission	Cardinal
8	Launch of the Napier Centre for Healing	Cardinal
10	St Augustine's School Mass	Bishop
	Durban Cluster Team	Cardinal
11	Our Lady of Lourdes, Westville	Cardinal
	Annual Hurley Exhibition	
	ADASA Mass, Pinetown	Bishop
12	Confirmation: Morningside	Cardinal
	Confirmation: Mount Edgecombe	Bishop
13	Diaconate Board	
14	Mini Youth Day Meeting	Cardinal
15 - 16	Diocesan Clergy Recollection, Mariannhill	
17	Napier Centre for Healing Meeting	Cardinal
19 – 24	Vatican Finances	Cardinal
20	Thanksgiving Day for Bishop Zolile Mpambani	Bishop
25	North Coast Deanery Men's Forum Workshop	
26	Confirmation: Bellair-Queensburgh	Cardinal
	Confirmation: St Anthony's PMB	Bishop
27	Finance Board	
28	2017 Mini World Youth Day Fundraising	Cardinal

MARIST BROTHERS BICENTENARY CELEBRATION

1817 – 2017

Congratulations and best wishes to the Marist Brothers who celebrate the bicentenary of the foundation of the Institute this year. St Henry's Marist College (Durban) together with four Marist schools in South Africa commemorated 150 years of the presence of the Marist Brothers in Africa.

