



CATHOLIC NEWS BULLETIN
ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN
FEBRUARY 2019



WELCOME ARCHBISHOP ABEL GABUZA

“A heartfelt welcome to Coadjutor Archbishop Abel Gabuza to the Archdiocese of Durban!” Those words were given real meaning on Sunday 10th February, when the Mass of Reception was celebrated with the lively participation of over 4000 people from all walks of life.

What a glorious reflection on the diversity that gives our Archdiocese its very special character. Sincere “Thank you” to all who attended, but especially to the dedicated team that prepared the venue for the Mass, the hall for the celebratory meal and in a very particular way the Liturgy for a most memorable Holy Mass!

In many ways it reminded me of my own experience so many years ago. What was obvious on both occasions is the warmth and love that the people of this Archdiocese are capable of when it comes to receiving the Shepherds sent by the Lord to care for them.

ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Deacons Wandile Chagwe, Mtshengiseni Dlamini, and Simon Sibisi will be ordained to the Priesthood by Cardinal Wilfrid Napier in the **Emmanuel Cathedral** on **Saturday 2 March 2019 at 10h00**. All Clergy, Religious and Laity are invited to join in this joyous diocesan celebration. We offer a very special word of thanks to their families with a fervent prayer that they will have many years of fruitful service in the Archdiocese.

MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION

It is disturbing to note that in 2018 sixteen percent of our Parishes did not submit Mission Sunday revenues to the Chancery. In order to remedy the situation the Financial Administrator has been debiting those parishes which have been negligent in this regards. Sadly in many instances the negligence is repeated. One might say that the shortfall is made up by the deductions made by the Financial Administrator but we must not lose sight of the underlying value of the Mission Sunday collection. In this regard it must be clearly spelt out that no Parish Priest has the authority to deny the laity the opportunity of participating in the mission of the Church. In fact Parish Priests ought to encourage their parishioners to give.

For 2019 Fr. Gordon Rees MCCJ has already sent out material for use during mission month. We are taking the liberty of resending Fr Gordon's material to all parishes in the Archdiocese.

MANDATES FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS TO CONDUCT COMMUNION SERVICES

Mandates become operative on the first Sunday in Advent each year and last for one year. Sadly as we approach the end of January, Parish Priests are still sending in applications. It will be appreciated if all applications could be in by 31st October each year. This will give our secretariat enough time to compose the mandates. Please note that these mandates only apply to those ministers who conduct Communion Services.

Parish Priests themselves can give mandates for those ministers who assist with the distribution of Holy Communion.

APPOINTMENT

We are pleased to welcome Fr. Xolani Mthethwa back from his period of discernment. His faculties are restored and he has been appointed Parish Priest of Mpophomeni. We wish to



The image is a commemorative poster for St Henry's Marist College's 90th anniversary. On the left, the number '90' is written in large orange font with 'th' in a smaller font to its upper right. A blue lion rampant is positioned to the right of the '0'. Below this, the text 'St Henry's Marist College' is written in a dark blue serif font, with '1929-2019' underneath in a smaller, bold, dark blue font. On the right side, a block of text in a grey sans-serif font reads: 'This year, St Henry's Marist College celebrates its 90th anniversary. The School was opened on 4 February 1929 by the Marist Brothers to provide a Catholic school in Durban for boys. The School was named after St Henry, Holy Roman Emperor between 1014 and 1024. The selection of this name was also inspired by the presence of Bishop Henri Delalle OMI, who was the Vicar Apostolic of Natal when School was founded. Bishop Delalle became the first patron of St Henry's.' Below this text, another block of text in a grey sans-serif font reads: 'Today St Henry's is a Catholic co-educational school from Grades 000-12 and proudly celebrates its 90 years of educational distinction and service in Durban.' To the right of this text is a small crest featuring a shield with a red cross, a green field with a lion, and a blue base with a figure. The crest is topped with a banner that reads 'OMNIA IN DEO'. At the bottom of the poster, a horizontal line is followed by the contact information: 'Tel: 031 261 7369 • office@sthenrys.co.za • www.sthenrys.co.za'.

congratulate him on this appointment and wish him a fruitful ministry among the faithful.

PASTORAL LETTER: 2019 GENERAL ELECTION

A Pastoral Letter of the Catholic Bishops of Southern Africa to the Catholic Community and all People of Goodwill

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“...Remembering the mercies of God ... let the renewing of your minds transform you, so that you may discern for yourselves what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and mature.” (Romans 12:1-2)

In this spirit, we pray that the upcoming Elections will constitute a further step both in bringing about the kind of society God desires for us and in giving us leaders, men and women of integrity who will build that society.

Twenty-five years after the memorable elections of 1994, we celebrate that we have been able both to defend and to develop our democracy. We are grateful to good and honest people who have worked heroically and selflessly in the service of the nation. We are thankful also that the foundational institutions of our democracy have stood the test of time.

Sadly, we have also come to see a darker side of political life. Recent Commissions of Enquiry have and are exposing individuals in both the political and corporate sectors who have tragically betrayed the public trust and placed their own self-interest ahead of the common good of the country.

The General Election of May 8th presents all South Africans with the opportunity to renew our vision for South Africa. We have the power to choose the direction our country will take. It is imperative that we choose wisely and courageously and not be distracted by false promises.

Tough questions that seek honesty and truth

Our primary concern as your spiritual leaders is that we choose leaders who will promote the good of all by living the values of the Constitution in the light of the Gospel. Pope Francis urges us to look for **“politicians who are genuinely disturbed by the state of society, the people, the lives of the poor!”** (Evangelii Gaudium, 205)

In this context we ask you: who do you think would –

- Eradicate corruption more effectively?

- Provide realistic programmes to overcome unemployment and poverty?
- Appoint selfless public servants as leaders at national and provincial level?
- Effectively reduce the level of violence tyrannising our people?
- Transform those attitudes and practices which underlie the violence against women and children?
- Respond effectively to the aspirations of our youth?
- Fulfil the promises they make rather than disappoint us?
- Protect our democracy and its institutions?

In short, who do you think would make us proud to be South Africans?

Each one must answer these questions according to their conscience.

We are challenged not to vote only to advance our own personal interests, be they interests of race, ethnic group or social and economic class. Rather we are called to vote in a way that will promote the common good.

Let us keep in mind the poor, the unemployed and the disadvantaged – it is Our Lord who reminds us that, whatever we do to the least of His brothers and sisters, we do to Him. (Mt 25:40)

A call for peaceful, free and fair elections

We each have a grave responsibility to create the environment of tolerance and acceptance which enables every South African to support and vote for the party that they choose, without fear of violence and intimidation. While this responsibility falls heavily on the political parties and the media, we urge the organs of State to proactively ensure the safety of all.

It is also the responsibility of each one of us to work for peaceful and free and fair elections.

We therefore urge political parties:

- to refrain from inflammatory, intimidating and inappropriate statements;
- to take visible, decisive action when candidates and their supporters are involved in acts of intolerance, intimidation, harassment and disturbance;
- to respect the election results;
- to do everything to ensure that the rule of law is respected.

We call on the media:

- to refrain from sensationalism;
- to report appropriately and responsibly for the benefit of the common good.

We call on you, dear Brothers and Sisters, to assist the Independent Electoral Commission, to monitor these elections by doing the following:

- volunteering as observers,
- assisting with conflict management.

A call to prayer

Let us pray for peaceful elections that produce leaders who will always **act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with their God.** (Micah 6:8)

We invite you to recite this prayer in your families and parishes as we prepare for the elections and also during the elections.

Almighty Father,

As we approach the elections, grant us the wisdom and courage we need in order to make the right choices.

Help us to carry out our duties as responsible citizens with respect for the rights of others.

By voting in a spirit of humility and service, may we bring hope to the poor, unity to all our people and a more secure and peaceful future for our children.

Father, do not allow us to become discouraged,

Inspire us to contribute to the rebuilding of our country with vigour and generosity.

Amen.

Recalling our opening words from Scripture:

“... let the renewing of your minds transform you, so that you may discern for yourselves what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and mature...” (Romans 12:1-2)

We invoke God’s blessing upon you all and upon our nation.

Your Bishops, gathered at Mariannahill Retreat Centre, in Plenary Assembly, 12 February 2019.

The Catholic Bishops’ Foundation

The Foundation extends its gratitude and good wishes for the year ahead to all its members. Together last year, 2018, we supported 18 projects nationwide ranging from Care Centres for children, School infrastructure, equipment for an Old Age Home, Church renovation, disabled children’s homes and other. The Foundation can’t do everything obviously but it helps and lets people know that their efforts are not going unnoticed especially in the rural and less resourced areas of the country. For more information see the website, www.catholicbishopsfoundation.org.za or phone Msg. Barney McAleer, 072 469 3710.



THE
CATHOLIC BISHOPS'
FOUNDATION

NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

www.catholicbishopsfoundation.org.za



2019 VOCATIONS WORKSHOPS

Parish priests are asked to diarise the following dates regarding Vocations events in the Archdiocese:

- 16 March : Workshop
- 11 May : Workshop
- 5 July : Vocations Day (Tongaat)
- 31 August : Workshop
- 9 November : Workshop
- 2 – 3 December: Retreat (Glenmore)

Please note that ALL workshops are held in three venues: Emmanuel Cathedral (Durban); St Mary's Parish (PMB); Sacred Heart Parish (Tongaat).

The Vocations Coordinator is Fr Mhlengi Ngcobo and he may be contacted on:

Tel: 031 3031417 / Cell: 072 961 1658 / Email: mhlengifuze53@gmail.com

Also note that attendance of workshops is more important for those who desire to become Diocesan Priests.

DIOCESAN DIARY

March 2019

1	Ntshongweni Committee	
2	Priestly Ordinations, Emmanuel Cathedral	
3	Confirmation: Bellair-Queensburgh	Cardinal
	Confirmation: Virginia-Umhlanga	Archbishop
4	Chancery Meeting	
6	Ash Wednesday morning Mass, Emmanuel Cathedral	Archbishop
	Ash Wednesday evening Mass, Emmanuel Cathedral	Cardinal
7 – 9	Bishops and Congregational Leadership, Lumko Benoni	
10	RCIA Rite of Election, Emmanuel Cathedral	Cardinal
	RCIA Rite of Election, Pinetown	Archbishop
11	DMI Review	
12	Clergy Study Day, St Joseph's	
13	KZN Christian Council Executive	
14	Building Committee	
15	Holy Family College Mass	Cardinal

16	Diocesan Pastoral Council Finance Meeting	
17	RCIA Rite of Election, Montebello	Archbishop
19	Liturgy Commission	
20	Catholic Schools Board	
22	Graduation Ceremony, St Joseph's Theological Institute	
23	Montebello Sisters	Cardinal
24	RCIA Rite of Election, Pietermaritzburg	Cardinal
	RCIA Rite of Election, Estcourt	Archbishop
26 – 28	Caritas KZN Strategic Plan Workshop	
30	Rome	Cardinal