



# CATHOLIC NEWS BULLETIN

## ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN



SEPTEMBER 2021

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### ARCHBISHOP'S DESK

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

It is my prayer that you are all kept safe from the pandemic and from any other stressful conditions that you may be living under. Let us face the challenges of life with hope. Please allow me to share with you the following news items:

#### **College of Consultors, Vicar General and Chancellor**

I have decided to continue with Cardinal Napier's College of Consultors, Vicar General and Chancellor for a period of one year. On 28 September 2021 the following Deans were re-appointed and took an oath to observe strict confidentiality with regard to all matters discussed and decisions taken at meetings of the College of Consultors:

1. Fr Sabelo Mkhize : Dean: Durban Central and North Deanery  
Fr Georges Bidzogo SAC : Assistant Dean
2. Fr Sithabiso Sithole OMI : Dean: Durban South Deanery  
Fr Grant Emmanuel : Assistant Dean
3. Fr Thabani Shoba OMI : Dean: Highway Deanery  
Fr Julius Onuoha OSA : Assistant Dean
4. Fr Simon Offordum SDV : Dean: North Coast Deanery  
Fr Cyril Xaba : Assistant Dean
5. Fr Thami Zuma : Dean: Pietermaritzburg and Vulindlela Deanery  
Fr Emmanuel Ndlovu CMM : Assistant Dean
6. Fr Solly van Roos : Dean: Umvoti Deanery  
Fr Serge Lawela : Assistant Dean
7. Fr Bheki Motloung : Dean: Midlands Deanery  
Assistant Dean still to be appointed

#### **Meetings of Consultors, Finance Board and Diocesan Pastoral Council Executive**

Some parishes have reported that the Covid-19 pandemic has hit them very hard financially and they were asking if the Archdiocese would consider reducing the amount of levy that they pay to support the running costs of the Archdiocese. I then called a meeting of the Consultors, Finance

Board and executive of the Diocesan Pastoral Council to discuss the matter (28 September 2021). The meeting was frank and fruitful. Having listened to the report of the Diocesan Financial Administrator it became clear that the Archdiocese depends heavily on the levy from parishes to cover its running costs. It was also established that most parishes have not submitted their 2020 financial reports to the Archdiocese. The Archdiocese will support parishes when their financial resources have been exhausted provided all reports have been handed in to the Chancery. The meeting discussed the matter of transparency and accuracy of the financial reports and the need for auditing of parishes.

### **Immaculata Parish, Kwa Madlala**

We noted with sadness what happened at Kwa Madlala Parish on 12 September 2021. We are working on the matter and you will be informed of the developments in due course. Let us pray for that parish and all the people concerned.

### **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

As the Archdiocese of Durban let us all join the rest of the world to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Please read the statement by His Excellency Archbishop Paul R. Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States of the Holy See, at the United Nations High-Level Meeting. It would be a pity if we people of South Africa, particularly the Archdiocese of Durban would miss the opportunity to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Durban Declaration. Any ideas as to how we can commemorate this event? Your ideas are most welcome.

### **St Lucia Retreat and Training Centre**

I have been asked to let you know that whenever you feel drained and exhausted you can go to St Lucia Retreat and Training Centre where you can recharge your batteries. For further information please contact Sr Elisabeth Marie Ansart OSU on 073 913 0888

### **Deacon George Beetar**

The Archdiocese of Durban mourns the passing of Deacon George Beetar. We sincerely thank him for all the faithful service he rendered to the local Church of Durban. Our heartfelt condolences to his daughter, friends and relatives. May he rest in eternal peace.

+ Siegfried Mandla Jwara CMM  
**Archbishop of Durban**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

### **Mentioning the Archbishop during Mass**

Archbishop Jwara has two baptismal names: Mandla and Siegfried. He prefers being named as **Mandla** during the Eucharistic Prayer but those who feel comfortable using Siegfried may do so. Thank you.

Rev. Fr Elias Zondi  
**Vicar General**

**Statement by H.E. Archbishop Paul R. Gallagher,  
Secretary for Relations with States of the Holy See,  
at the United Nations High-Level Meeting to commemorate the  
20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action  
New York, 22 September 2021**

Mr. President,

The Holy See is pleased to participate in the High-level Meeting to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, focusing on “reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent”.

As party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Holy See, in accord with its particular nature and mission and in a spirit of cooperation, is engaged in combating all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Racism is rooted in the erroneous and evil claim that one human being has less dignity than another. This not only disregards the truth that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights,”<sup>[1]</sup> but also the foundational ethical summons to act toward “one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”<sup>[2]</sup>

As Pope Francis noted in his Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti*, our “social progress is not as real or definitive as we think,”<sup>[3]</sup> with racism regularly hiding beneath the surface “only to keep reemerging.”<sup>[4]</sup>

Many persons of African descent around the world are migrants or refugees that after leaving their homes – or being forced to leave – face racism and xenophobia, discrimination and intolerance in countries of destination, rather than the support that they need. My Delegation hopes that the recent establishment of the *Permanent Forum for People of African Descent* will contribute to local, national and international efforts aimed at providing justice and support for victims of racism.

Universal human rights are indivisible and interdependent and thus cannot exist in opposition. Laws and norms that seek to root out discrimination and intolerance must therefore respect the right to freedom of opinion, thought, religion, and conscience. Monitoring, investigating, and prosecuting incidents of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance should never become a justification for States to violate the human rights of minorities or to censor minority opinions.

Racism can and must be defeated through a culture of encounter, fraternity, and solidarity. While adopting international agreements and declarations such as the Durban Declaration are an important and necessary step, they must lead to real change through implementation by governments as well as through education and ethical media reporting, providing fact based and

objective information in ways that respect the dignity of all and do not foster a divisive “us against them” mentality.

Mr. President,

The Durban Declaration rightly expresses concern about intolerance, hostile acts, and violence against religious groups.<sup>[5]</sup> Intolerance on the basis of religion or belief leads to restrictions to the right to practice one’s chosen religion freely and in its most extreme forms can cause hostility, violence, and atrocity crimes. Disregard for the right to freedom of religion and belief leads to the violation of further human rights. In recent years, we have witnessed an overall rise in religious persecution by both State and non-State actors. Individuals and entire populations are discriminated against because of their faith while perpetrators often enjoy impunity. Some religious minorities in certain regions even face extinction, including Christians who represent the most persecuted group globally.<sup>[6]</sup>

Another form of discrimination is the insidious practice of eugenics. Today, we could say that a eugenic mentality often lurks behind artificial procreation techniques and the dark sides of pre-natal diagnostics, where the idea that there are human beings of inferior value because of disability, sex, or other traits often leads to the denial of their right to life. Such a mind-set entrenches principles of discrimination squarely opposed to the Durban Declaration and cannot be ignored.

Mr. President,

The Durban Declaration recognizes the role of religion in promoting the inherent dignity and worth of every person and in eradicating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.<sup>[7]</sup> This must be coupled with legislation and functioning institutions, but ultimately “racism will disappear...only when it dies in people’s hearts.”<sup>[8]</sup>

Thank you, Mr. President.

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<sup>[1]</sup> Article 1, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

<sup>[2]</sup> Article 1, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

<sup>[3]</sup> Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 20.

<sup>[4]</sup> Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 20.

<sup>[5]</sup> Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (2001), 59.

<sup>[6]</sup> Pew Research Center, *In 2018, Government Restrictions on Religion Reach Highest Level Globally in more than a Decade*, (released 10 November 2020).

<sup>[7]</sup> 8, Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, (2001).

<sup>[8]</sup> Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, *The Church and Racism: Toward a More Fraternal Society*, (Vatican City, 2001), 29.

[01252-EN.01] [Original text: English]

[B0592-XX.02]

## **R.I.P. DEACON GEORGE BEETAR**

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Deacon George Beetar on Friday 25 September at the age of 92. George had taken a fall two weeks earlier which, after he admitted to it several days later, resulted in his being admitted to hospital. He rallied initially, but subsequently succumbed to multiple organ failure.

George was a larger-than-life character and his cheerful disposition always brought a smile to the room. His greetings were gregarious and an encounter with him was like meeting a long-lost friend. No doubt he had some critics, but far fewer enemies and many many more friends. Even those who did not know him knew of him. At clergy meetings he would usually occupy a seat closer to the door, mainly so that he could easily get to the tea or lunch table!

As a Permanent Deacon, George took his vocation very seriously. Ordained in 1988, he was one of the earlier diaconate ordinations in this diocese. My first encounter with him was some 30 years ago when I began my training for the diaconate. He, together with Dc Norman Ellor and their wives, always attended our training weekends and showed sincere interest in the preparation of the candidates. It was important to him that the aspirants knew that they were not alone on their spiritual journey.

George was a compassionate man, caring for the needy and especially the cancer patients at Highway Hospice, where he spent many hours. When George preached, you could expect a highly animated and anecdotal homily. Unsurprisingly, his relationship with his parishioners was clearly evident at the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Ordination where crowds of people from all walks of life jubilantly shared in his milestone.

He loved his family. Joan, his wife, was probably a candidate for living sainthood due to the merciless teasing that he gave her – often referring to her as “that squatter who lives with me”! But this was just his style of endearment – the grief that he showed when she died demonstrated his real commitment and love. He also had to bear the loss of three adult children – a daughter through cancer; a son through heart attack and another son more recently due to Covid. He is survived by his only remaining daughter Gillian, to whom we offer our sincerest condolences.

Go in peace George. Thanks for the memories.

**Dc. Mike O’Neill**

### **MASS FOR DECEASED DIOCESAN CLERGY**

Annually on the second Tuesday of November the Cathedral celebrates a Mass for all deceased diocesan priests and bishops and deceased family members of the diocesan clergy. Last year this Mass did not take place because of Covid-19 and the lockdown that was in place at that time.

This year the Cathedral is able to celebrate this Mass on **Tuesday 9 November 2021 at 11h30** followed by lunch. Priests to kindly confirm their attendance by contacting Nomzamo at the Cathedral [secretary@emmanuelcathedral.org.za](mailto:secretary@emmanuelcathedral.org.za)

## ST LUCIA RETREAT AND TRAINING CENTRE

‘Lord I need to meet you there ‘<sup>1</sup>

In these trying times where there is so much going on and so much despair, caused by all that we are going through as the world, country, community, family and individuals. We go through so much on a daily basis such that we feel suffocated and in dire need of ways to break free.

In my short time of being a Spiritual Director and giver of the Spiritual Exercises, I have had the privilege of meeting people of all ages and from all walks of life. These were people who were in search of their purpose in life, of their identity, of God and of so much more. This reminded me of how I was in the same place a couple of years ago before I made the Spiritual Exercises and before I received training as a spiritual director from the Jesuit Institute South Africa. In the course of these two journeys of discovery I found my own sense of purpose, to help others in their search, in life.

I work now at the Retreat Centre in St Lucia Estuary (in KZN north of Durban) situated in the pristine Isimangaliso Wetland Park, which has been declared as South Africa’s first World Heritage Site by a UNESCO protocol in recognition of its superlative natural beauty and unique global values. It has an unparalleled natural environment, which abounds with fauna, flora and aquatic life. It lends itself to communion with God and nature in the spirit of the Encyclical “Laudato Si”.

It has five ecosystems with the second highest vegetative dune in the world! It has lovely forest walks with beautiful birds and antelopes. The walks along the beach are awesome, and there is swimming for those who enjoy it. Due to the natural beauty of the marine life one can go snorkelling or deep sea diving and have a deeper encounter with the mystery of the ocean. The town itself is quiet, which provides a perfect environment for the Retreat Centre to host different groups; those who wish to come for a guided silent retreat or a preached retreat as well as those who are looking for a restoring and peaceful environment. The Retreat Centre is a unique and ideal setting for retreats, workshops, quiet time to rest in an unparalleled natural environment which lends itself to a communion with God and nature. This place is so full of possibilities to have fun and to “Find God in all things” as St Ignatius puts it.

Over this past year I have listened to the struggles and burdens that people are carrying. This is mainly due to the pandemic, the exhaustion and stress of living in an abnormal way for so long. There are also fears people have about faith, particularly, of going back to church, and yet they are also spiritually starved and in desperate need for spiritual food that will uplift their spirits.

It is amazing what time away in beautiful, quiet surroundings, does for people. It is an opportunity to deeply reflect on one’s life experiences. Here in the silence, one may find one’s identity, joy and inner peace. What I have realised from working in the St Lucia Retreat Centre is

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1 “River” by Brian Doerksen

that the natural environment contributes a great deal in helping people have profound experiences and encounters with God. It is in the silence of the surroundings that the mind also stills. Then one is able to have meaningful and profound conversations with God or even with oneself. It is in these moments spent in silence that we again we come to understand what and who we believe in as well as discover our true selves, so the silence of our minds and hearts becomes ‘our river’ as Brian puts it ‘the place where we meet our Lord’.

This river where we are to meet our Lord is the most crucial place for us all especially in these times of uncertainty. Lord we need to meet you there, for the sake of our sanity and for the sake of regaining a bit of hope in our times of despair.

Nontobeko Mhlongo

**BIRDING & PRAYING**  
12 - 15 November 2021



Enjoying a weekend to rest and pray in the Isimangaliso Wetland Park, a bird-watcher's paradise. There will be time for personal and communal prayer and plenty of time to explore the surroundings. R 1 600  
stluciartrc@gmail.com

**Beginning Advent with St Joseph**  
A WEEKEND TO REFLECT AND PRAY WITH ST JOSEPH SO THAT FOLLOWING HIS EXAMPLE, WE MAY STRENGTHEN OUR LIFE OF FAITH DAILY IN THE COMPLETE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S WILL.

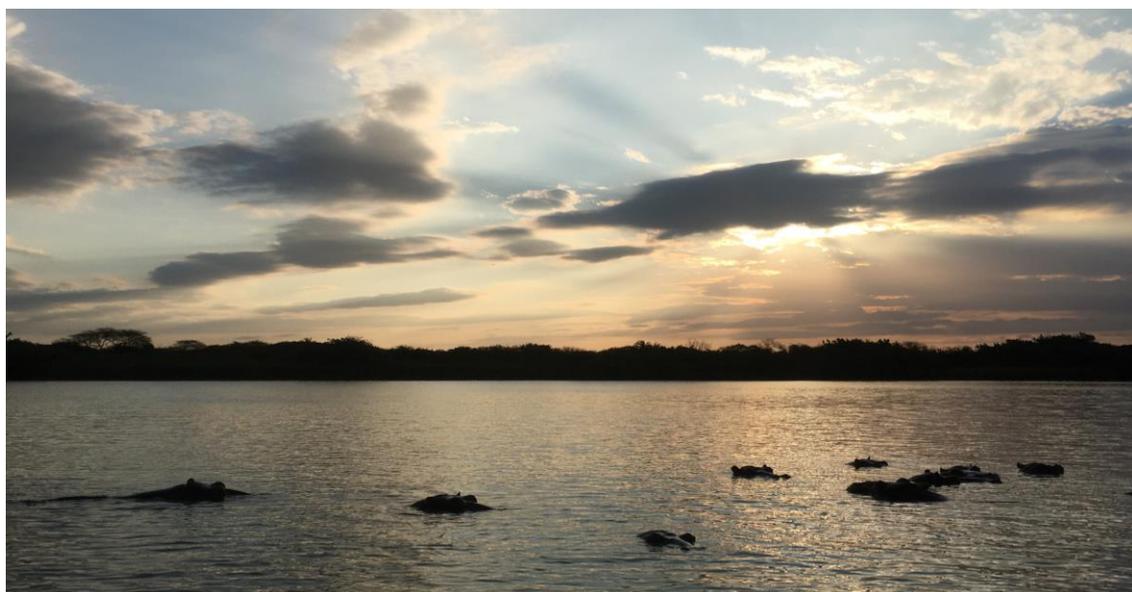


2-DAY PREACHED RETREAT  
BY FR DECLAN DOHERTY

R1600

STLUCIARTC@GMAIL.COM

ST LUCIA RETREAT CENTRE  
26 (18H) - 29 (9H) NOVEMBER 2021



## DIOCESAN DIARY

### October 2021

4	Diaconate Board Meeting	
5	Chesterville site visit	Archbishop
8	Confirmation: Durban North	Archbishop
9	Diaconate Ordinations (8 OMI): Cedara	Archbishop
10	Confirmation: Kloof	Archbishop
	Confirmation: Raisethorpe	Vicar General
11	Chancery Meeting	
12	Catechetical Commission	
14	Meeting of Christian and Faith Leaders, DHC	Archbishop
15	Napier Centre 4 Healing Meeting	Archbishop
16	Sacred Heart Sodality Mini Convention, Ntshongweni	Archbishop
17	Confirmation: Hillcrest	Archbishop
	Confirmation: Ntuzuma (St Paul)	Vicar General
18-21	Ingwavuma	Archbishop
22	Holy Family College Mass	Archbishop
23	Confirmation: Umbilo	Archbishop
24	Confirmation: Emmanuel Cathedral	Archbishop
	Confirmation: Mpumalanga	Vicar General
25	Finance Board Meeting	
28	Joint Witness	Archbishop
31	Confirmation: St Mary's Pietermaritzburg	Archbishop