



# CATHOLIC NEWS BULLETIN

## ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN



FEBRUARY 2022

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### GUIDELINES FOR LENT AND HOLY TRIDUUM 2022

All parishes are preparing to have a meaningful Lenten Season and a joyful Triduum and Easter Celebration. It is necessary for the Archbishop, after listening to the Archdiocesan Liturgy Commission's reviews and recommendations, to issue these guidelines pertaining to the celebrations we are about to observe in our parishes. These guidelines are also worthwhile since COVID-19 is still an issue and we have regulations to adhere to. While these guidelines are necessary, the clear and informed discretion of the Parish Priests and their councils and committees is still much needed. Please make use of this information and should you need further explanation or help the Archdiocesan Liturgy Commission is available to help.

#### a) **Lenten Reflections**

Every year for the two important seasons (Advent and Lent) some useful reflections to accompany people's meditations and reflections are issued. Parish Priests and parish leaders are encouraged to make these reflections available to people. Once received, please make sure that they reach the people and parish groups and if need be, please see to it that they are translated and are accessible in a preferred language by all in the parish.

#### b) **Ash Wednesday**

This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, 2 March 2022. Although **Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation**, it is traditionally one of the most popular non-Sunday Masses of the liturgical year. The People of God are encouraged to attend Mass on Ash Wednesday in order to begin the Lenten Season with the proper attitude and reflection. While it is not a holy day of obligation, it is a day of **fasting and abstinence** intended to prepare the church membership for Easter, the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection.

The distribution of Ashes is a unique symbol for Ash Wednesday. Ashes from burned palm branches from the previous year are smudged on the foreheads of penitents in the shape of a cross. This is the traditional way of distributing ashes in our region. Because of COVID-19, for the past two years our Bishops' Conference has recommended that ashes be sprinkled on the head of the recipient. While this has come as a directive also for this year; in the Archdiocese of Durban, we accept the directive from the Bishops' Conference, and we further leave the mode for the distribution of Ashes to the informed discretion of the Parish Priest and the PPC. Remember: Ashes must be distributed by the minister; recipients may not distribute ashes on themselves. Please maintain and observe all COVID precautions e.g. taking temperatures, sanitising, etc.

**c) Palm Sunday**

Traditionally, this day is marked with processions with palms and some efforts of “*inculturating*” the liturgy of the day. Parishes in the Archdiocese of Durban are encouraged to refrain from long processions which tend to keep people together for a long time and in such instances the necessary physical distancing is hard to maintain. Therefore, parishes are encouraged to use a shorter version of the procession and also the shorter version of the Passion Narrative so that our celebrations will not be too long but be within a reasonable time frame and still meaningful and effective.

**d) Chrism Mass**

For the past two years we have celebrated the Chrism Mass in two venues (Durban and Pietermaritzburg) because of COVID regulations. This year we will have one **Chrism Mass celebration in the Cathedral on Wednesday 13 April 2022 at 10h00**. All COVID-19 protocols will be observed.

**e) Holy Triduum**

**1) Holy Thursday**

The only directive necessary here is that of the washing of the feet. While there is a little relaxation here, all parishes are encouraged to be vigilant how this important gesture of servant leadership is administered. The minister is encouraged only to pour water on the person’s feet and dry the feet without physically touching them. Have enough towels for drying the feet so that a towel may not be shared from one person to the next. Churches with smaller sanctuaries where 12 people may not be lined up all in front, they may be seated down the aisle and the minister walks between them down the aisle. The necessary distance must be maintained. Face masks are to be worn.

**2) Good Friday**

Again on this day, long processions which may result in physical distancing being a problem, where people would be singing, coughing and gasping for breath because of walking also in hot conditions – long processions are not encouraged.

Secondly, again this year during the veneration of the Cross, people are to bow or genuflect before the cross. Kissing of the cross is prohibited.

**3) Easter Vigil**

Few guidelines are necessary here:

- Even though we are no longer under curfew, overnight celebrations are still discouraged in the Archdiocese of Durban. So please begin your Easter Vigil early enough so that parishioners will be able to return home. No overnight celebrations, please.
- Administering of the Sacraments of Initiation must be done in a manner that will assure the minister, recipient, sponsors and others safety and well-being while the meaningfulness and effectiveness of the sacrament is not compromised.

- Priests and deacons are encouraged to make sure that the *Exultet* is sung. It may be sung by a priest or deacon but also by a cantor. There may be a music arrangement as well where the cantor interacts with the congregation. The Commission is available to teach the Exultet to those willing to learn. The Preface must also be sung during the Season of Easter.

f) **Other Liturgical Matters for your attention (Especially Deans):**

**1. Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation**

When COVID-19 was rife, the Local Ordinary then had given a dispensation freeing Catholics in the Archdiocese of Durban from the obligation of attending Mass on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation. Because many COVID-19 restrictions have been relaxed, more people are allowed to attend and the impact of the virus and the number of new cases, hospitalizations and deaths are on a decline, **this dispensation is now lifted, meaning that all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Durban are bound to attend Mass on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation.** Parishes are requested to encourage their members and to implement ways that will allow people to attend Mass while the remaining COVID-19 protocols are observed.

Livestreamed Masses and celebrations, while good and attractive, must be stopped or reduced and rather encourage parishioners to physically attend the Mass especially on Holy Days of Obligation.

**2. Liturgy Workshops**

The Liturgy Commission of the Archdiocese of Durban has intended to run workshops in deaneries for both the clergy and the laity. Deans are again requested to send to the Liturgy Commission ([administrator@emmanuelcathedral.org.za](mailto:administrator@emmanuelcathedral.org.za)) dates for workshops to be done in their respective deaneries: one for the Clergy and one for all Parish Liturgy Committees. Religious Communities and Catholic Schools within the Deanery are welcome to send their liturgy coordinator to such a workshop.

**3. Memorial Masses for Archbishop Abel Gabuza**

The Archdiocese is still much aware that when Archbishop Abel passed away, the country was in the midst of the pandemic and severe restrictions were in place at the time. It was agreed that when time allows and more restrictions relaxed, Deaneries will be given an opportunity to have Deanery Memorial Masses in the Cathedral with the faithful in order for them to see, visit and pray at the place where the Archbishop's remains are laid. This time has arrived. **Until the end of the year 2022, Deaneries may make arrangements with the Cathedral administration for a date on which such Memorial Masses may be celebrated.**

**4. Mentioning the Archbishop's name in the Eucharistic Prayer**

Both names, Siegfried and Mandla, are his baptismal names. One name or both with the surname may be mentioned. The surname alone is inappropriate because it is not his baptismal name as required by the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM no. 149).

Wishing you all a meaningful and inspiring Lenten Season. Use every moment that is available to nourish your spiritual life and your relationship with Jesus Christ in his suffering and above all in his New Life of victory.

Birthday Blessings! In a few days time His Eminence Cardinal Napier OFM will celebrate his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday. We congratulate him and wish him a very happy birthday.

Sincerely in Christ

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

**TO ALL BISHOPS OF THE SACBC**  
**From the Department for Christian Formation, Liturgy and Culture**

Dear Brother Bishops

**Distribution of Ashes**

Last year the Department communicated with you and the priests and deacons regarding the distribution of ashes which marks the beginning of Lent.

According to the Roman Ritual there are two methods of distributing the ashes:

- Sprinkling the ash on the head of the recipient
- Signing the forehead with a cross

Because of the continuing COVID situation you are asked to communicate with your priests encouraging them to use the first method mentioned above even though in Southern Africa we are more used to the second.

Important points for implementation:

- The priest (or deacon or lay person) should wash his hands thoroughly before sprinkling the ashes
- A mask should be worn while distributing the ashes
- Sprinkle ashes on the head of the penitent
- The ash may also be distributed in an envelope or small container for imposition on those who are sick at home

Your brother,  
+ **Edward Risi OMI**  
Department for Christian Formation, Liturgy and Culture



## **APPEAL**

My heart aches greatly at the worsening situation in Ukraine. Despite the diplomatic efforts of the last few weeks, increasingly alarming scenarios are opening up. Like me, many people all over the world are feeling anguish and concern. Once again the peace of all is threatened by partisan interests. I would like to appeal to those with political responsibility to examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war; who is the Father of all, not just of some, who wants us to be brothers and not enemies. I pray that all the parties involved refrain from any action that would cause even more suffering to the people, destabilising coexistence between nations and bringing international law into disrepute.

And now I would like to appeal to everyone, believers and non-believers alike. Jesus taught us that the diabolical senselessness of violence is answered with God's weapons, with prayer and fasting. I invite everyone to make next 2 March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace. I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war.

*Franciscus*

## **R.I.P. FATHER PETER LAFFERTY CSSp**

On 23 February 2022 we learned of the passing away of Father Peter Lafferty CSSp. Peter Joseph Lafferty was born on 19 April 1957 in Glasgow, Scotland. He arrived in South Africa in November 1989 as a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans) and was ordained deacon in December 1990 in St Vincent's Parish, Kwa Mpumuza, Pietermaritzburg. He was ordained priest in September 1991 in the Diocese of Motherwell in Scotland.

Father Peter, a priest for 30 years, devoted a large part of his priestly life to missionary work here in South Africa and served in the following parishes in the Archdiocese: Esigodini and Imbubu; St James Lamontville; St Anthony's Durban.

He worked tirelessly to bring about God's kingdom through a variety of callings and served as Chaplain to the following: Youth Commission; Marriage and Family Life; Retrouvaille; Refugee Pastoral Care; and Durban Universities. He readily served the poor and those less fortunate; the refugees who were displaced; the youth at universities and schools; as well as to dedicating time to the renewal and healing of marriages and family life.

Fr Peter was chaplain to Maris Stella School for the past 15 years, where he was much loved by both the staff and the girls. He lived the Gospel through his actions of loving kindness and compassion. Everyone who met him came away enriched by the love of Christ, having been truly acknowledged by him.



During his years of service at Maris Stella, Father Peter was happy to become involved in the many aspects of the life of the school. He took many groups of girls on the hike associated with Touchstone; he attended retreats; led beautiful Taizé services; listened to countless confessions; celebrated beautiful Masses; and sang at the annual Carol services. He was an authentic man of God who walked the Gospel message that he proclaimed with a wonderful sense of humour and a twinkle in his eyes that delighted all.

His final teaching to us was the courage and fortitude he showed when bearing the cross of his Motor Neuron Disease. He bore this bravely and with a happy heart and mind, never complaining and rather focusing on those who were experiencing their own sufferings rather than his own. He looked to God every day and asked Him to give him the strength to cope with each day. What a wonderful example for us to follow whenever we feel that our burdens are too heavy.

We are truly fortunate to have known him and to have been blessed by his wisdom, his wonderful sense of humour, and his authentic example of Christ's love for others.

His beautiful singing and strong Scottish accent will be remembered as we commend his soul to our Heavenly Father. His earthly work is complete, may he finally rest in peace, free from all pain and suffering, and enjoy the rewards of a life well lived.

## **DATES TO DIARISE**

### **STUDY DAY FOR CLERGY AND PASTORAL ASSISTANTS**

**Date: Tuesday 10 May 2022**

Time: 09h30

Venue: St Joseph's Parish, 212 Florida Road, Morningside

### **STUDY DAY FOR CLERGY**

**Date: Tuesday 16 August 2022**

Time: 09h30

Venue: St Joseph's Parish, 212 Florida Road, Morningside

## **DIOCESAN DIARY**

### **March 2022**

1	St Anne's Sodality Executive	Archbishop
2	Ash Wednesday Mass, Cathedral	Archbishop
4	LCCL Virtual conversations Pallium Evaluation	Archbishop
6	Rite of Election: Cathedral 12h00 Rite of Election: Pinetown 12h00	Archbishop Vicar General
7	Chancery Meeting	
8-9	Metropolitan Bishops and Religious Superiors	
10	Caritas Durban Executive	Archbishop
11	Ntshongweni Committee Meeting	
13	Rite of Election: Machibisa 12h00 Rite of Election: Estcourt - 10h00 Mass	Archbishop Vicar General
15-16	Pastoral Visit, Elandskop	Archbishop
17	St Patrick's Day, Kwa Patrick Merrivale	Archbishop

18	Holy Family College 147 years celebration	Archbishop
	Napier Centre 4 Healing Meeting	Archbishop
19	Diocesan Pastoral Council and Finance Meeting	
20	Rite of Election: Montebello - 10h00 Mass	Archbishop
22	Right to Live Campaign	Archbishop
24	Meeting with Religious Congregations	
25	Building Committee Meeting	
26-27	Pastoral Visit, Montebello Sisters	Archbishop
28	Diocesan Finance Board	Vicar General
28-31	LCCL AGM	Archbishop