



CATHOLIC NEWS BULLETIN

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN



MARCH 2022

ARCHBISHOP'S CORNER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I hope all is well with you. May I share the following news items with you:

Kwa Madlala Parish

You may recall that last year I wrote about the very unfortunate incidence where Fr Zakhele Ndlovu was assaulted by people right inside the Church. These were not his parishioners who assaulted him. We closed the Church until it was cleansed. I went to Kwa Madlala to meet with the PPC and they briefed me about what had happened. It was explained to the parish as to what procedure needed to be followed before the cleansing of the Church. I would like to thank Fr Elias Zondi (Vicar General), Fr Thami Zuma (Dean), Fr Emmanuel Ndlovu CMM (Vice Dean) and Fr Sabelo Mkhize who worked hard to lead the parish through the process of penance and reconciliation prior to the cleansing of the Church.

I am happy to announce that on 15 March 2022, we had a very moving celebration where the Church was cleansed and reconsecrated. The parishioners were quite remorseful. I have asked Fr Thami Zuma to look after the parish while we are searching for the new parish priest.

Fr Zakhele Ndlovu is at the moment suspended from active ministry. He is not allowed to celebrate public Holy Mass until his case has been cleared. Let us give him the necessary support that he needs.

Diocesan Pastoral Council Finance Meeting

On 19 March 2022, we had our DPC Finance meeting at St Joseph's Parish Morningside, where we discussed among other things the parish levies. Some parishes expressed the difficulty to cope with high levies. This surprised us because the Archdiocese had already reduced the levies by 10% in January. It looks like this information did not reach out to all the structures of some parishes. I kindly request that all parishioners be informed of this development.

Operation Dudula

For the past few weeks there has been a lot of talk about the imminent Operation Dudula which has caused a lot of fear and panic among our brothers and sisters from other countries. We are all concerned about drugs that are sold to our young people. However, it is absolutely not true that

all foreigners are drug dealers. Any person who sells drugs whether foreign or South African should end up in jail. It is a great mystery that our law enforcement agencies do not know the people who sell drugs. The citizens of this country are also tired of people who break into their homes and steal copper. This copper is sold somewhere. Church bells are also stolen and sold somewhere. Those who buy stolen goods know very well that such items are stolen. Where are the law enforcement agencies in all this? We do understand that the lawlessness in the country is causing a lot of anger and frustration among the citizens.

For Operation Dudula activists to raid the dwelling places of our brothers and sisters from other countries is illegal. Such operations are the responsibility of the law enforcement agencies. Therefore, I appeal to all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Durban to desist from such activities which may look like xenophobia. May I remind you that 21 years ago Durban hosted the world conference against racism. Therefore, Durban should be the last city in the world to practice any form of discrimination against anyone. For all our social ills why do we direct our anger to our brothers and sisters from Africa in particular and not to the government? Remember the words of Christ: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." (Matthew 25:35-46)

+ Siegfried Mandla Jwara CMM
Archbishop of Durban

CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday of Holy Week, **13 April 2022 at 10h00** in the Emmanuel Cathedral. All priests are expected to attend and renew their priestly commitment during this concelebrated Mass.

All Deacons of the Archdiocese are also invited to be present vested in Alb and white stole. During the celebration they will be seated together and renew their commitment after the priests do so.

The blessing of the Holy Oils and consecration of Chrism reminds us most powerfully of the redemptive value and meaning of the Sacraments in and for our Catholic life.

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

A Tribute to Peter Lafferty CSSp

16th March 2022

I first got to know Fr Peter Lafferty CSSp, when he arrived in South Africa, and was posted to serve in the Archdiocese of Durban together with the band of Spiritans who had come to develop a new form of missionary outreach. They were committing themselves as a group and as individuals to giving pastoral care and ministry to the men living in the hostels on the margins of the city of Durban. What impressed most was their nerve and daring to live in the hostels so as to learn firsthand what the men they were committed to serving needed most.

This mission to the men in the hostels forever marked my understanding of the Spiritan charism, which had been honed and refined by their years of missionary endeavour in Nigeria. Now here they were giving witness among us in post-apartheid South Africa how to live the mission to make all nation into disciples of Jesus.

Among this band of intrepid pioneering missionaries was Bro Peter Lafferty from Glasgow, fully committed to making a positive difference to the lives of the hostel dwellers in Durban. What impressed me no end was that this young Scotsman was doing the daring work even before his ordination to the priesthood. What amazed me above all was that he was not unique. Indeed, he was one of the team of Spiritans who were breaking new ground!

As the years went by, Peter was drawn into other forms of ministry in response to new needs in the pastoral care of groups in the Archdiocese and beyond. I am referring here to the Youth Ministry which very quickly became his trademark.

With Barbara Koorbanally and a small but most dedicated team of helpers, Peter set a new pattern and tone for Catholic youth work. This new pattern and tone culminated in the special character which the Durban team gave to its participation in World Youth Day.

In spite of repeated calls that I should join them in the WYD pilgrimages, it wasn't until much later that I succumbed and "led" the WYD pilgrimage to Cologne, Germany in 2005. That unforgettable experience with Pope Benedict, just months after his election as Pope, was followed by WYDs in Sydney, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro, Krakow and Panama. All but Madrid led by the Peter - Barbara duo!

Then there was the special ministry to couples whose marriages had run into trouble. Again, Peter was at the forefront, learning what Retrouvaille was, what it could do; how it could be introduced into the Archdiocese and indeed South Africa. Next, he assembled a team to make Retrouvaille known, understood and used to change hundreds of lives around from 'hell on earth' to reconciled peace in and through a marriage that had been "saved", and what is most important that saved marriage became the springboard for doing the same for others as well.



Peter and the team he led, did this ministry so well that they ended up leading the Retrouvaille movement at world level. Again, I was blessed to be drawn into the unique experience of participating in the world meeting of Retrouvaille in Durban, then again in Orlando in USA.

One day as I waited for the session to begin, the thought suddenly dawned on me. Here before me were 700 plus men and women, some three hundred couples whose lives had been in absolute turmoil until God's grace led them to salvation through Retrouvaille and the dedicated team at world level, led by Peter Lafferty and his team from Durban, South Africa.

Is it any wonder that, together with all those who today gather to remember and pray for Fr Peter, we should focus even more on giving thanks to God for the grace of having come to know and be part of Peter's life, rather than sorrow caused by his untimely departure from the life and ministry which he loved and lived to the full? That is the spirit and mood out of which I pay this tribute to Peter Lafferty CSSp.

Thank God for a life not only well lived, but lived that others might come to know true life in Jesus Christ and the Church that makes him present in some real saints, among whom I must place my fellow priest and brother in Christ, Peter Lafferty.

Rest in peace, dear Brother and Friend.

Pray for us to come to share even a small measure of the grace you took from Jesus and spread so lovingly wherever it was needed most!

Cardinal Wilfrid Napier OFM
Archbishop-emeritus of Durban

DIOCESAN DIARY

April 2022

2	St Anne's Sodality Siyonqamulezweni, Albini Mission, Ntshongweni	
4	Chancery Meeting	
	Meeting of KZN Bishops and Vicars General, Jacob's Well	
11	Chrism Mass, Ingwavuma	Archbishop
12	Diaconate Board Meeting	
13	Chrism Mass, Emmanuel Cathedral	
15	Napier Centre 4 Healing	Archbishop
	The Lord's Passion, Cathedral	Archbishop
16	Easter Vigil, Cathedral	Archbishop
17	Easter Mass, Cathedral	Archbishop

22	Ntshongweni Committee Meeting	
	Confirmation, Westville	Archbishop
24	Confirmation, Lamontville	Archbishop
25	Diocesan Finance Board	
26	Kwa Thintwa Trust Meeting	Archbishop
	Diocesan Priests Social Gathering	Vicar General
28	College of Consultors	
30	Priestly Ordination of 2 OMIs, Cathedral	Archbishop