



# CATHOLIC NEWS BULLETIN

## ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

APRIL 2021



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### CARDINAL'S CORNER

“Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of the truth.”

These words from “Fides et Ratio” the encyclical by St John Paul II are most useful when it comes to trying to understand and make a reasonable response to a life changing phenomenon like Covid-19! This applies to all aspects of the pandemic, from its sudden inception into our lives, bringing them to a sudden standstill, to the fear and anxiety of the return to a semblance of “normal” living, to the continued uncertainty brought on by the second wave, to the hope held up to us by the arrival and administration of the Vaccine.

At every stage of the pandemic there has been heated debate about one aspect or another of the virus, its cause and origin, its ability to spread and in particular to mutate; but also about the vaccine whether it will work, whether it is safe to use, etc.!

Then came the moral debate about whether it is right to use vaccines developed from “Cell Lines” taken from aborted foetuses, way back in the 1960s.

This debate continues in spite of the Vatican’s stance that based on two facts listed below no one should have qualms about using the vaccine.

The first fact is that the “cell line” in question was produced way back in the 1960s and has become so attenuated (weakened) that very little, if any, of the original cell material is left by now.

The second fact is that the gravity of the threat from Covid-19 is so high that it justifies the use of the vaccine in order to save lives. Several moral examples are quoted to illustrate this point.

What might be of concern to some people are the persistent stories about Covid-19 being a sinister plot by, as yet, unnamed people to take control of the world from every conceivable point of view. Among the allegations are: (i) that the vaccine will introduce a microchip into everyone who is vaccinated so that total control can be exercised over everyone; (ii) that the world economy is being deliberately sabotaged so that everyone will be totally controlled by those planning to “Reset” the world and dominate it completely.

Apart from these conspiracy theories there are the brutal facts that almost every life has been shaken to its roots. This is most easily expressed by the idea that during Covid-19 and even after

Covid-19, whenever that will be, a “new normal” will have to be found in respect of every aspect of our lives. And it is for this that we are going to need “Fides et Ratio”, faith and reason.

Faith has to come first, because we have been created by God, each one with a reason and purpose for living on this earth. If we don’t have faith to guide us then even our reason is not going to provide us with the key answers which we need, particularly when it comes to questions like the meaning of life, the reality of our spiritual self, the value of living together as social beings, from family, to neighbourhood community to the nation.

In that same letter to the Church and the world, Pope John Paul makes this enlightening statement: “A truly responsible and mature exercise of the will is one that is tethered to truth and ordered to good. This is true not just for individuals and their personal moral lives, it is just as true for a free and virtuous society!”

So, our new normal will need to develop on the two wings of Faith and Reason. And just as in the case of any winged animals the proper synchronisation of the two wings determines how well or how badly life’s endeavours will turn out to be.

Faith and Reason are what will help us while we are under the safety restrictions and safeguards, but they will also help us to determine what and when we can revert to what was normal behaviour up to now – not just for our own benefit as individuals but for the whole human race!

So, keep flying on both wings in everything that you do!

*+ Wilfrid Cardinal Napier OFM*

## **CLERGY APPOINTMENTS**

We have pleasure in announcing the following clergy appointments:

- |                              |             |   |
|------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 1) Fr Zibonele Ngubane OMI   | Estcourt    | Parish Priest                           |
| 2) Fr Mduduzi Mchunu OMI     | Sydenham    | Parish Priest                           |
| 3) Fr Callistus Khathali OMI | Umbilo      | Parish Priest                           |
| 4) Fr Mtshengiseni Dlamini   | Imbali      | Parish Priest                           |
| 5) Fr Sifiso Ndlovu          | Mooi River  | Acting Parish Priest (until 01.08.2021) |
| 6) Fr Malusi Ngcobo          | Morningside | Assistant Priest                        |
| 7) Fr Mndeni Hadebe          | Chaplain    | Justice and Peace Commission            |

We thank all the above for graciously accepting these new 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 the People of God.

## ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

It was a blessing to have four local Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) ordained as priests by Cardinal Wilfrid Napier on 27 April 2021 in the Emmanuel Cathedral.

We congratulate the newly ordained Fr Cebelihle Cibane from Hammarsdale, Fr Ziphozonke Gumede from Inchanga, Fr Ndumiso Jiyane from Chesterville and Fr Sicelo Libanje from Pietermaritzburg and wish them many years of fruitful service in the Lord's vineyard.

Congratulations also to the four parishes on working together to host such a beautiful celebration.

## 2021: YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

### BEAUTIFUL STATUES AVAILABLE



Hollow cast in acrylic resin. Extremely strong and lightweight

Suitable for outdoors

Size : 1 metre and 50 cm

Painted - matt or gloss

Unpainted

Contact : [sunrisepubdh@gmail.com](mailto:sunrisepubdh@gmail.com)

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## CONFIRMATIONS – JUNE AND JULY 2021

<b>JUNE</b>	13	Tongaat	08h00	Cardinal
	18	Durban North	18h00	Cardinal
	20	Mount Edgecombe	09h00	Vicar General
	27	Pmb. Eastwood	08h00	Vicar General
<b>JULY</b>	11	Kranskop	10h00	Vicar General
	17	Bluff	17h30	Cardinal
	18	Imbali	09h00	Vicar General
	25	Pmb. Raisethorpe	09h30	Vicar General

## DIOCESAN DIARY

### May 2021

2	Confirmation, St Anthony's Pietermaritzburg	Vicar General
3 - 7	SACBC Admin Board	Cardinal
8	Holy Family Trust Zoom Meeting	Cardinal
9	Confirmation, Wentworth	Cardinal
12	Catholic Schools Board Executive	Cardinal
13	Council of Priests	
15	Ordination of two Permanent Deacons, Montebello	Cardinal
16	Confirmation, Wentworth	Cardinal
17	VAT Audit Committee	Cardinal
18	Liturgy Commission	
19	Blessing of Altar, Assisi Sisters	Cardinal
20	CARITAS Durban	
21	Napier Centre 4 Healing	Cardinal
22	Catholic Women's Association Mass, Cathedral	Cardinal
23	Confirmation, Newlands East	Cardinal
24 – 25	Eshowe Diocese	Cardinal
25 – 26	Diocesan Clergy Recollection	Vicar General

27	Building Committee
28	DMI Review
29	Ntshongweni Pilgrimage, Midlands and Umvoti Deaneries
30	Ordination of Permanent Deacon, Ntuzuma                      Cardinal
31	Finance Board