



CATHOLIC NEWS BULLETIN

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

DECEMBER 2023

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Having lit the second of the four Advent candles, the candle of Peace, I begin this letter by greeting you all in the name of Our Lord, who is the Prince of Peace.

We find ourselves, at the close of this year, surely all feeling some kind of exhaustion, for it has been a year characterized by our ongoing battle as a nation with load shedding, crime and corruption, inequality, and economic hardship.

The triumph of the Springboks, amidst these difficulties that beset our nation, gave us all a welcome momentary distraction and cause to rejoice, reminding us once more that when working together towards a common goal, we can indeed overcome any challenge.

It is when we are united, that we are strongest, and it is through our unity that we will find a way to overcome the common hardships we bear.

With this in mind, there is no doubt that at the end of the year, we look forward with eagerness to the celebration of Christmas which also gives us great cause for rejoicing and unites us together as a family.

Christmas is the time when Christians celebrate the love of God in a very special and unique way. The incarnation is a singularly precious gift to each and every one of us (Pope Benedict XVI, 2013) from a God who is Love (1 John 4:7-21) and who communicates His love so freely and fully in His desire to redeem all creation (John 3:16).

Love, peace, and joy are a part of the Christmas celebration because we recognize the 'reason for the season' residing in the person of Christ Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who ultimately

restores our harmonious relationship with God (2 Cor 5:18). I encourage all of you to make Jesus the unifying force, the central figure, of your lives this Christmas.

However, we cannot fully rejoice in celebrating the birth of the Prince of Peace, while so many parts of our world suffer the indignity, the affront, the cruelty, and the oppression brought about by pointless war. During this upcoming festive season let us continue to be especially mindful of our brothers and sisters who are still trapped in conflicts raging throughout the Middle East, Ukraine, Yemen and other parts of the world.

Pope Francis (2023) has cautioned us that “Every war is a defeat.”, and so we must pray for the victory of peace, that Christ may inspire in the hearts of all men, especially the leaders of nations, an inclination towards brotherhood, unity and peace.

It is in this current climate that *Caritas Internationalis* has extended an invitation for us all to join a global petition advocating for an immediate ceasefire in the Middle Eastern conflict. This petition urges all international parties and stakeholders to take immediate action in order to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe from further unfolding.

Looking forward towards the celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace, we remember that we are called to be Peacemakers ourselves (Matt 5:9).

I therefore ask that every member of the faithful in the Archdiocese of Durban be counted among those who support such an initiative by both signing the petition and sharing its link with others in the promotion of this cause.

The Petition can be found at <https://chng.it/SxNdmDBwCG>

As we move through Advent toward the celebration of the incarnation, where we welcome the Prince of Peace into our hearts and homes, let us take action to ensure that the world hears our voice as we call for Peace. Let us be among the many who raise their voices in defence of the lost, the broken, the poor, and the suffering.

I also take this opportunity, once more, to sincerely express my thanks to you all for your generous contributions toward the episcopal ordination of Bishop Elias Zondi, which took place at the Curries Fountain Sports Development Centre and was so well organized. Thank you very much.

In like manner, I thank all parishes where I and Bishop Zondi were invited to celebrate confirmations throughout 2023. Personally, I thank you for the lively liturgies, the hospitality, and the gifts received. May God bless you all.

On the 5th of December I was happy to host a special luncheon for our retired senior priests and invite you all to continue praying for them as we thank them for their many years of dedicated service and wish them good health and wellbeing.

It is the duty of the local ordinary to care for and support the three pillars of the diocese, namely: the clergy, the religious and the lay faithful.

In this role, I must request that you all be especially vigilant as there are those who seem to enjoy breaking into church buildings in order to vandalise and desecrate. We have had several incidents of great concern both locally and within the wider conference area and we are grateful to God that our Fr Wandile Cagwe, parish Priest of Corpus Christi in Upper Tongaat, survived an armed robbery recently and that Fr Junior Mtshali, assistant at the Emmanuel Cathedral, was unscathed after his vehicle was stoned by street dwellers.

I thank Mary our Mother who has protected our brothers, may she continue to intercede for each of us through this Festive Season in our homes, communities, parishes and on our roads.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you, clergy and lay faithful, for all that you have done to support the Archdiocese in so many different ways through 2023.

May the Newborn King, the Prince of Peace, bless you, your families, and your loved ones most abundantly.

Merry Christmas!!

+ Siegfried Mandla Jwara CMM
ARCHBISHOP OF DURBAN



ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Please note that Deacons Siphesihle Mlondi Manci, Sanele Sisho Msomi, and Nkazimulo Shange will be ordained to the Priesthood on **Saturday 13 April 2024 in the Emmanuel Cathedral**.

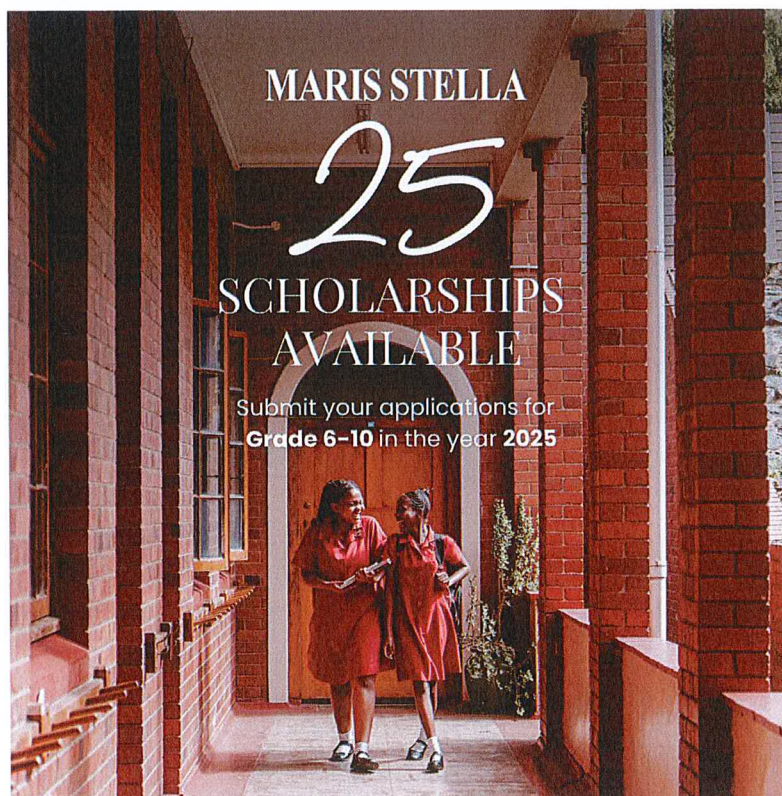
Kindly save this date.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN ON LEAVE

Please note that Fr Nhlanhla Nkosi OMI will be on leave during the month of January 2024.

Parish priests are asked to care for parishioners admitted to Entabeni, St Augustine and Albert Luthuli Hospitals during his absence.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



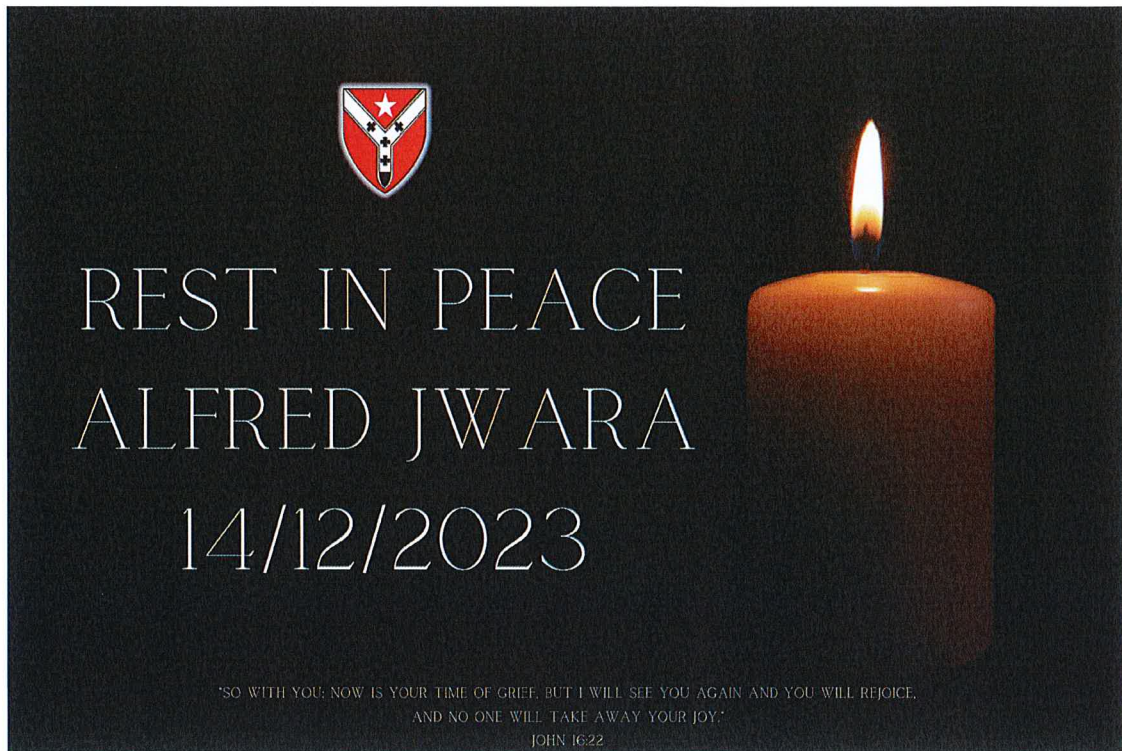
Maris Stella School celebrates its 125th Birthday in 2025, and to celebrate this occasion:

25 SCHOLARSHIPS AS WE REFLECT ON 125 INCREDIBLE YEARS ✨

*It gives us great pleasure to announce that we will be awarding **25 SCHOLARSHIPS** to talented students for attendance in the year 2025, Grade 6-10.*

These scholarships will encompass: Academics, Sports and Culture.

To enquire, send an email to: scholarships@marisstella.co.za



On the 14th of December Archbishop Jwara received a call in the early hours of the morning informing him that his father of 91 years had passed away. We ask that you keep him and his family in prayers during this time and we ask that you pray for the repose of the soul of his father Alfred Jwara. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

Funeral arrangements will be communicated when they are made available.