



Archdiocese of Cape Town

NEWSLETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

No 3/2014

"The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life was assumed body and soul into Heavenly glory."

On 15 August, the Church remembers Mary's passage into Heaven. It is only fitting for her to be given this honour for, from the first moment of her conception, she was preserved from the stain of sin. If we examine the role of Mary we understand that she played an important part in the economy of salvation. She appears at the beginning of creation when God said "I will put enmity between you and woman" (Gen 3:15). She appears at the beginning of Redemption when she said, "let Your will be done" (Luke 1:38). She appears when the Redemption was complete on the Cross (John 19:25-26) and she was also there when the Church was born. Hers is a life that personifies human response to the Divine invitation. Furthermore, in the present economy of salvation, she is indispensable because God the Father entrusted Jesus to her. In doing so, He entrusted into her hands the entire source of grace.

We live in difficult times. Violence against women and children is gruesome and appalling and therefore Mary's assumption into Heaven is of particular importance. Hers was the time when women and children were considered insignificant and helpless. Yet Mary, with a child-like devotion, and a heart set upon in doing God's will, has shown us the way.

In the victory of Mary is the victory of human kind especially the battered, the weak and the helpless. While we recognize the contribution of Mary and look up to her for help and guidance we also pray that we will do better in recognizing the weak and the vulnerable and not just sympathise with them but also help them in their fight for justice.

Farewell and welcome:

Fr. Meneghetti CS has been requested by his congregation to take up a new assignment in Italy and will be leaving in September. We thank him for his selfless service both as parish priest and as a consultor in the Archdiocese and we wish him well.

We welcome back Fr Gerardo Garcia CS who will be replacing Fr Meneghetti as the parish priest of Holy Cross Parish, District Six.

We also welcome Msgr Jose Mukala from India. He will assist Fr Rohan Smuts at the Cathedral.

Seminarians:

Alfredo Van Der Schyff and Mathekodwa Mqomboti, two students studying for the priesthood in the Archdiocese, will take a break to discern their vocation.

Please remember them in your prayers as well as our Seminarians.

Frs Hickley and Holmes:

Fr Roger Hickley had a knee operation on 11 August.

Fr Craig Holmes was rushed to the hospital with an infection in his legs and had a further operation on 12 August.

Please keep both our priests in your prayers.

Plenary Session:

During the August Plenary Sessions the Bishops issued three pastoral statements on pornography, the situation in the Holy Land and the conflict in Iraq.

These will be sent you shortly.

Request:

All Parishes and Communities are requested to pray for peace in Iraq on the Feast of Assumption. This is in response to Pope Francis' request that we pray for Christians – and others – killed and displaced by the violence.

Prayer for the Holy Land:

The Bishops have called on all Catholic communities to support the SACC request to pray for peace in the Holy Land from 21 September to 27 September 2014. Guidelines for these prayers will be sent to you.

Furthermore, on the last Sunday of September there will be a special collection for the needs of children in Gaza. This gift will be sent through the Catholic Church to give assistance to children who have lost their parents in the conflict, who have been left homeless, etc.

Please encourage your parishioners to support the collection generously.

Forthcoming Events:

The next **workshop for Clergy** will take place on 18 September 2014 at St Michael's Rondebosch to discuss the new Catechetical Policy.

Deanery Meetings will take place on Thursday 11 September 2014. Please consult your respective Deans for the venue.

The new **Ecclesia** season is set to start on 14 September 2014. The theme is "*Brave New Church*". There will also be an Ecclesia Faith Formation Festival at Springfield Convent on 30 August 2014.

I ask you to continue your support to the CPD by promoting Ecclesia in your parishes.

I wish you every blessing for the Patronal Feast of the Church in Southern Africa.

"May Mary conceived without sin, pray for us."



+Stephen Brislin
Archbishop of Cape Town



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