



# Archdiocese of Cape Town

April 29, 2015

Dear Bishop, Monsignor, Father, Deacon, Brother, Sister

## THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION

The Solemnity of the Ascension which is observed as a Holyday of Obligation in Southern Africa is to be celebrated on **Thursday, May 14** as is reflected in the diocesan diary for May. There is some confusion, however, since the **Ordo** indicates that the celebration of the Solemnity is transferred to Sunday, May 17.

Please inform the members of your communities of the obligation to attend Mass on the Solemnity and that the obligation may also be satisfied at a celebration of a vigil Mass of the Solemnity on the evening of Wednesday, May 13. Accordingly, I encourage parish priests and parochial administrators to schedule vigil Masses in their parishes to assist the faithful in fulfilling their obligation.

It should be noted that where a member of the faithful is genuinely unable to attend Mass on a day of obligation on account of a work commitment, great distance from the nearest church, or some similar serious reason, the obligation ceases and there is no question of sin being incurred by that person. In such a situation, the person concerned is encouraged to spend an appropriate time in prayer.

With every prayerful good wish

Yours sincerely in Christ

+Stephen Brislin  
Archbishop of Cape Town

