



Archdiocese of Cape Town

No 2/2020

Newsletter from Archbishop's office

All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.

St Julian of Norwich

These days have been hard for us. We have had to adapt to all sorts of things and for many of us it has been a difficult Lenten Season. The Ashes marked on our forehead on Ash Wednesday called us to reflect on the events leading to the crucifixion of our Lord. The ashes may have washed away, but these days of Lent have been for us, and our parishioners, a true desert experience. Even as you continue to walk this time of grace with our Lord, I invite you think about the joy and hope of His Resurrection.

The coming days of Holy Week are once again a time of intense meditation on the passion, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a time that reminds us that Christ was crucified by an unholy alliance of religious selfishness portrayed by the scribes, pharisees and other religious leaders. He was crucified through the political expediency and compromise of Pontius Pilate and Herod, and the cowardly greed of Judas. He was crucified through their fear, a fear that did not leave Peter, the disciples and others in the crowd untouched. The selfishness, expediency, greed and fear represent the darkest aspects of human nature that sadly enough continues to exist even today. The world in which we live is marked by a sharp and ever increasing polarization, passion, anger and even hatred - often manifested in social media and in political and even religious discourse. The agony of this time gets even heavier by the confined spaces and the restrictions placed during the National Lockdown.

The Easter celebrations come as good news, a timely reminder that we are called to be ministers of hope in the present situation. They remind us of the victory that Christ has won for us. They remind us of Christ's triumph over his adversaries. They call us to celebrate God who brings light out of darkness, life out of death, the new out of the old. With His resurrection, the pain of death vanishes and the gloom gives way to the dawn of hope. Through his death, Christ has reconciled the world to himself (cf 2 Cor 5:19) and he will never abandon us.

This Easter holds out a message for us all, perhaps now more than ever: the darkness will end and the warmth of the sun will envelope us. No matter how hard and difficult things might be right now, let us never give up. Christ has triumphed and with him we will overcome all things.

I give thanks as ever to all our clergy, consecrated persons and our ever-loving faithful. I wish each of you every blessing for a grace-filled Easter.

I would like to bring the following to your attention:

Archbishop of Bloemfontein:

On the 1st of April 2020, the Holy Father has appointed Bishop Zolile Mpambani SCJ, the Bishop of Kokstad, as the new Archbishop of Bloemfontein. He succeeds Archbishop Jabulani Nxumalo OMI who has reached the age of 75.

Appointments:

Fr Christopher Sharpe SDB:

In addition to other Salesian responsibilities, Fr Sharp is appointed Assistant Priest of Our Lady Help of Christians, Lansdowne. I wish Fr Christopher many blessings in his new appointment which will take effect from 6 April 2020.

I also take this opportunity to thank Fr Bart Walsh for his many years of ministry. Fr Bart will remain in the Salesian Community of Lansdowne. May he have many more years and good health.

Fr Emmanuel Okika:

In addition to his present responsibilities as Parochial Administrator of St Catherine's, Kleinvlei, is appointed Kolping Praeses for the Archdiocese of Cape Town. Fr Kizito Gugah continues as National Praeses of Kolping.

I wish Fr Okika all God's blessings in this responsibility and I thank him for accepting it.

Holy Land Collection:

The Holy Land collection, usually taken up on Good Friday and used for the Christian Church of the Holy Land, will be taken up this year on the Sunday, 13 September 2020, close to the Feast of the Exultation of the Cross.

Would all priests please diarize this date, lest the collection be forgotten.

Para-Liturgical Holy Thursday Service to be used in the Home:

Attached is an outline of a service that can be used in the home on the evening of Holy Thursday to commemorate the Last Supper. It includes a suggestion for the washing of feet in the family, and an explanation, which could be done by a parent or head of household.

Please circulate this to your parishioners. The service for Good Friday, for use in the home, has already been sent out to you.

Easter Celebrations for (a) priest(s) alone, without congregation:

I will forward to you, in another email, the liturgies that can be celebrated by a priest alone, without a congregation, for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. These are liturgies composed by the Diocese of Salford and can be used as a model for your own liturgies.

New Intercession in a time of Pandemic for Good Friday, and Special Mass in a time of Pandemic:

The Holy Father has authorized a new prayer of Intercession for the Good Friday Service, "For the Afflicted in the time of Pandemic". Please be sure to use it in the coming celebration and bring it to the attention of your parishioners for inclusion in the proposed Service that has already been sent

out. Since we simplified the intercession in the Service for home use, it is only necessary to include the introductory part of the new intercession.

Furthermore, the Holy Father has authorized a “Mass for use in the time of Pandemic”.

The intercession, and the prayers for the “Mass in time of Pandemic”, are attached to this letter in a single document, for your convenience.

Protective Equipment when ministering to a COVID-19 patient or person showing symptoms:

Subsequent to my letter of 30 March 2020 regarding ministering to those who may have the Coronavirus, I have been trying to find means of purchasing masks, gloves etc for use by priests. As you know, most pharmacies and suppliers are out of stock of these items. Should we find means of buying them you will be informed. If any priest or deacon has a contact who could assist us in identifying where they can be purchase I would be most grateful if you would inform me.

COVID-19 Food Parcel Campaign:

I have approached the SVP and those previously involved in “Buckets of Love” to explore ways of packing buckets or parcels of food for those in need. The present situation in our country is going to have a massive impact economically and especially in the lives of the poor and unemployed. Soon, I will be sending our a letter to parish priests/administrators asking them to identify those in need in their parishes and how many buckets will be needed. While organisations such as the SVP can add names to the list, those names must be given to the parish priest/administrator. It is likely that any distribution of food will only take place after the 16th April 2020.

Furthermore, I will also write a letter to parishes, inviting parishioners to contribute to the- the COVID-19 Food Parcel Campaign, which will be done on a similar basis as “Buckets of Love”. Considering the lockdown and the possibility that it will be extended, it is probably more practical that cash donations are made into a specified bank account, rather than giving food in kind. We will access the situation closer to the time, but I request you encourage your parishioners to be generous in reaching out to others.

Once again, I wish you all every blessing for a grace-filled Easter.

Sincerely in Christ



+Stephen Brislin
Archbishop of Cape Town