



Archdiocese of Cape Town

ARCHBISHOP SITHEMBELE SIPUKA

13 September 2026

To the Parishes of Our Lady of Fatima and Holy Family, Bellville.

Dear Parishioners of Fr. Nkululeko Qokolo,

May the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding (cf. Phil 4:7), be with you during this time of profound grief. The unexpected loss of a beloved priest leaves an emptiness that words cannot easily fill. Fr. Nkululeko was a spiritual father, a shepherd, and a companion on your journey of faith. He walked with you through your moments of greatest joy and deepest sorrow, offering the sacraments and pointing you always toward the heart of Christ. Now, as you mourn his absence, the Church family feels fractured. It is natural to feel disoriented, even questioning how to move forward without his guidance.

Yet, as Catholics, we do not mourn as those who have no hope. Our faith calls us to look at death through the lens of the Resurrection. In the Gospel of John, Jesus consoles us with these timeless words: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die" (Jn 11:25). Fr. Nkululeko dedicated his entire life to proclaiming this truth. Every time he stood at the altar, raised the host and the Chalice in celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, he was preparing himself, and all of you, for the ultimate promise of eternal life.

His priesthood does not end with his earthly death. The love, wisdom, and spiritual nourishment he poured into your parish community remain alive within each of you. The greatest tribute you can pay to his memory is to live out the faith he so faithfully taught. Keep praying together, supporting one another in your grief, and remaining steadfast in the sacramental life of the Church. Also be assured of our own support in prayer.

We take comfort in knowing that a priest's ultimate goal is to lead his flock to heaven, and we trust that Fr. Nkululeko is now being welcomed by the Good Shepherd whom he served so well. Let us surrender our sorrow to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Priests, asking her to wrap her mantle of comfort around your parish community.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Archbishop Sithembele Sipuka
Metropolitan Archbishop of Cape Town

Bishop Sylvester David OMI
VG/Auxiliary Bishop