



✉ PO Box 8149
Pretoria 0001
South Africa

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

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South Africa

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Registration No. : 191-349 NPO

DITABA 31 – 01 MARCH 2018

1. Congratulations to the new 2 Diocesan Priests, **Fr Fannie Msiza and Fr Pheto Matlala** on their ordinations. Congratulations to the 2 Liturgical Committees in their own home Parishes. These were great and prayerful occasions that involved the whole Archdiocese.
2. Once more it is a great joy to record the faith and commitment of so many people who have **committed themselves to teach catechism**. From the various mandates, up to 900 have been sent to share our faith. Congratulations to Fr Geoffrey and his core team who facilitated these ceremonies and have continual follow-ups for Coordinators and for Catechists. Fr Geoffrey issued a Catechetical calendar for the year.

On the 1st Sunday of Lent, hundreds of new adult catechumens came to the Cathedral for the **Ceremony of Election**. This is a great joy and we welcomed them. But it also places on our shoulders in the Parishes the serious responsibility of welcoming them, instructing them, and bringing them to the fullness of faith.

3. We are now well into the Season of **Lent**. Lent has its own code, its own spirit. We follow the Way of the Cross, we invite people to the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, and we encourage special prayers. All of us try to restrain ourselves by fasting, be it food or some form of personal luxury. And we fast in order to have something to offer to the poor. Make sure that the **envelopes for Lent** are everywhere. This money will go to the poor and also to the work of the church. Last year, we in Pretoria, contributed 694,000 Rands. The SACBC has produced a program for reflection and discussion throughout the country for Lent. The discussion documents are available and the theme is “**Racism in our Country**”.

On the 9th and 10th of March we responded to the invitation of Pope Francis in setting aside **24 hours for the Lord**. It was inspiring to participate at Sunnyside where the Parish had a 24-hour program which went right through the night.

4. At the beginning of this New Year 2018, the Archdiocese wishes to acknowledge and express its sincere gratitude to Priests who are moving towards retirement and have given many years of service. On 4th March **Msgr Marc de Mûelenaere** celebrated 50 years of Priestly ordination and 75 years birthday. Msgr Marc has served the Diocese in many parishes, he has built churches, he was head of the Marriage Tribunal for over 30 years, and has responded to the needs within the Tribunal to the anguish of thousands of couples. The celebration was at Zwavelpoort, a magnificent church which he built. He was surrounded by eight of his siblings.



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As noted in the previous Ditaba, **Fr Simon Molefe** has retired after 42 years of service. Again, we are looking at generous commitment to our people in the spiritual needs. **Fr. Tony Ngwena** has also taken retirement and the Diocese expresses its deep appreciation for his work.

5. **There have been a number of priestly changes at the beginning of this year. Fr Vitales Marole was appointed Parish Priest of Moya, Fr Evantus Kene is now Parish Priest of Diepsloot, Fr Isaac Ramakgolo has been appointed Parish Priest of Pretoria West, St Joseph the Worker. Fr Benedict Mtena OFM Cap has been appointed Parish Priest of Siyabuswa. We welcome Fr Emmanuel Morwena CSS who will take responsibility for St Mark Parish in Mabopane. Fr Lawrence Ramaema will take responsibility for Jericho. Fr Samuel Munyi SMA is now the Parish Priest of St Peter, Kopano Pastoral District. Fr Benedict Makhata CSS will take responsibility of Guardian Angels Parish in Ten Morgen Pastoral District.**

We say goodbye with appreciation to **Fr Gerry O'Reilly OFM** and **Fr Sandile Madotyeni OFM** who have been appointed to Grahamstown.

Let us keep in prayers **Fr Ambrose Mqeba** who has been ill for a few months but is now recovering.

6. Please keep in your prayers the following who have passed away:
Sr Mary Aquinas HC
Sr Theresa LCM
Bro Val CBC

All of them have labored generously in the past in our Archdiocese.

7. **Sr Mary Coleman HC** continues to live at Lady Selbourne and celebrated recently her centenary. At the celebration, which was honored by the President of Ireland many spoke of Sr Mary Coleman HC, as a pioneer missionary who established parishes, schools, and hospitals.

8. On 14th January the Archbishop installed the **New Archdiocesan Pastoral Council.**

Archdiocesan Pastoral Council Executive (APC):

Chairman: *Mr. Pat Rakau (W), Cell: 083 275 4008*

Vice Chairwoman: *Ms. Girly Kgoetego (E), Cell: 083 313 8141*

Secretary: *Ms. Yvonne Lekati (NW), Cell: 072 286 989*

Asst. Secretary: *Ms. Colleen Naidoo (S), Cell: 082 929 1362*



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9. The Diocese is engaged in **constructing the following buildings:**

The Sisters Convent in Dennilton
The new church in Kwa Mhlanga
Opening a new church at St Ambrose
New Priest House at Kwaggafontein
New Priest House at Letlhabile

We have acquired an excellent site at Olivenhoutbos, which has extensive housing developments at the Southwest of the Diocese. Fr Evantus is creating a new Parish there. On the site we will have a church immediately. As well, we welcome the **Seminary of the Neocatechumen** who will live in the two houses beside the church. Fr Boulos will take care for the seminary with the family of the Neocatechumen. There are four seminarians present and they will hopefully dedicate themselves to this Archdiocese.

On 28th January, while at the Plenary session, all the Bishops of SACBC concelebrated mass at the Church of the Beatitude, Zwavelpoort.

We participated at Parish level in the celebration of the **Bi-Centenary** of the establishment of the Catholic Church in South Africa, a special letter was issued for the occasion.

11. About 300 Catholic youth attended in December the Mini World Youth Day. We were very proud of them.

It is a great joy to our Archdiocese that it is one of our Youth, **Ms Koketso Zomba, will represent Southern Africa at the preparatory session in Rome** this March for the upcoming Synod of Bishops in October. As you know, the theme of the Synod will center on the life of the youth in the church and the discernment of vocation.

This year also, the universal church and Pope Francis will celebrate the **World Youth Day** in Panama in Central America. Some are already preparing to go. The Ambassador, who is a dedicated Catholic, has assured me that Pilgrims from South Africa will not need a visa.

12. Fr Manuel Graca organized the Academic Mass for the opening of the Academic Year at University of Pretoria on 11th February. It would be good if the Priests and Parish Councils ensured that their young people who attended university should make contact with **ACTS**, which is the Catholic University movement.

13. Mrs Kekana who is a dedicated and highly competent nurse and matron is keen to visit Parishes and offer for **free medical examination in the area of non-communicable diseases.**

CATHCA, the Catholic Health Care Workers movement, is working in our Archdiocese and brings together people in the medical profession who belong to the church. Together, they seek to respond to the needs of the sick, the AIDS, and children.



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14. **Caritas** is the pontifical development program of the universal church centered in Rome. The Dioceses of South Africa are each establishing their own Caritas. This will work on the basis of the principles and values of Caritas International. While leaving all the development and welfare programs in our Archdiocese free in their individual programs, it will offer an umbrella support for all the welfare groups. The Executive Officer is Ms Marie McCrea while Ms Maureen Mabena is the local Chairperson of our Board.
15. The Archbishop meets constantly with **ecumenical group of church leaders** at his house every two months. The Secretary of that group is Sr Marian Moriarty IBVM.
16. **The Catholic School Board Desk** under Ms Violet Ramathunya and Mr Peter Ross organized an excellent Teacher's Day Prayer at Mmakau mission. The Archbishop said mass for 400 teachers and lectures were delivered by Fr Hugh Lagan and Fr Thabiso Ledwaba.

The Priest Chaplains of the Catholic School and the Principals of the schools met at Nazareth House.

The Diocese extends heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to **Sr Colleen and the Good Shepherd Sisters**. At the graduation ceremony this March hundreds of their pupils graduated in many various skills, in secretarial work, and in level 4 qualifications. Sister works in Madidi which is a very poor area. Already over 50 of her graduates in the I.T. studies have found work in banks and offices in Gauteng.

We welcome Sr Teresa Marie OP who has developed a program called SPRED. She will be happy to visit your Parish and to initiate Church **programs and formation for children and people with special needs**. She can be contacted here at the Chancery.

17. The **Army and Police Chaplains** will meet with the Archbishop at Lynnwood from 13th to 16th of March.
18. The Jesuit Institute in Johannesburg offers a great variety of individual community and Parish **retreats**.
19. Fr Anthony Sikhalele Mdhluli and his team will continue the **Pastoral and Deacon Training Program this year**. As they are taking over from the old team, they will not take on new candidates this year. They want to complete the training of those who have pursued this course for many years.
20. We have **11 seminarians at the moment**. We encourage everybody to pray and encourage vocations. This is a great need for our Archdiocese.



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21. Sam and Mpho Mathe Chair of the Marriage and **Family Life Desk** of the Archdiocese. **The next important meeting will be on 29th April, Saturday**, for all Coordinators from all Parishes and Deaneries of the Archdiocese establishing Family Life desk everywhere.
22. August this year will see the Holy Father in Dublin, Ireland for the **World Meeting of Families**. Mr and Mrs Motiang who belong to the National Executive are taking a group with them.
23. Three busloads of Catholic men from the Archdiocese went to Limpopo on Pilgrimage to celebrate **Blessed Dominic Daswa**. On the weekend of 17/18 March, the women will go.
24. In the first two months of this year, confirmation has been celebrated at Bronkhorstspuit, Fafung.
25. Don't forget to listen to Radio Veritas, AM 576.

26. FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

06 th March	Sta Sophia Meeting of Priests
09 th March	24-hours for the Lord
	Golden Jubilee of Ordination of Fr Hyacinth Ennis
10 th March	Family Life Desk Meeting
	Catechism Coordinators Meeting
	Deacon's Meeting
11 th March	Mass at Makapanstad
12 th March	Fr Fachna O'Driscoll SMA, Superior General
13 th March	Meeting of National Chaplains of Security Forces
13 th - 16 th March	Army Chaplains Meeting in Pretoria
16 th March	Archdiocesan Finance Meeting
17 th – 19 th March	Archdiocesan Youth Retreat at Bethesda
20 th March	Priest Council at Sta Sophia
	Archdiocesan Consultors
25 th March	Palm Sunday – Archbishop at the Cathedral
28 th March	Chrism Mass at the Cathedral at 10:00 AM
29 th March	Maundy Thursday. Apostolic Nuncio at the Cathedral
30 th March	Good Friday
31 st March	Holy Saturday – Archbishop at the Cathedral
01st April	Easter Sunday
02nd April	Archbishop at the Cathedral for Infant Baptisms
03rd April	Sta Sophia Meeting of Priests
08th April	Archbishop at St Agnes Olivenhoutbos
17th April	Ecumenical Meeting – Archbishop's Residence
	Lunch for Retiring Priests



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18th April	Conference for Handmaids of Christ the Priest
22nd April	Blessing of the New Church St Ambrose
27th April	Mass for Chiro
28th April	Launch of Marriage and Family Life Desk Coordinators
29th April	Confirmation at St Mark
01st May	Mass with Men in Christ in Krugersdorp
5th May	Caritas Meeting
6th May	Confirmation at St Clare, Soshanguve
	Church Unity Prayer at DRC Church in Pretoria
8 th – 11 th May	SACBC Board Meeting
8 th May	Sta Sophia Meeting of Priests
12 th May	Sisters of St Vincent de Paul Congregation Celebration Tembisa
13 th May	Confirmation at Cathedral
18 th May	Phumula Trust
19 th May	Jubilee of Motla
	Confirmation Pretoria North
20 th May	Confirmation Ten Morgen
	Church Unity Prayer at St Albans Cathedral 5:00 PM
27 th May	Confirmation Christ the King, Mabopane
02 June	Confirmation at Moya, Tembisa
03 rd June	Confirmation at St Peter, Winderveldt at 9:30 AM
	Confirmation French community at Cathedral at 16:30 PM
05 th June	Priests at Sta Sophia
09 th June	Deacon's Days of Recollection at Sta Sophia
10 th June	Archdiocesan Annual Pilgrimage in honor of the Sacred Heart Pretoria
12 th June	Security Services Meeting
17 th June	Confirmation at Marapyane
22 nd – 25 th June	Bi-Centennial celebration in Cape Town
30 th June	Mass at Laudium (Family Day)

+William Slattery

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Archbishop of Pretoria
01 March 2018