



CATHOLIC NEWS BULLETIN

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

DECEMBER 2024

ARCHBISHOP'S CORNER

Dear Fathers, and members of the lay faithful,

As we currently find ourselves on the eve of the third Sunday of the Advent Season, one cannot believe that the year 2024 is now coming to an end. It has been a year of many blessings and positive experiences which have motivated and energized us, but also a year of difficulties which have challenged many of us.

I think especially of the Tongaat Tornado, and the communities who had to suffer the losses inflicted by such a devastating natural disaster. As the Archdiocese of Durban, we reached out to victims of the tornado, and I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all who donated so much of their time, talents and treasures to the cause of alleviating the suffering in Tongaat. It is now obvious that climate change is a reality we will have to contend with more and more.

Let us all contribute where we can over the coming year to good social upliftment initiatives, and to taking adequate precautionary measures to prevent natural disasters from claiming any more victims in the future.

In like manner, I extend my thanks to all throughout the Archdiocese, priest and parishioner, for their hard work this 2024 in overcoming any challenges faced and in making your parish communities places of vibrant praise and worship, where the presence of the Lord can be experienced amidst the rush of daily life.

Let each of us now use this period of Advent to re-charge our spiritual batteries so that we may celebrate Christmas, and usher in the new year, with renewed hearts and minds focused singularly on Christ and the miracle and meaning of the incarnation for our lives.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025



After every 25 years the Holy Father declares a Jubilee Year, with the last being declared in the year 2000. The theme of this new Jubilee Year is "*Pilgrims of Hope*", and the celebration will officially commence on the Feast Day of the Epiphany (5th January 2025) at 10am at the Emmanuel Cathedral in the Durban CBD.

All parishes are invited to join the celebration at the heart of the Archdiocese on that special day, with the Durban Central Deanery parishes and their communities most strongly encouraged to make every effort to attend in a show of unity and community.

Our Archdiocese Liturgy Committee will be hard at work, actively assisting with preparations for the events to come.

The Jubilee Year will then be celebrated in every parish, and across all deaneries, with one major celebration on a diocesan level. Pilgrimages to Rome may be organized at parish level through the relevant channels, with a particular emphasis on the Jubilee.

GLENMORE PASTORAL CENTRE

At the beginning of the new year (2025), the Glenmore Pastoral Centre will accommodate the UKZN (University of Kwa-Zulu Natal) female students for a three-year period. It is our hope that after this time has elapsed, we will be able to renovate the building in phases to provide self-contained accommodation.

There are several Catholic businesspeople who have generously agreed to assist us with this renewal project going forward, and I thank them for their dedication.

RETIRED CLERGY AND ANNIVERSARIES

Once more this year a special end-of-year luncheon was held for the retired and senior clergy of the Archdiocese at the Archbishop's residence. Joined by clergy from the chancery staff, the day was filled with great joy, good food, and animated table conversation.

Special guests present were:

- Fr Pierre Lavoipierre
- Fr Brian Southward
- Fr Isaac Khanyile
- Fr Massimo Biancalani

We were also privileged to celebrate this 2024 several milestones in priestly anniversaries and I congratulate each one who celebrated another year of priesthood, thanking you for your continued diligent and dedicated service in the Lord's vineyard. Of particular note this year, was Fr Pierre Lavoipierre celebrating his 60th Anniversary at the Parish of St Joseph in Morningside, as well as Fr Rodney Moss's 50th Anniversary celebrated at Holy Trinity Parish on the Berea, and Fr Massimo Biancalani's 40th Anniversary celebrated at Star of the Sea Parish in Amanzimtoti.



Well done good and faithful servants!

(From left: Fr. Brian Southward; Fr. Pierre Lavoipierre; Fr. Isaac Khanyile; His Grace, Archbishop Mandla Jwara CMM and Fr. Massimo Biancalani)

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

I wish all of the very best to each of our Catholic schools as they close for the 4th Term and prepare themselves for the new academic year in 2025. May staff and students who have worked so hard this year find good rest during this holiday time.

Deserving a special mention, may all our matric pupils be safe these holidays in their celebrations, and with the start of their new lives outside of our schools may they each aspire to contributing positively to our society with the very best of what Catholic Education has given them.

Good luck with your results boys and girls, make us proud!!

CONDOLENCES

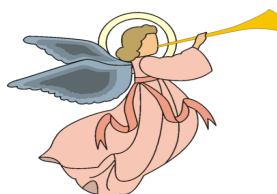
Our heartfelt condolences go out to the following members of the clergy:

- Fr Zakhele Ndlovu on the loss of his mother.
- Fr Mndeni Hadebe on the loss of his mother.
- Fr Zibonele Ngubane OMI on the loss of his mother.
- Fr Mhlengi Ngcobo on the loss of his mother.
- Rev. Dc. Stephen Mbele on the loss of his wife.

May all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in eternal peace.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S BLESSING

Finally, may I take this opportunity once more to wish each and every one of you, priest and parishioners, a most Merry, most Blessed, and most Holy Christmas Season as well as a very Happy New Year ahead.



CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

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|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Fr. Nkosinathi Ngcobo | Parish Priest | St. James – Lamontville |
| 2. Fr. Lamulumndeni Memela OMI | Parish Priest | St. Vincent – Kwa Mpumuza |
| 3. Fr. Peter Otieno CMM | Assistant Priest | Bellair-Queensburgh |
| 4. Fr. Sunday Onwuegbuchulam Sac | Assistant Priest | St. Paul - Mbava |

SPECIAL APPOINTMENT

It is my pleasure to announce that Fr Julian Davey, current Chancellor and parish priest of St Anthony's Parish in Durban, has been appointed official spokesperson for the archdiocese. I thank him for his willingness to serve in this capacity and ask that we all keep him in our prayers as he takes up this important responsibility.

+ Siegfried Mandla Jwara CMM
Archbishop of Durban



ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN
ISIFUNDASHISHOSHI SASETHEKWINI

ADVENT APPEAL

Family does what it can...

Umndeni wenza lokho okusemandleni...

Dear Fathers

The Advent Appeal lasts from the 1st of December through to the 24th of December.

The Advent Appeal is the only one of the yearly Special Collections in the Archdiocese of Durban where the totality of the monies collected from each parish community and institution directly and exclusively contribute to the ongoing needs of the Archdiocese, traditionally in the areas of the sick priests' fund and seminarians formation.

This makes the Advent Appeal a very important collection to be actively promoted at every level in parish communities, so that the Archdiocese as a whole may benefit from the generosity of the faithful in its continued care of both the priests of the past, and those of the future.

Advent Appeal materials which have been distributed should not be considered the only source of marketing for this collection. They are a passive yearly tool to meant to complement the active efforts at parish level to promote the Appeal and conscientise the faithful to the very real needs of the Archdiocese.

The success of the Advent Appeal is the success of the Archdiocese, and it reflects in a concrete way the love, care, and support each individual parishioner and parish can offer to the benefit of all.

Thank you for your support to this important Appeal.

I wish you a most blessed Advent Season, and a most fruitful Special Collection!

Rev. Father David Houbert

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL & STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Sixteen PPC and Stewardship training sessions were conducted across six deaneries (PMB & Vulindlela, Durban South, Durban Central & North, North Coast, Umvoti, and Midlands). Over 220 participants from these deaneries attended the workshops, which focused on Parish Pastoral Councils, Finance Committees, Stewardship Committees, and Deanery Budgets.

CATECHETICAL COMMISSION

From the 2nd – 4th of July, the Catechetical Commission facilitated a retreat for 48 catechists at Tre Fontaine. The objective was to bring coordinators together for spiritual renewal, providing similar input and experiences to both groups. The retreat was conducted by Sr. Anne Mkwanazi, CPS.



- **Deaneries Workshops**

On the 6th of July, Sr. Anne facilitated a workshop for the Durban South and Durban Central & North Deaneries, which was held at St. Anthony's in Durban. The workshop focused on both the formation of catechists and catechism teaching methods. On the 17th of August, another workshop was held, this time including the Durban Central, North, North Coast, and Durban South Deaneries, with good attendance.

- **Pietermaritzburg & Vulindlela Deanery**

In July and August 2024, a similar workshop was conducted in the Pietermaritzburg & Vulindlela Deanery at St. Mary's Parish. There was a good response from the catechists. The workshop covered catechists' input and catechism teaching methods. Fr. Emmanuel Ndlovu also provided input in both workshops.



- **The Annual Festival**

On the 7th of September, the Catechetical Commission celebrated its Annual Festival at Holy Family College. Presenters covered various topics, including Life Teen, RCIA, RCIC, and the Gift programme. The event saw the participation of approximately 600 catechists from across the Archdiocese. The festival concluded with a Eucharistic celebration led by His Grace, Archbishop Mandla Jwara CMM.



Training Teams & Deanery Coordinators Meeting

On the 21st of September 2024, a meeting was held at Denis Hurley Centre for the training teams from the English and IsiZulu communities. The meeting addressed the issues and challenges faced by trainers in the deaneries and parishes. There was a call for more training to increase the number of trainers. Additionally, there was a request to train catechists for RCIA, Good Shepherd, and SPRED catechesis.

REFUGEE PASTORAL CARE

Celebration of Mandela Day – 18th July

As part of our Mandela Day celebration, The RPC team, not only provided food hampers to 30 vulnerable refugee families but also took time to speak to each beneficiary for 67 minutes. This gesture, symbolic of Nelson Mandela's 67 years of public service, allowed us to engage personally with everyone, listen to their challenges, and offer emotional support. These meaningful conversations were an opportunity to connect, share stories, and understand the unique struggles faced by each refugee family.



Assistance with renewal of documents- (on-going)

The project's significance is clear from its inception, having sent out **20,510 applications** for document renewals and received **10,480 responses**. These figures highlight its crucial role in helping vulnerable individuals with essential administrative tasks for legal recognition and access to services.

- **Participation in the SACBC training at Lumko (19th to 22nd August 2024)**

The Refugee Pastoral Care (RPC) sent a representative to participate in the South African Catholic Bishops Conference (SACBC) training on "Migrants, Refugees, and Human Trafficking," which took place at Lumko Institute. The training focused on equipping attendees with vital knowledge and practical skills to effectively address the challenges faced by migrants and refugees in South Africa, particularly concerning the alarming issue of human trafficking.

- **Heritage Day Celebration: 25th September 2024**



The Refugee Pastoral Care hosted and celebrated Heritage Day, an event sponsored by CORMSA. This activity had a profound impact on the community, fostering a sense of belonging and unity among diverse cultural groups. It provided a welcoming environment for participants to share their traditions and stories.

- **Completion of CWS project and receipt of donation from them**

30th September 2024 - The Refugee Pastoral Care (RPC) recently completed a project funded by the Church World Service (CWS), which culminated in a generous donation of essential resources, including office equipment, stationery, and laptops. This donation is pivotal for enhancing RPC's operational capacity and service delivery to the vulnerable migrant population.

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MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE COMMISSION

- Mr. Thabani Mzolo, the Coordinator of Marriage & Family Life Commission has compiled a handbook for Catholic Couples to be used for Marriage Enrichment Retreats.

- On July 27th, the Marriage and Family Life Commission organized and facilitated a Gender-Based Violence workshop at St. Joseph's Cathedral Hall in Mariannhill. Fathers Sbu Mkhize and Simosakhe Gumede played a pivotal role in the facilitation of the workshop.



1. Retrouvaille and Marriage & Family Life Commission facilitated a weekend retreat at Tre Fontaine in Mariannhill Diocese on the 2nd to 4th of August. It was well attended, and Fr Marcel Kazadi CSSp facilitated the retreat.
2. The commission hosted and facilitated a well-attended weekend retreat for Catholic Engaged Encounter from 16 to 18 August 2024. This retreat was also facilitated by the Chaplain, Fr. Marcel Kazadi CSSp.
3. On Saturday, 17 August, the commission visited The Good Shepherd Parish in Phoenix, where approximately 40 parishioners attended. The training was very successful, and we received positive feedback. The workshop was led by Thabani and Mondy Mzolo, along with Adrian and Yvette Joubert. The focal points of the workshop were Gender-Based Violence and Marriage & Family Life.
4. On 14 December, the Marriage and Family Life Commission will host a Marriage Enrichment Retreat at St. Joseph's Parish, located at 212 Florida Road, Morningside. The contact persons are Archbishop Zolile Mpambani and Mr. & Mrs. Ngcobo (Marriage Encounter).

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CARITAS DURBAN COMMISSION

- **Healing of Memories Workshop**

In September, Caritas participated in the Healing of Memories Workshop from the 13th to the 15th. This was a valuable opportunity to be part of a healing process, which allowed participants to reflect on their experiences, find peace, and begin emotional recovery. The workshop offered an important space for growth and personal healing, which is essential for building a stronger and more resilient community.



- **Mgence Family**

We recently visited the Mgence family to check on their well-being. As a church, we are dedicated to supporting and caring for them, ensuring they receive the necessary assistance. We have been helping with the process of getting electricity connected to their home, and we are hopeful that the final implementation will be completed soon.

- **Non – Profit Organization Certificate**

We are delighted to announce that Caritas Durban has officially received its Non-Profit Organization (NPO) status. This new status enables us to fundraise more effectively and expand our efforts in supporting those in need in even more meaningful ways.

JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION

Justice and Peace Commission had organised one workshop on Peace Building and Reconciliation that was funded by Ikhwezi Foundation and facilitated other workshops with the help of funding from the Archdiocese of Freiburg in Germany.



The workshops were conducted in partnership between our Archdiocese and the Archdiocese of Freiburg in Germany, with a focus on conflict mitigation and peacebuilding. Over 250 participants attended these workshops. In September, the Justice and Peace Coordinator visited Albini Mission in Ntshongweni and St. Theresa Parish in Inchanga.



DIARY

13 December	13h00	Chancery closes	
14 December	08h00	Marriage Enrichment Session	St. Joseph's – M/Side
05 January	10h00	Jubilee Year Opening Mass	Emmanuel Cathedral
06 January	08h00	Chancery re-opens	
08 – 09 January	09h30	Seminarians Commission & Interviews	
10 January	10h00	Caritas meetings	Chancery
18 January		Diocesan Catechists Mass & Commissioning	
19 January	10h00	Confirmation	KwaKristo uMsindisi
21 – 28 January		S.A.C.B.C. Plenary Session	