



CATHOLIC NEWS BULLETIN
ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

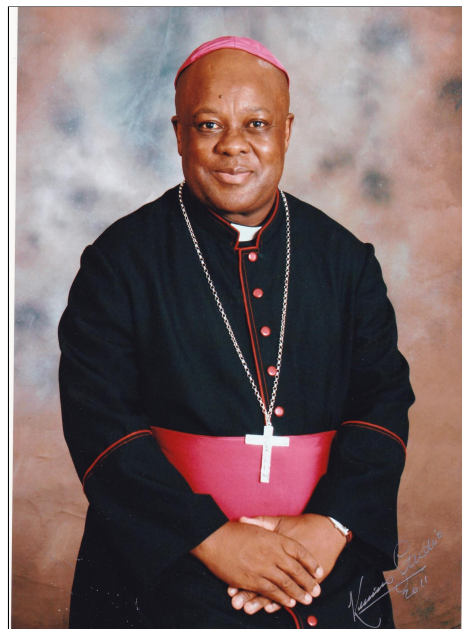


TRIBUTE TO ARCHBISHOP ABEL GABUZA

(Bishop Graham Rose)

It is with real sadness – and still a sense of disbelief – that I write this tribute to Archbishop Abel, not, as expected, to congratulate him on the formal commencement of his work as the Archbishop of Durban, but for his farewell. Just as he was on the threshold of taking over the reins as Archbishop, he has been taken from us. It be hard to understand the ways of the Lord. prayed that he would be restored to full so take on the responsibility that lay before was not to be.

And so, we join in prayer for Archbishop alongside the surviving members of his sister Hildegarde, his brother Lawrence and his cousin and long-time friend; we stand Cardinal and the Clergy and People of the Archdiocese who have lost the great promise brought with him. We know well that Abel is mourned by many more – back in his Archdiocese of Pretoria, and in Kimberley eight challenging years he cut his teeth as a The loss of Archbishop Abel is felt keenly by his fellow Bishops in the SACBC region, and I write on behalf of these his brother bishops.



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Recently the Bishops shared a formal picture of some of the Seminarians at St John Vianney Seminary. Both Abel and I were in the photograph taken in 1980. May I begin then with some personal memories. Abel was ordained in 1984 just four years after me. I recall his room was just a few doors down from mine on what we called the Riviera – the north-facing corridor that looked out over the Union Buildings. I have very vivid memories of Abel: firstly, as a good man. He was at first, quiet and introverted but behind that I was to discover both a gentleness and a strength. In time I came to know him as a man of integrity and of deep faith. I became more aware of his quiet determination and his strength.

And indeed, he grew from strength to strength: his years in Pretoria (eventually as Vicar General); his time at Berkeley in the USA; and surely his time as Bishop in Kimberley – these

years all served to build the strength of this quiet man from Alexandra in greater Johannesburg. Some years back on a visit to my old school in Kimberley, I phoned Abel and asked if I could stay a few nights at the Bishop's residence in Kimberley. I shall never forget a particular conversation in which I saw with crystal clarity Abel's maturity and strength of character.

Abel brought a lot to the Conference even as the Conference brought the very best out of him. Looking back, I suspect that he might speak much of his years when he headed up the Department of Justice & Peace. That was a good and rich association. And surely his performance in that ministry raised his profile at the Conference. And so, when Durban was looking for a Coadjutor Archbishop, it was no surprise to learn later that he had been high on the list of candidates.

We will surely all remember Abel's installation as the new Coadjutor Archbishop on 10 February 2019. For me, two memories stand out clearly. I remember him describing himself as a man who believed in the gifts and talents of others and, as he said, he believed in bringing the "best" out of others. He also spoke movingly and convincingly of the fact that the Church was his life. It was a simple and deeply beautiful truth that revealed the core of this man of God. He had lived by these truths as a Priest and this had borne fruit in his Episcopacy. As the 'Coadjutor' prefix was about to be dropped, we looked with much anticipation to the further maturing of these fruits. They held such promise both for the Conference and the Province of Durban.

One could go on... bear with me as I finish with two further memories! The first takes us back to an incident that occurred on our last *ad limina* meeting in Rome, way back in 2014. We had been invited for supper to the English Beda College. After the evening meal we all went upstairs where we enjoyed a quiet drink together. I shall never forget how the initially introverted Abel came alive – I loved to tease him about this and to recall his newly discovered extroversion! Beneath his initially quiet exterior there was a great warmth and vitality – Abel had a lovely sense of humour! What wonderfully human riches this man carried both within and in the Community of the Church. We on the Bishops' Conference will miss that; we shall all miss that.

I cannot finish without paying deep tribute to Archbishop Abel's mother. Bishop Peter Holiday phoned me last Sunday night to speak of his shock at hearing of Abel's death earlier that day. He recalled how Abel had once said that it really was his mother who should have been ordained and not him. (I can only presume he was anticipating Pope Francis and was referring prophetically to the ministries of Acolyte and Lector?!) I too had the privilege of hearing Abel speak with deepest love and gratitude of the great faith of his Mother. That had shaped him and marked him out as a true Man of God – Deacon, Priest and Bishop. He knew how much he owed his mother – he is able now to tell her more than ever before.

Hildegarde, Khomotso, Brothers and Sisters, all of us the friends and Companions of Archbishop Able, let us be consoled that our brother whose humanity graced us so richly while here on earth, is now free and glorified! He lived a life of great fidelity to the Lord and to his Church, he is alive as never before in the Kingdom of God.

The mist of disbelief will be burnt away by the noonday sun – the reality of his death, but the sadness will remain on into the evening of our lives – the Lord’s ways are surely not ours. “Why O Lord, why now?” we will often ask. Was it not St Therese of Lisieux who on her deathbed spoke of her work only beginning when she arrives in heaven? Archbishop Abel, alive in the Lord, welcomed so warmly into the Communion of Saints, pray for us.

And let us be confident that he will join us powerfully in praying for the Church especially here in his own Metropolitan Archdiocese and indeed in the whole SACBC region. The loss of Archbishop Abel is a big blow to us at a very vulnerable time, we hope in his prayers, prayed in the Heart of his and our Lord.

Bishop Graham Rose

Diocese of Dundee

22.01.2021

Words of appreciation for Archbishop Abel Gabuza

If ever I learned something of deep significance it was why no one expects the surviving spouse to deliver a Eulogy at the burial of the loved one! There is simply too much that has been experienced at an unspoken level, and that is not easily expressed. Some things are deeper than words can express!

In many ways I find myself limited in what I can say. Although I had been close to Archbishop Abel for a short 2 years I grew to know and appreciate a great deal about him. Because he was quiet and introverted one did not feel the need to keep affirming him. Indeed the best way to affirm him was simply to let him be himself, deep, reflective, warm and exceptionally caring.

Even those Church Leaders who had very little exposure to him, were almost immediately taken in by his passion for justice, his care for the underdog, his generosity in giving of himself and whatever he had to give! “Take this for the Napier Centre. I do not need it!” Was something I heard after almost every function he had attended and had received a gift of appreciation!

But of course, the gift that he gave most willingly and freely was the gift of himself. At times he seemed intimidated by the challenge that is Durban, but he never shied away from any task or responsibility especially if it involved care for the widow, the orphan and the stranger!

Thank you, Archbishop Abel, God bless you and give you eternal rest!

+ Wilfrid Cardinal Napier OFM

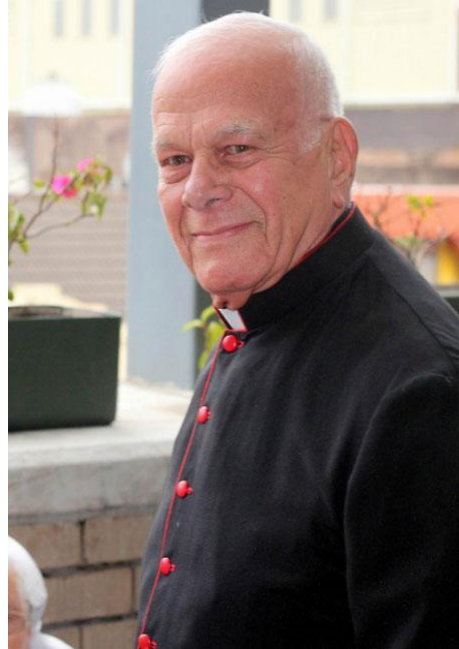
Archbishop of Durban

A TRIBUTE TO MONSIGNOR PAUL NADAL

Today many of us share the feeling which overshadowed the Archdiocese some 17 years ago when about this same time of the year we laid to rest Archbishop Denis Hurley OMI. He had been our life for so long that it was difficult to imagine life without him.

Today nearly two decades later as we celebrate Requiem Mass, it is to give thanks to God rather than to mourn the passing of Monsignor Paul. There is so much gratitude that we have to thank God for, that a sense of by far outweighs any sense of loss.

Personally, I give thanks to God for the graciousness with which Monsignor Paul accepted to continue as Vicar General when requested to do so on my transfer from Kokstad.



Secondly, I thank God that he equally graciously took up a pastoral assignment when the Archdiocese was desperately short of priests to take care of our parishes. That is how he came to spend a good number of years at All Saints Parish, Ballito building up that parish as the first resident parish priest.

Lastly, I thank God for Monsignor's honesty and frankness in approaching me to say:
"Archbishop, the situation has changed for the better, I have given pastoral work in the parish my best shot, now I humbly ask to be allowed to return to my first love, which is teaching."

Thank you, Monsignor Paul. And may the good Lord bless you with eternal life for your service to him and his Church as a good and faithful servant. Rest in Peace!

+ Wilfrid Cardinal Napier OFM

Remembering Monsignor Paul Nadal 1932 - 2021

Monsignor Paul died peacefully at his home on Thursday 21 January 2021 after a short battle with COVID-19.

The Monsignor was the most senior Diocesan Priest in the Archdiocese; we celebrated with joy his 60th anniversary of Priesthood at the Parish of St Joseph in December 2019.

Born on 14 June 1932, Monsignor Paul was 89 years of age at the time of his passing. He had lived an extremely active life on all fronts. Highly gifted intellectually, he reached the pinnacle of his academic career in 1976, obtaining a Doctorate of Philosophy from, as it was known then, the University of Natal. He completed six Comrades marathons and ventured down to the Cape to compete in the Argus Cycle race on more than one occasion. Monsignor was a fun loving man who could take on most on the dance floor, much to the delight of the many Catholic Christians who witnessed his agility over the years. He enjoyed an active social life and invested great energy and time into sound friendships, some of which dated back to his school days at Marist Brothers with others extending to brother Priests to who he grew close over the years.

He studied at St John Vianney Seminary in Pretoria and was ordained by Archbishop Denis Hurley on 8 December 1959. He served as a Parish Priest at Oakford, St Philomena's and St Paul's Greyville; was the National Secretary of the Catechetical Commission of the SACBC, National Chaplain to Universities and Director of Khanyisa Pastoral and Catechetical Centre, Mariannhill (1976-83). In 1983 Archbishop Hurley appointed him Vicar General, a position he held until 1994. Thereafter, Monsignor Nadal worked as a lecturer at St Joseph's Theological Institute, Cedara for 13 years and also served as the Episcopal Vicar for Formation in 2006. In his latter years, he worked tirelessly for the Denis Hurley Centre and embarked on several fund raising efforts for it.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Monsignor Paul's family and friends spread throughout the world.

On behalf of the priests, deacons and lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Durban, we commend his soul to the hands of God and pray that he may enjoy eternal rest.

To all we express sincere thanks for the many prayers offered up on behalf of Monsignor Paul. May he rest in peace!

CARDINAL'S CORNER

As we start the New Year 2021, it is clear that it is going to be a year like no other year. On the positive side it will not be as bad as 2020 because we have become somewhat used to living with uncertainty. In a sense we have become accustomed to having to change not so much our plans for the future, as the things that were normal for us as recently as last week!

One lesson that I find myself focusing on quite often is what I learned when I first went to Ireland in August 1960 to join the Franciscans. It was something that caught my attention very quickly and led me to understand something of the faith and character of the Irish people.

At first it sounded strange, but as I learned more and more of the history of Ireland I began to understand it better. Whenever the Irish say something like "I will see you next week!" they automatically add "Please God!" The other side of the coin was that whenever the Irish report a

good or pleasant experience they will invariably add: “Thanks Be to God!” At first I thought it might have had to do with the religiosity of the Irish Catholics as such. Later I thought it might have had to do with their independence struggle which began in earnest with the uprising at Easter in 1916.

Later I was introduced to the deeper history of the Irish and came to realize that in fact it went back to the time of Oliver Cromwell, a particularly cruel and blood thirsty individual, who led the vicious, persecution of Catholics in Ireland after Henry VIII broke away from Rome and triggered the persecution of Catholics who remained faithful.

Clearly, generation after generation had lived through the unpredictability of centuries of persecution and oppression, at the hands of people who often treated the Irish as less than human. The years of experience had imprinted deeply and even indelibly on the Irish psyche the truth that with the extreme uncertainty of what life held from one day to the next, you had no choice but to leave things in God’s hands, and instinctively invoke his name and influence whenever you were talking about the future, a future you had no power over.

As Covid-19 continues to dominate our daily reality in almost every aspect of life, I am getting more and more conscious of the need to refer everything in the future to the providence of God. So, even though I am not saying it every time I refer to the future I find myself remembering that in fact only God knows whether what I am planning is actually going to happen or whether Covid-19 is going to decide otherwise.

It is, therefore, ironic that the pandemic is actually driving some people further away from God, rather than closer to Him. Perhaps it is a sign that the fragility of life in an age of Covid-19 is more than real. It maybe that their mind and feelings are not yet registering the new reality!

On the positive side I witnessed something over the week end that raised my spirit monumentally. I was visiting a family that has 4 children ranging in age from 13 years to 7 years. After supper the chatter continued until just before 8pm. Then I noticed everyone gathering in the lounge in front of a laptop. Next I began to recognize the faces and voices of siblings and their families in different parts of the country and indeed of the world! The family was connecting up via Zoom to pray the Family Rosary together. One head of family took charge of proceedings, beginning with the allocation of each decade to a different family.

Gradually the banter and chatter was transformed into the quiet and rhythmic repetition of the Hail Mary! In no time at all I was transported to my own childhood. The transport became even more real when one by one the little ones rolled up and fell asleep! Covid-19 was teaching a very strong lesson – the domestic Church is where the faith has to be rebuilt and strengthened; and that is going to be done not so much by catechism lessons from a book, as by the example of parents and older family members actually living their faith together.

A greater surprise was in store. As I discussed with the family what I had experienced, I learned that the prayer routine of the family included a daily prayer break at 3pm every afternoon. This was to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet as a family. A further surprise was to learn that the Divine

Mercy was preferred to the Rosary because it is different and it is shorter! Third surprise, when parents are not home, the children gather for the 3pm prayer assignment on their own.

I write this with a certain sense of satisfaction because even though what this family is doing does not flow from what I have focused on during the lock down, namely the crucial role of the Family as the Domestic Church. I am even daring to say that if more families were to take up this practice we will have found the answer to the scourge of domestic violence which has become a pandemic of its own during the Covid-19 lockdown.

My dream is that as we come out of the “oppression of Covid-19” we too will have developed little prayer habits and expressions of faith that will help us to keep acknowledging the presence and closeness of God in our day to day life.

God bless you.

+Wilfrid Cardinal Napier O.F.M.
Archbishop of Durban

MESSAGE FOR LENT 2021

“Who knows if he will not turn again, will not relent, will not leave a blessing as he passes?”

Introduction

One of the great gifts that God gives us at key moments in our life, is often contained in a special word that he has for us: Today I invite you to reflect on the words of the prophet Joel who was writing for a people that also found itself in the midst of very difficult circumstances.

Notice that instead of comforting them with promises that things are going to get better, Joel goes straight to the point: you have to make things get better by making yourselves better in regard to your standing and relationship with God!

He begins with God’s words of invitation: “Come back to me with all your heart!” Is he saying things are going badly because of what his people have done; because of the way of life that they are living?

Not really! Or not principally! What Joel is doing is challenging us to think positively as we work out how to get out of our distressing situation! He certainly gives us no reason or opportunity to focus on who is to blame for our misery! Rather he pushes us to take the steps that will free us from being blamed. In fact he leads us to blame ourselves even as we take the steps to put matters right:

Sound the trumpet – make a public call:
Order a fast; proclaim a solemn assembly

bring everyone together in a common effort
to come together with their God!
This is a solemn and supreme act of faith in God.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As you read the words of Joel I am
will very easily make the connection
Corona virus and what it is doing to
What might be a little more difficult to
because the effects are not as visible as
the Covid-19 pandemic, is to see that
spiritual life, sin is doing exactly the
Like Covid-19 in its advanced stages it
starving our souls of the oxygen of
which enables us to be and to live as
and likeness of God! Sin is choking
of God out of our lives! Sin is cutting
from those who love and treasure us in
way as Covid-19 is doing.

Take advantage of this time of Lent to
and test yourself using the same means
used himself, before telling us to do
He challenges us to give alms as a sign
solidarity with those who are in need!

us to purify our motives and reasons for praying as well as to improve the methods or ways that
we pray.

And finally he invites us to do something that demands a physical effort on our part. When you
fast, make sure it does not become a showpiece, but rather like your praying and alms giving, it is
something you do in order to be reconciled with God and with all your brothers and sisters.

Remember Joel's final words: "The Lord took pity on his people!" and apply them to your life
this Lent.

+ Wilfrid Cardinal Napier OFM

Sacrificium

Lent: A time for renewing faith, hope and love



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20 March 2021

Mariannhill Retreat House

For more information contact the Police Chaplain

072 613 4232 or email: mondisedave@gmail.com



JOB OPENING

SCRIPTURE PRESENTER

Suitably qualified persons are invited to fill the position of Scripture Presenter that has arisen at Catholic Bible Foundation's Mariannhill Office.

Requirements:

- o Practising Catholic;
- o Sound knowledge and love of Scripture;
- o Excellent verbal and written communication skills, including editing and presenting
- o Ability and experience facilitating retreats and working with school pupils of all ages, the religious and laity
- o Proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office;
- o Must be able to work some weekends, evenings and travel when necessary
- o Open to and willing to learn;
- o Ability to work without supervision;
- o Must be bi-lingual and proficient in spoken and written English and Zulu. Ability to speak and write more languages is an added advantage;
- o Age appropriate applicants – not over 55 years of age;
- o A valid and clean driver's licence.

Documents required:

- o Academic record/certificates
- o Letter of application
- o Letter of recommendation from your Parish Priest
- o Curriculum Vitae – not more than 3 pages with only relevant and traceable references

If you meet these requirements, submit your application no later than **26th February 2021** to mediatrix@catholicbible.org.za

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Canvassing will disqualify applicants.

DIOCESAN DIARY

March 2021

1	Chancery Meeting
2	Metropolitan Bishops
4	College of Consultors
11	Caritas Durban Executive
12	Ntshongweni Pilgrimage Committee
13	DPC Finance (postponed until further notice)
15	Finance Board
23	Liturgy Commission
25	Napier Centre 4 Healing
31	Chrism Mass