



CATHOLIC NEWS BULLETIN

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

MARCH 2021

CARDINAL'S CORNER

Just about a year ago our country began to learn about Covid-19, that it was a Coronavirus, so called because of its cellular structure which resembled a crown. It originated in Wuhan in China and spread very quickly to northern Italy where there was a large colony of Chinese working in factories around the cities of Milan and Bergamo. These cities are not far from the ski slopes on the Italian Alps. It was from contacts at these ski resorts that the first South African contracted the Coronavirus and brought it back to Hilton near Pietermaritzburg. As they say the rest is history.

First the declaration of a State of Disaster, then the various safety protocols were worked out and imposed. Next was learning how to cope with a “hard” lockdown at alert level 5; there followed lockdowns at all the levels down to level 1. For a while we dreamed of coming out of the State of Disaster and returning to normal. Only to discover normal is not going to happen any time soon. Instead we are relying on a Vaccination Campaign to stave off the 3rd wave and hopefully begin to bring some kind of normality within our grasp.

As Christians we suffered the most unusual fate the rest of Lent, all of Easter were simply wiped out; Easter Season saw more and more people turning to live streaming to connect with fellow believers for the celebration of Holy Mass, all kinds of prayers and devotions. Many homes became for the first time real domestic Churches with mother and fathers acting out their “priestly” role of leading their families in living their faith in a new but also very real way! The priesthood of the laity began to have a real meaning.

Working parents began also to work from home; others made their homes into classrooms as Home Schooling took over during the hard lockdowns and subsequently.

Up to the Present

As far as we can foresee Easter should take place as a lived experience this year, provided the expected 3rd wave comes when it is scheduled late May/June. This also depends on how we as individuals, families, communities and a nation conduct ourselves in regard to observing safety protocols, the effectiveness of the vaccines and hopefully the virus running out of strains to mutate into!

Let's prepare to celebrate Easter

In recent weeks 2 sets of leaders in the Archdiocese have had very important meetings – the College of Consultors and the Liturgy Commission. These meetings focused on celebrating Holy Week and Easter under level 3 lockdown conditions. Many of these are going to demand a great

deal of discipline – self discipline in particular, of good judgement and prudence; but most of all a spirit of sacrifice for the sake of others.

Launch of Pastoral Plan

During the Chrism Mass there will be a special ceremony to mark the Launch of the Pastoral Plan. The programme will include a Commitment by the Deaneries present; a commitment by Priests present. The joint recitation of the Prayer for the Pastoral Plan (Same programme is to be followed when launching the Pastoral Plan in the Deaneries and the Parishes).

Holy Thursday

- Reception of Holy Oils
- Washing of the feet

Because there is to be no bodily contact, celebrant will not physically wash the feet of the 12 representatives – but will pour water over their feet and the parishioners will wipe their own feet. Seating will have to be well thought out, because this symbolic action to fulfil its purpose must be visible; at the same time physical distancing will be observed.

(Parish Liturgy Team will have to plan very carefully)

Transfer of Blessed Sacrament

After Communion, Blessed Sacrament will be placed on the Altar, incensed, then worshipped for 10 to 15 minutes in adoration; then transferred to Altar of repose where there will be no ceremony and no adoration afterwards; Everyone to leave the Church immediately after the Stripping of the Altar.

Good Friday

- No procession to venerate the Cross
- Short version of the Passion to be used
- Cross to be held up high for adoration
 - People kneel in adoration
 - Celebrant alone to kiss the Cross
- Number of Services
 - Up to 3 services may be held but one must be between 3pm-5pm
 - Stations of the Cross may be held but not in conjunction with the Good Friday liturgy.
 - This is to avoid an overly long service.

Easter Vigil and beyond

- Blessing of Fire – only Celebrant and ministers are present
- Shorter form of Exultet to be used
- Liturgy of the Word
 - Total of 4 Readings: Genesis 1; Exodus 4; Rom 6; Gospel Mk 16

Baptism and Reception to Full Communion, Confirmation

Easter Water – prepare water bottles for filling and distribution

Infant Baptism }
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Weddings As currently practised
Funerals

Visits to Housebound

One of the saddest and most traumatising affects of Covid-19 has been the isolation of the Sick and Housebound from visits and reception of the Sacraments, Communion and Anointing of the Sick.

Other Information relevant to Covid-19

Sunday Obligation: Dispensation from Sunday obligation remains in force.

This brings me to the end of a rather long update and outline of what lies ahead for Easter and beyond. I thank you for your attention and wishing you a very happy and fruitful Easter 2021.

God bless

+ Wilfrid Cardinal Napier OFM

APPOINTMENT OF VICAR GENERAL

Congratulations and sincere thanks to Fr Elias Zondi who has accepted appointment as Vicar General of the Archdiocese with effect from today, 1 April 2021.

May God bless and strengthen him.

+ Wilfrid Cardinal Napier OFM

CONFIRMATIONS – APRIL AND MAY 2021

APRIL	09	Westville	18h00	Cardinal
	10	Berea	17h30	Cardinal
	11	Montebello	09h00	Cardinal
	16	Virginia	18h00	Cardinal
	18	Kwa Mashu (OLL)	09h00	Cardinal
	25	Clermont	08h00	Fr Zithulele Mkhize
	25	Pmb. St Mary's	08h00	Cardinal
	25	Pmb. Woodlands	08h00	
MAY	02	Kwa Mpumuza	10h00	Cardinal

	02	Pmb. St Anthony's	08h00	
	09	Wentworth	09h00	Cardinal
	09	Wentworth	17h00	Cardinal
	16	Ntshongweni	10h00	
	16	Wentworth	09h00	Cardinal
	16	Wentworth	17h00	Cardinal
	23	Newlands East	10h00	Cardinal

Cardinal Napier is 80!

Cardinal Napier celebrated his 80th birthday on 8 March 2021 in Durban. This was very different from his 75th birthday, which was a day-long celebration with hundreds of people joining in the song and dance party/concert at Holy Family College!

This time he had a quiet tea with the staff of the Diocesan Chancery, sitting outside and keeping safe distances. A beautiful (and delicious) cake was cut and the staff sang “Happy Birthday” led by Fr Brett Williams. Fortunately it was a typical hot Durban morning! So being outdoors was just great!

Of a family of two sisters and four brothers, Cardinal Napier was born in 1941 in Matatiele, where he began school in 1948 at Holy Cross Primary, but transferred to Little Flower High school in Ixopo for Std. 6 in 1955, where he matriculated in 1959.

He has recently celebrated his Golden Jubilee of ordination to the priesthood – an even quieter celebration during lockdown level 5. He has been Archbishop of the Durban diocese since 1992 and was created Cardinal by Pope John-Paul II in February 2001.

It is usual for a Bishop to retire from active Episcopal ministry at 75yrs and a Cardinal from Vatican offices at 80yrs, but the immediate future for Cardinal Napier is unsure for two reasons. First the sad death from Covid-19 of Archbishop Abel Gaba who was set to succeed him this year, and second his appointment as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Eshowe. Now the Cardinal remains at the head of the Durban Archdiocese until a successor is appointed.

Cardinal Napier is greatly admired for his vast knowledge and expertise in Church leadership. He is a true “servant-leader”. He listens carefully and always makes time to deal with matters needing his attention. He is fit, healthy and prepared to remain in Durban as long as his services are required.

We are truly blessed to have such a dedicated and experienced Archbishop in Durban.

Dawn Haynes

DIOCESAN DIARY

April 2021

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| 1 | Chrism Mass Cathedral |
| 2 | Diakonia Good Friday Service |
| 3 | Easter Vigil, Cathedral |
| 4 | Easter Sunday Mass Cathedral (Zulu) |
| 6 | Chancery Meeting |
| 8 | Refugee Solidarity Meeting |
| 9 | Building Committee |
| 10 | Napier Centre 4 Healing |
| 12 | Diaconate Board |
| 13 | Napier Centre 4 Healing Virtual Fundraiser |
| 16 | Farewell for Lionel Samuel, St Anthony's School |
| | VAT Audit Committee |
| 26 | Finance Board |
| 27 | OMI Ordinations to Priesthood |
| 30 | Ntshongweni Virtual Meeting |