



CATHOLIC NEWS BULLETIN

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

MAY 2021



CARDINAL'S CORNER

Dear Fathers, Dear Brothers and Dear Sisters,

We have now been under Lockdown for 430 days. Many things have changed quite radically. I will not repeat the litany of bad things that have happened, from loss of life, loss of loved ones, loss of employment, loss of livelihood, to loss of faith, loss of hope and sadly loss of love, which manifested themselves in heightened tension, violence and broken relationships in the home and in the community.

On the positive side, many gifts and graces have been just as much in evidence. If we take the words of St Paul to the Ephesians to heart – “it is more blessed to give than to receive,” there are very many who have been blessed because they gave even from the little they had, to help those who had less or even nothing! I am thinking of those generous hearts who have spent most of this time preparing and serving basic meals to those who were not able to fend for themselves.

Another example is an informal group of Church Leaders in KZN, who were organised into a Steering Committee to respond to Covid-19. These were able to secure and spend an amount of over R12million in food parcels, groceries, toiletries and other necessities. Many parishes have continued with soup kitchens throughout this time. And we are not counting the huge amount of simple “ubuntu” – humanness – that has been shown in so many different ways. Nor can we ignore what you priests and your assistants have done in ministering to God’s people, through your sacrifices, your prayers and the gift of yourself.

As I write the above, I am aware of the call from our Lord and Master that we must continue to take up our cross every day and walk with him. It is pleasing to know that many of you have used the lockdown as an extra spur to do good following the example of Jesus who was aptly described as going about doing good. One of those ways of doing good is to follow the example of the two disciples from Emmaus. They spent a good deal of their journey sharing their problems with “the stranger” who had caught up with them. Then they listened intently to his engaging explanation of the Scriptures, allowing this special time and exercise to affect them to the point where their hearts were on fire. That is not all! They followed their burning hearts and invited “the stranger” to come over and stay with them!

All that took place before “the stranger” agreed to join them at home for a meal and a rest, reminds me of all that has been going on during the lockdown. Like them we have been so

preoccupied with all that is going wrong, that we miss out on the fact that God is aware of what is happening to us, and what is more, he cares deeply!

For that to change we must do as they did, invite “the stranger” to stay with us; not so much as a passing guest, but as someone who is becoming a part of our life.

In order to make sure the lesson would stick; “the stranger” does what normally is done by the master of the house – he takes the bread and breaks it; a clear reminder to them that they must also do the same!

Interestingly, once this supreme act of sharing was accomplished “the stranger” is a stranger no longer. He is Jesus who uses every means to urge us to go back to the Community and bear witness by our words, our actions and our lives that he is alive and that he wants us to be alive in and through him.

It is with these thoughts uppermost in our lives that we must start out every day during this dark night of Covid-19, confident that if we observe all the safeguarding measures, we too will get the upper hand over this debilitating disease, and what is even more important we will grow as disciples of Jesus.

My wish is that everyone keeps well and keeps safe.

God bless and keep you in his love,

+ Wilfrid Cardinal Napier O.F.M.

Archbishop of Durban

APPOINTMENT OF DEANS AND ASSISTANT DEANS

We have pleasure in announcing the appointment of the following Deans and Assistant Deans with effect from 1 June 2021, and we express our sincere thanks for your willingness to accept this additional pastoral responsibility.

DEANERY	DEAN	ASSISTANT
Durban Central and North	Fr Sabelo Mkhize	
Durban South	Fr Sithabiso Sithole OMI	Fr Grant Emmanuel
Highway	Fr Thabani Shoba OMI	Fr Julius Onuoha OSA
Midlands	Fr Bheki Motloung	
North Coast	Fr Simon Offordum SDV	Fr Cyril Xaba
Pietermaritzburg & Vulindlela	Fr Thami Zuma	Fr Emmanuel Ndlovu CMM
Umvoti	Fr Solly van Roos	Fr Serge Lawela

A meeting will take place for all Deans and their Assistants on **Thursday 24 June 2021** in St Joseph’s Parish Hall, Morningside at 09h30.

THE INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS – BUDAPEST 2021 (+ V.H. PHALANA)

The 52nd International Eucharistic Congress will be held in Budapest from 5-12 September 2021. Pope Francis has announced that he will be part of the closing ceremony in Budapest on the 12 September. He will not be part of the Congress as a whole but will come on Sunday for the ceremonial closing Mass, the 'Statio Orbis' which will take place on September 12 in Budapest's Heroes' Square. Heroes' square is the very same place where The International Eucharistic Congress was celebrated in 1938. The Eucharistic Congress was supposed to take place in 2020 but had to be postponed for a year because of the coronavirus pandemic. The theme of this Eucharistic Congress is: *"...all my springs are in you." (Psalms 87:7)*

CARDINAL ERDO'S JOY

Cardinal Péter Erdő is a Hungarian Cardinal of the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church. Cardinal Erdő currently serves as the Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest, and thus Primate of Hungary. His Eminence was excited and grateful that the Holy Father has expressed a desire to be part of this historic event. The Cardinal said: "The congress will take place, there is no doubt about it, even if that has meant planning for a variety of scenarios in response to the health situation. We await the Holy Father as a witness of hope because his presence can give hope after so many months of darkness and the pandemic. We will take up our lives again, renewed thanks to the Spirit: that is the aim of the meeting. We hope we can encounter Christ in a solemn way in Budapest in September."

WHAT IS A EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS?

Eucharistic Congresses are designed to promote devotion to and belief in Jesus Christ truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. In 1967, following the Second Vatican Council, the then Sacred Congregation of Rites wrote, "In Eucharistic Congresses Christians seek to understand this mystery more deeply through a consideration of its many aspects." It emphasized the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, saying that during the Congresses, the faithful "should venerate [this mystery] through devotions and private prayers, especially by solemn processions, in such a way that all these forms of devotion find their climax in the solemn celebration of Mass".

PILGRIMS FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE PROGRAMME

It is my hope that pilgrims from Southern Africa will go in their hundreds, to celebrate this holy event. I attended my first International Eucharistic Congress in Cebu, in the Philippines in 2016. The presence of African pilgrims, with their bright and colourful attires, their songs and dances in the streets of Cebu, filled me with joy. African prelates, priests, religious and laity participated in the programmes of the Congress without fail. They were part of the Morning Prayer (Lauds), Catechesis, Holy Mass and workshops. The programme includes Eucharistic Adoration, Cultural events in the evening, one day for visiting parishes in and around Budapest. On 5th September, the opening ceremony will include First Communion for hundreds of children. On 10th September, there will be a Youth Festival at the local stadium. On 11th September is the Festival for Families at the Margaret Island. In the evening there will be a candlelight procession. On the 12th the Holy Father will come to celebrate the closing Mass.

PREVIOUS CONGRESSES AND THEIR MESSAGES

During the period after the Second Vatican Council, the Eucharistic congresses from Bombay (1964) to Bogotá (1968), from Melbourne (1972) to Philadelphia (1976) and Lourdes (1981) increasingly open up to the joys, pains, hopes and needs of the world, and based on the Eucharist they offer their contribution to the development of a more just and human society.

The universal values of family, peace and freedom, and the need for new evangelization are in the centre of Eucharistic congresses, which range over the world from Nairobi (1985) to Quebec (2008), through exemplary congresses such as Seoul (Korea, 1989), Sevilla (Spain, 1993), Warsaw (Poland, 1997), Rome (2000, Holy Jubilee Year), Guadalajara (Mexico, 2004), Quebec (Canada, 2008), Dublin (Ireland, 2012). At the last congress (Cebu, Philippines, 2016) the connection between the Eucharist and the mission of the Church was strongly highlighted.

A THEOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM

The Eucharistic Congress will be preceded by a Theological Symposium. Some of the great theologians will give some input at the Symposium, including Prof. Antonio Luiz Catelan Ferreira, Prof. Lajos Dolhai, P. Juan Javier Flores Arcas OSB, Prof. Károly Hafenscher, Prof. Helmut Hoping, Prof. Imre Kocsis, S.E.R. Paolo Martinelli OFM and many others. It will be held at St Adalbert in Esztergom from 2-4 September 2021. You need to register for this if you are interested.

PRE-REGISTRATION

When it comes to the International Eucharistic Congress, there is a pre-registration option available on the website (www.iec2021.hu). Our travel agents must not hesitate to start organizing pilgrimages towards the International Eucharistic Congress. It is obvious that pilgrims will have to prove that they have been vaccinated against Covid-19. Fortunately, South African citizens do not need a visa for Hungary, but if your pilgrimage will include a visit to the Vatican (Rome) or any other European country, you will require an EU visa.

THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

The SACBC Department of Christian Formation, Liturgy and Culture will guide our Conference area on how we can be part of the special event. The suggestion is that we try and do something on the parish level, to raise the awareness of the faithful about the centrality of the Eucharist in our faith. It is up to each parish to organise its own programmes for kids, youth and adults, around the theme of the Eucharist. It is also important for us to make everyone aware of the fact that this is the Year of the International Eucharistic Congress. A congress that happens every 4 years. It is the desire of the Holy Father that those who can attend this Congress should do so.

Aware of the fact that the majority of the faithful in this part of the world will not be able to attend, we can make sure that the Feast of Corpus Christi this year is given special attention. It is also important that the Religious, seminarians, and all parishes begin to pray for the success of the Congress. The department will surely give us ideas on how we can participate and support this event from where we are. As a delegate of the Bishops' Conference at the Pontifical Committee for International Eucharistic Congresses, it is part of my responsibility to make sure that you are all informed about the Congress and that we find a way of being part of it without

necessarily having to travel to Budapest. It is also my duty to encourage those who can attend the Congress and/or the Symposium to do so. You can go as an individual, a family or as part of a group with fellow pilgrims. Visit the website so that you can be up to date with all the developments.

CAN WE HOST AN INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS?

In one of our Bishops' meeting, we felt that successful parish Eucharistic events, can lead to Diocesan Eucharistic Congresses in a year or two. Successful Diocesan Congresses can lead to a National Eucharistic Congress in the near future. The Bishops' felt that after a successful National Eucharistic Congress, we might consider raising our hand to host an International Eucharistic Congress, but that is still a long way off.

On 16 August 2016, Pope Francis, during the Angelus, said: "the Eucharist is not a private prayer or a beautiful spiritual experience, it is not simply a commemoration of what Jesus did in the Last Supper. Rather, it is a memorial, namely, a gesture that actualizes and makes present the event of the death and resurrection of Jesus: the bread is truly His Body given, the wine is truly His Blood poured out." After this pandemic, let us try to go back to the Eucharistic celebrations, observing all health protocols, and not compromising our faith lived in community. St Paul teaches us in - 1 Corinthians 11:26 - "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes."

DENIS HURLEY CENTRE UPDATE THE DOMINICAN HERITAGE

Archbishop Hurley had a lifelong connection with the Dominican sisters. As a young child, he attended their school in Newcastle (about 340km from Durban); his first Mass when ordained was at the Dominican house in Rome; and he died while driving home from a Mass at the Dominican school in Durban North, Our Lady of Fatima. In fact, it was because of his own positive memories of the teaching nuns, that he invited them to open the school in Durban in 1953. One of the Dominican sisters who was closest to him, Sr Marie-Henry Keane, has been a key supporter in the UK as a Trustee of the Denis Hurley Association.

It was somehow fitting then that the very first school to return to volunteering at the Denis Hurley Centre, since lockdown restrictions have been eased, was Fatima. They are now coming back one Saturday a month, a group of 10 enthusiastic young women willingly giving up their Saturday morning to help feed the homeless. Who knows what the long-term impact on them might be? After all, our Administrator Leanne is a product of Fatima! (Do let us know if you want to bring in a group to help volunteer).

Our director recently made the return visit to Durban North when he was invited to lead a half-day on personal development with Fatima's 70+ teaching and administrative staff. He drew on material from leadership courses that he gave at business schools in South Africa and the USA when director of the Jesuit Institute.

He showed how it is the authenticity of leaders like Denis Hurley that enables them to have such an impact on the world; that is why we try to live out +Hurley's values in our work here. He then

helped the participants to understand better their own values and how to live them authentically even in the busy-ness of school life and family life. (If you would like to invite our Director to give a talk for a school, corporate or faith group, please contact us.)

The session ended with a Mass in honour of the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima celebrated by long-standing supporter of the Denis Hurley Centre, Fr Justin Stirton.

The values of the school are certainly ones that they live by and we hope they see reinforced when they come to the DHC: pursuit of truth, self-discipline, social justice, integrity, respect and loyalty.

DIOCESAN DIARY

June 2021

4	Building Committee Meeting	
5	Installation of new Prioress and Council Twasana	Cardinal
	Ntshongweni Pilgrimage Durban South and Highway	Vicar General
7	Chancery Meeting	
8	Napier Centre 4 Healing virtual Tea Session Fundraiser	Cardinal
	Diakonia Council of Churches	Cardinal
10	KZNCC and SACC Meeting	Cardinal
	Diocesan Commissions Meeting	Vicar General
11	Daughters of Charity Final Vows, Matikwe	Cardinal
	St Anthony's School Feast Day Mass	Vicar General
12	Ntshongweni Pilgrimage Durban Central and North Coast	
13	Confirmation: Tongaat	Cardinal
16	Priestly Ordination of Phindokuhle Miya, Cathedral	
17	DMI Review	
18	Confirmation: Durban North	Cardinal
19	Diaconate Ordinations of Consolata Missionaries, Pmb.	Cardinal
	Ntshongweni Pilgrimage Pietermaritzburg & Vulindlela	Vicar General
20	Confirmation: Mount Edgecombe	Vicar General
24	Meeting of Deans and Assistant Deans, Morningside	
25	Napier Centre 4 Healing Meeting	Cardinal
27	Confirmation: Pmb. Eastwood	Vicar General
26-30	On Leave	Cardinal



NTSHONGWENI PILGRIMAGE UHAMBO LWASE NTSHONGWENI

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29th May 2021 Midlands and Umvoti
05th June 2021 Durban South and Highway
12th June 2021 Durban Central and North Coast
19th June 2021 Pmb and Vullindlela

Time: 7:30am to 4pm

Venue: Albini Catholic Parish, Ntshongweni
Live Streaming Link: To be confirmed later

Theme: Evangelising Community Serving God, Humanity & All Creation
Umphakathi oshumayela ngokusebenzela uNkulunkulu, abantu kanye nendalo yonke.

To attend the Pilgrimage please consult your Parish Priest to register
Thintana noMphriste wakho ukuze ukwazi ukufinyelela eMkhosini waseNtshongweni



ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN
ISIFUNDABHISHOBHI SASETHEKWINI