



Ad Clerum

January 2021

Number 01/21

My dearest brothers and sisters in Christ

God give you His peace and protection in these days of pandemic and sorrow.

As we go into 2021, we could be forgiven for being despondent and downcast. 2020 was a hard year and we lost so many family members, acquaintances and clergy, too. One could say that it was a disastrous year for the Traditional Anglican Church, but the reality is the opposite!

2020, in forcing remote services, allowed your clergy to 'meet' and bond like never before. The remote services held each Sunday were excellent training Masses, and our group of Deacons went from strength to strength in taking leading roles in our acts of worship. Our WhatsApp clergy group kept regular contact, and as a band of Christian brothers, we have emerged stronger than ever. We were able to literally hear each other's voices, and our Masses were a glorious mix of all our languages and music. Each Sunday has been an amazing and uplifting spiritual experience and your clergy have done so very well. They are as fine a group of men of God as you will find anywhere.

We have also been able, through the weekly Service of Spiritual Communion, to reach out into many hundreds of homes throughout lockdown, giving spiritual nourishment and good Christian teaching from diverse clergy across the Diocese. The faithful have been able to 'hear' the voices of clergy they had only vaguely heard of before, Canon Lionel Kuiper, Fr Angelo Ericksen, Fr Mmbofheni Phasha, Fr Godfrey Mathibe, Fr Stephen Smuts and the Vicar General, Fr Augustine Koliti, to name just a few. This service has been used in South America, Canada, Australia and other parts of the world, where people, alone and cut off from the church have been touched by the Southern African TAC. It has been a time of missionary activity!

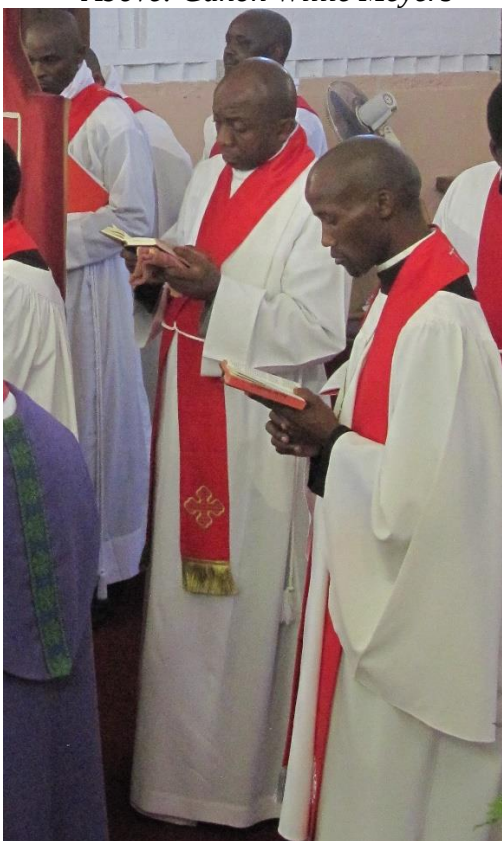
Yes, we have experienced deep sadness as a church. 2020 saw us lose Fr Wonderful Edom, a dynamic Priest in Qwa Qwa, Fr George Dimpane, so experienced and loyal, in Mangaung, Bloemfontein, and Canon Willie Meyers, a pioneer and a visionary Priest in Kimberley. This was followed by the shock of the passing of the Gauteng Regional Dean, Canon Martin Magoleng, another victim of Covid-19, on 3rd January. He was a strong and visionary leader, and his Region flourished under his care. Canons Meyers and Magoleng were also notable in that they raised up many men for ministry – they will be sorely missed. Our hearts are filled with sorrow and we share the grief of their families, but we also rejoice that they are with their Lord, safe and secure, and will receive a crown of glory for their dedication and blessed lives as Priests of the Most High God!



Above: Canon Willie Meyers



Above: Fr George Dimpane in his chapel



Above: Fr Wonderful Edom



Canon Martin Magoleng

Alay the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercies of God, Rest in Peace

And so...do we lose hope? Are we to let our hands hang down?

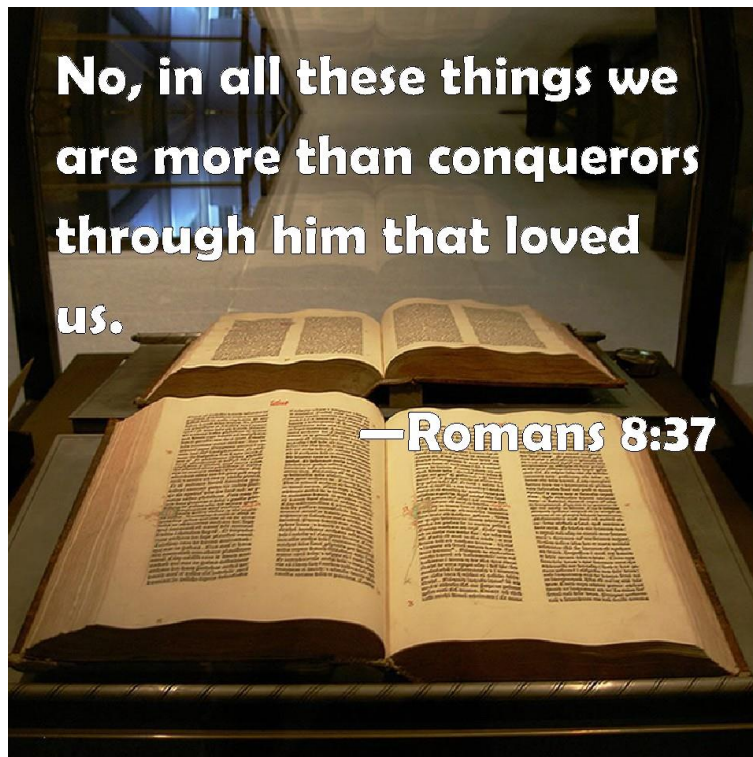
The Church of God is an eternal institution...and all the shocks and storms of life will never prevail against her. She is the Bride of Christ, precious in His sight, and His special possession. He has a vision for His church, and all we need to do is listen, understand and then, press forward with total trust and belief in His purposes.

Often, the passing away of a strong man of God leads to movement in the church, and we have lost four! Would Canon Meyers, Fr Dimpane, Fr Edom or Canon Magoleng be proud of a church that became sorrowful and defeated? Is that what they worked so hard to achieve?

No...they would expect to see a church that moves steadily and prayerfully forward...always seeking excellence in the service of Jesus Christ their Saviour and always endeavouring to serve His people with diligence and faithfulness. They would expect us to rejoice with them in that they are now united with their Saviour in heaven and join the multitude of Angels and Saints who pray constantly for the church militant below. They would be (and are) expecting great things from us who remain, and we shall not disappoint them!

Paul writes, in Rom 8:37 :

“In all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us...”



and as we stand on those words we will build on the promise of God's grace and power being sufficient for us to achieve His purposes and obey His Commands.

NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS

A SUFFRAGEN BISHOP FOR SOUTH AFRICA:

From the Book of Acts Ch 1....The Apostles prayed *"Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry...."* (this was to replace Judas)

Bishop Wellington and I have spent many months together in deep and fervent prayer as we have sought God's will for the future growth of our church. We have listened to the voice of God, and we believe that our much-loved Vicar General, **The Very Reverend Thamsanqa Augustine Koliti**, is the right man for this Apostolic ministry in the Traditional Anglican Church. He has proven himself as a loyal and devoted man of God, and his abilities are what is needed by the church in this phase of our development. He has theological knowledge and knowledge of the world, and his steady and systematic approach to leadership will enable us to build on the successes of the past few years. He will work with me, Bishop Wellington Murinda and Bishop Andrew Mukuyamba as part of a strong team of Bishops in Southern Africa. He will also sit on the TAC College of Bishops. I have already spoken to the Primate of the Traditional Anglican Church, Archbishop Shane Janzen, and he is supportive of our decisions, taken prayerfully, to further the work of the Gospel in Southern Africa.



Fr Koliti is a quiet and dignified man, filled with the Holy Ghost, and his appointment was unanimously accepted at the meeting of the Diocesan Standing Committee and Regional Deans on 10th January 2021. I will be starting the process of acceptance by the TAC College of Bishops shortly. We congratulate him and his family and know that our Lord Jesus Christ will richly bless his ministry.

THE VICAR GENERAL:

The appointment of Fr Koliti to the Episcopate means that the position of Vicar General needs to be filled, and once again, Bishop Wellington and I have spent much time in prayer over this appointment. We are of one mind that we have a more than suitable person in the Western Cape Regional Dean, the **Rev Fr Stephen Smuts**.

Fr Stephen is a young man, and that is good for the church, as leadership needs some longevity, and time to develop. Fr Stephen is a 'home grown' TAC clergyman, and his loyalty to the church in which he serves is unquestionable. He is a deeply spiritual man, a man of prayer, and a most able theologian, and he currently holds the position of Dean of Students at Holy Trinity Seminary and Bible College. Fr Stephen is a Chaplain in the SANDF where his ministry is highly regarded. He is Rector of Christ Church, Brackenfell, Cape Town - a lively and warm church community.



Fr Stephen in his 'work clothes'

We congratulate Fr Stephen and his family on this appointment and ask your prayerful support for his new ministry. His appointment was unanimously approved by the Regional Deans and Diocesan Standing Committee members at our 10th January meeting.

REGIONAL DEAN APPOINTMENTS:

EASTERN CAPE:

The departure of Fr Koliti from his position as Regional Dean of the Eastern Cape Region meant the Region needed urgent and serious consideration. The area is exceptionally large and has been a point of real growth for the Traditional Anglican Church over the past ten years. We are determined to build on the good work of the past and steadily increase our presence in an area that is full of splinter churches and Umzi Wase Tiyopiya factions. This area needs wisdom and tenacity from its leadership.

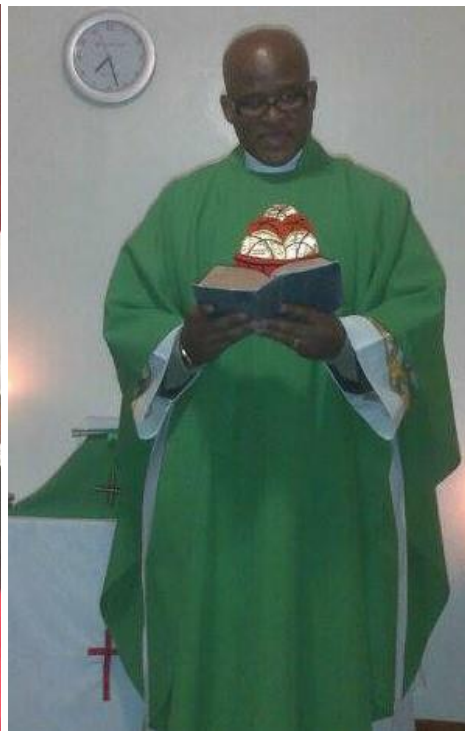
After much discussion between Fr Koliti and myself, we decided that the area would be best spilt into two, with one area being Port Elizabeth and East London (including Butterworth) and the other being Mntentu and the area of Tsolo in Transkei, where we have parishes.

The Port Elizabeth/East London Region will now be led by **Rev Fr Sidwell Vena**, loyal to the church and a fine and devoted man of God (and if you remember, a Covid-19 survivor in 2020) Fr Sidwell is well known throughout the Diocese and has been Rector of St Mary the Virgin, New Brighton, Port Elizabeth for some years.

The Transkei/Mntentu Region will be led by **Rev Fr Mziwonke Mandla**, also an experienced and devoted man of God. He is Rector of St Thomas Parish, Mntentu, a wonderful, vibrant parish church. This brings two new clergymen into the Regional Dean team, and their presence will be warmly received and highly anticipated. Congratulations to you and your families – may you be blessed!



Fr Sidwell Vena



Fr Mziwonke Mandla

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin will now be taken over by another highly experienced clergyman, **Rev Fr Mlungisi Fonya**, who has been assisting Fr Vena for some years. We congratulate him on this appointment and know that under his leadership the parish will continue to flourish.



Fr Vena with Fr Fonya at the Kirkwood outstation

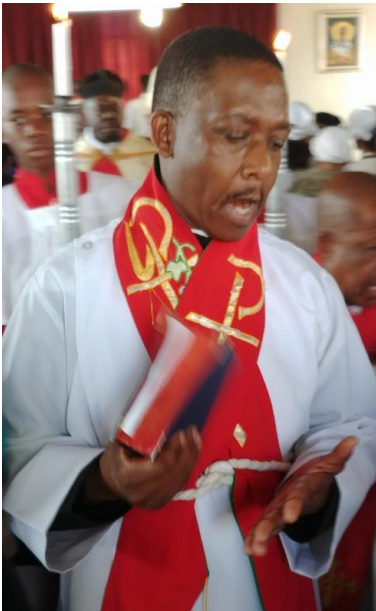
GAUTENG:

The sudden and tragic death of Canon Martin Magoleng has left a huge gap in our church leadership. He was one of the most experienced Regional Deans and his success can be measured in the number of parishes established around Tshwane, and in the number of men he raised up for the sacred ministry. He will be a hard act to follow, but we need to move rapidly and decisively to avoid any hiatus or lose our momentum built up so carefully over many years.

This appointment has been very carefully thought through by the church leadership, and we have decided that we would like a fresh and different look in the Region, as replicating Canon Martin would be an impossible task. We also need to bring Mondeor (St Andrew's) and Tokoza (St Stephen's) into the Region as they have been on the periphery for some years.

We have approached, (and he has accepted the appointment) a dynamic young clergyman to lead the Gauteng Region, **Rev Fr Godfrey Mathibe**, Chaplain to the Mothers Union groups and Rector of St Peter's Parish, Mathibestad, a beautiful church that he built himself with his community. Fr Godfrey is a teacher and, like Fr Stephen is a born and bred TAC clergyman....

As a young man, Fr Godfrey will need our support and encouragement, but he is highly able and with experience and kindly guidance from more experienced peers, he will develop into a fine church leader.



Fr Godfrey Mathibe



Fr Godfrey with Canon Magoleng and Fr Molemi at the opening of St Mary Magdalene

Congratulations Fr Godfrey, to you and your family, and may our Lord prosper your ministry.



NORTHERN CAPE AND FREE STATE:

This is an enormous Region stretching right across the country. It has been most ably led by Fr Angelo Ericksen, who very kindly took on the work when Canon Willie Meyers became unable to cope. He has done a sterling job.

The bulk of our clergy deaths this past year have fallen in this Region and the strain on all the Region's clergy has been immense. The management of this Region entails exceptionally long journeys, and for that I thank Fr Angelo, who has always been ready to assist, whenever I have called upon him.

In order to alleviate some of this traveling, and also to empower other local clergy, we have decided to appoint the **Rev Fr Barnad Lesenyeho** as a Regional Dean of the sub-Region of the Free State and Qwa Qwa. This will remain a part of the Northern Cape and Free State Region, but our hope is that it will develop sufficiently to become an independent Region of its own in the near future. We are confident that under Fr Barnad's leadership, we will be able to rebuild this area, and despite the loss of the two senior clergy here, we believe that the church is ready to flourish once again.



Fr Barnad Lesenyeho and Mrs Lesenyeho - a great team!

The Regional Deanery Team will now grow from five Regional Deans to eight, meaning that work is more evenly spread and matters can be timeously dealt with and pastoral care of the clergy increased. That will also mean that more can be done to plant new churches and manage the growth of the church. I respectfully ask for your prayers for each of those mentioned in this Ad Clerum.

To Fr Stephen, Fr Godfrey and Fr Barnad I repeat the words of the Apostle Paul to Timothy:

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity"
[1 Timothy 4:12]

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I leave you with a collage of pictures taken during the very vibrant ministry of Fr Martin Magoleng. A dear brother and tireless soldier for Christ - sorely missed by us all.



Functioning as Regional Dean



Laughing as +Murinda is robed!!



With his beloved Parish of St Cyprian



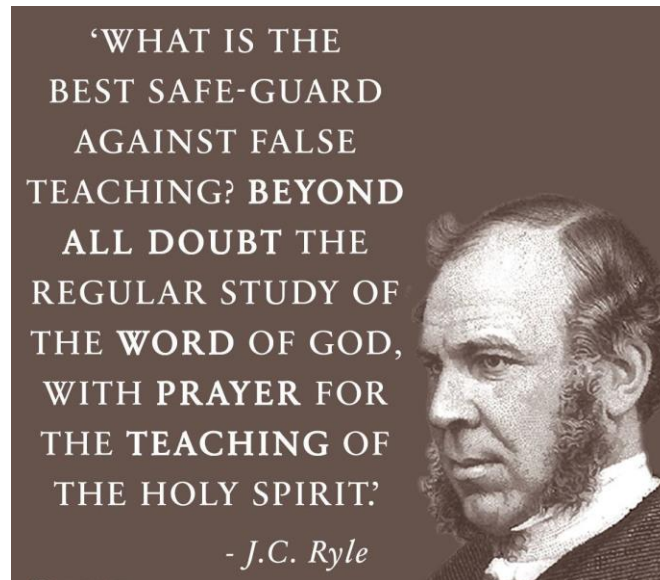
With Bishop Andrew Mukuyamba in Lusaka

HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY AND BIBLE COLLEGE

After a bumpy start due to all the Covid-19 restrictions, the Seminary will begin in earnest with its First Semester starting in March 2021.

Those of you that have already registered for studies are please to contact the Registrar by email at registrar@standrewmondeor.co.za to confirm your 2021 enrolment and begin your studies.

Good luck in your studies this year....they will bring you great joy and freedom from doubt!



J C Ryle was an uncompromising Anglican Bishop.....not many of those about these days!

I do hope that you are as excited about these new appointments as I am. They inject both youth and experience into our church leadership – which is a very good thing! I fully believe that our Lord Jesus Christ has spoken to His church.

You can clearly see that we are indeed a church on the move, and that *nothing* will stop our progress, nothing will slow us down...nothing can stand in the way of Gods great plan for His people!

As the Traditional Anglican Church, we have only two things to achieve and in which to be faithful and focussed. The first is a life of holiness, conformed to that of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and the second, to carry the Gospel of His saving love to all people everywhere.....

As we move forward, I take this opportunity to wish you all a prosperous and healthy New Year. Please take care of your own health and that of your family, and as we reach the peak of the second wave, be careful, and may God hold you in the hollow of His hand

*In Jesus Christ our Lord
Archbishop Michael Gill
TAC Africa,
Bishop ordinary of Pretoria and Southern Africa.*