



CATHOLIC NEWS BULLETIN

ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

JULY 2026

ARCHBISHOP'S CORNER

To the Clergy, Religious, and Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese.

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope and pray you are all keeping well during the cold weather which has brought flu to many of us. Please look well after yourselves and one another. Let us remember those who have no proper shelter including the illegal immigrants who live in tents and those being repatriated to their countries of origin. I am happy to present to you this edition of our Archdiocesan News Bulletin. I am aware that some of the news items have already been published in the social media platform of the Archdiocese. It is always important to keep you informed about what is happening in the Archdiocese.

Sincerely yours in Christ

+ Siegfried Mandla Jwara CMM
Archbishop of Durban

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar General, Bishop E.K. Zondi, on the passing of his beloved mother, Elizabeth, who was laid to rest on 4 July 2026. May her soul rest eternally in Christ, and may the Holy Spirit bring comfort and strength to the entire family. Let us continue to hold Bishop Zondi and his family in our prayers during this time of sorrow.



✚ On 2 July 2026, His Grace, Archbishop S.M. Jwara CMM, celebrated Holy Mass at the chancery together with the staff, offering prayers for the repose of the soul of Bishop Zondi's mother, Elizabeth.

NTSHONGWENI PILGRIMAGE - 2026

This year's Annual Pilgrimage to Ntshongweni marked a new and grace-filled chapter in our Archdiocese. It joyfully encouraged participation across all race groups, affirming our unity in diversity as one people of God. Notably, English-speaking faithful joined in great numbers after many years, and their presence proved an enriching and eye-opening experience for many. In the spirit of growth and communion, we would be most grateful if participants could kindly share their thoughts on this year's pilgrimage. Your insights will help us to strengthen and enrich the experience even further as we prepare for next year's gathering.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to our Bishops for their tireless efforts in fostering communion and strengthening the bonds of faith within the Archdiocese of Durban. A special word of thanks is also due to the Ntshongweni Pilgrimage Committee for their sterling work in securing speakers of distinction and guiding this sacred gathering with dedication.



Reverend Fathers Solly Van Roos and Sibusiso Dlamini OMI guiding the pilgrims through the Penitential Service.



Rev. Fr. Mhlanganisi Dlamini OMI guided the faithful on a tour of the Ntshongweni Pilgrimage Site.



The choirs uplifted the faithful in song, leading them in joyful praise and worship.

N.B. The homily delivered by Archbishop Emeritus Jabulani Nxumalo OMI during the English Mass is available on request from the Vicar General's Office, as is Rev. Fr. Dennis Xulu's inspiring talk on Vocations (IsiZulu).

With sincere hope and prayer, we look forward to next year's pilgrimage, trusting that attendance will grow even further as more of the faithful embrace this spiritual journey.

UPGRADING OF NTSHONGWENI DRIVEWAY

It is with great joy that we announce the successful completion of **Phase One** of the upgrading project of the Ntshongweni Driveway. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all parishes, sodalities, and individuals who generously responded to our call for assistance. Your contributions have turned a long-standing dream into reality. Those who attended the Pilgrimage in May would have witnessed the visible progress already made. This undertaking is indeed vast and requires significant

resources, yet we remain confident that, united in faith and purpose, we can achieve great things. Truly, no donation is ever too small or too great when offered with love.

With Phase One completed, we now plan for **Phase Two**: levelling the actual Pilgrimage Site where the faithful gather to worship. As many know, the grass has worn away, leaving bare stones that make overnight vigils uncomfortable, while soil erosion has further damaged the grounds. The site urgently needs to be levelled and replanted with new lawn to restore dignity and comfort for pilgrims. God willing, we are preparing to plant the new lawn before the onset of the rainy season in September. This timing will allow the fresh grass to take root naturally and will help us conserve water that would otherwise be needed for irrigation.

As agreed, when we met with the Deans, the strategy is to divide the grounds into seven sections, with each deanery sponsoring one portion.

We are mindful that this next phase will require a substantial sum, yet with dedication and willing hearts, we trust that together we will see it through to fruition.



A profound word of gratitude is offered to all who, with open hearts and willing generosity, contributed to the fulfilment of this undertaking. Through your selfless giving, the first phase of the project has reached its completion to the glory of God and the service of His people.

BRIEF OVERVIEW FROM THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SACRED HEART SODALITY – ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

The month of June, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the visions of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, is a time of profound devotion to His love and mercy. In accordance with the Sodality Constitution, the Diocesan Executive Committee convened the Annual General Meeting—uMbuthano oMkhulu—on 13–14 June 2026 at Groutville High School, North Coast Deanery.

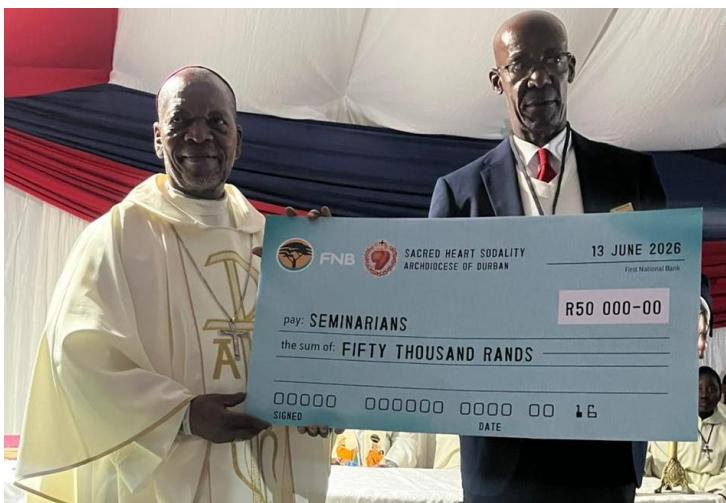
This convention provided a platform for reports from Deanery Chairpersons, review of parish activities, financial accountability, and spiritual enrichment through prayer, faith formation, and teachings on the liturgy and mission of the Sodality.

The gathering was graced by His Excellency, Bishop Elias Kwenzakufani Zondi, who celebrated the Main Mass. In his homily, he urged members to love God for who He is, not merely for His works, and to pray for “that one drop of Jesus’ blood” which signifies the sufficiency of Christ’s sacrifice for humanity’s salvation.

He commended the Sodality’s collective contribution of **R45,700.00** towards the Ntshongweni renovations and encouraged further fundraising to complete the project as a lasting testament of devotion. During the Mass, the Sodality also presented **R50,000.00** towards the formation of

seminarians and donated groceries worth **R12,600.00** to the **Daughters of Charity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus** – commonly known as **Matikwe Sisters** in support of their charitable works.

Attendance reached approximately **4,200** members, making this one of the most successful conventions in recent years. Participants departed renewed in faith, strengthened in unity, and deeply committed to the mission of the Church



Bishop E.K. Zondi receiving the cheque on behalf of the Archdiocese from the Treasurer.

Izinkulungwane zamalunga oMhlangano weNhliziyo eyiNgcwele Cwe kaJesu ezazethamele uMbuthano ngaphansi kobuholi buka Mnu. Charles Ngubane – uMengameli kanye nekomidi lakhe.



Mass procession

HAPPY 10TH EPISCOPAL ANNIVERSARY TO HIS GRACE, ARCHBISHOP SIEGFRIED MANDLA JWARA CMM

The 25th of June 2026 marked ten years since Archbishop Jwara was ordained bishop in the Apostolic Vicariate of Ingwavuma in 2016. He served faithfully there for five years before being entrusted with shepherding the Archdiocese of Durban, where he continues to guide God's flock until such time as the Holy See directs otherwise. In thanksgiving, His Grace celebrated Mass with the Chancery staff, joined by Rev. Fathers Julian Davey and Marcel Kazadi CSSp.



In his homily, he recalled his appointment a decade ago, when he left the Diocese of Mthatha to serve in Ingwavuma—a place then unknown to him. Like Abraham of old, he accepted God’s will and ventured into the unknown, reminding us that fulfilling the will of God is not always easy and often comes with tears, yet it remains the path of faith and obedience.

A celebratory luncheon was convened to mark this significant milestone in the ministry of our beloved Archbishop.



In a spirit of joy and reverence, His Excellency, Bishop Neil Frank OMI of Mariannhill, offered a distinguished address of congratulation—speaking on behalf of the Diocese of Mariannhill, His Grace’s home diocese, and likewise representing the bishops of the Durban Metropolitan.



Rev. Fr. Julian Davey, Chancellor, rose to deliver a warm and eloquent speech, conveying the collective sentiments of the clergy in attendance and the devoted staff of the Chancery.

Let us all continue to uphold our Archbishop in prayer, that he may be strengthened as he faithfully shepherds the Archdiocese of Durban with fatherly love, pastoral care, and unwavering diligence in service to God’s people.

REFLECTION ON FAMILY LIFE: Fr. Julian Davey, Chancellor

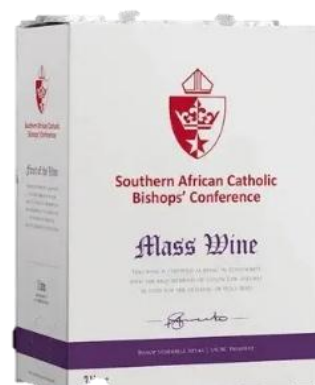
1. Today we are too individualistic: “in the name of me, myself, and I” - my will, my space, my time, my possessions, my rights etc. By myself on my own I eat supper while on my cell-phone; by myself I watch a movie or play computer games on my laptop; by myself I listen to my music on headphones. The fact is **I NEED OTHERS**. Of course I needed God to create me, through the coming together of my parents. I needed my mother’s nourishment to survive in the womb. I needed food and clothing from my parents to survive as a child. I still need others with whom I interact so as to mature. And others need me.
2. God himself is not a single Person living in splendid isolation. He is **NOT A SOLITUDE** but a **TRINITY**, a Union of three divine Persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - each Person pouring Himself out in love for the other in eternity.

We humans are created in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1:26); and baptized in (into) the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Therefore, we are meant to be like the three divine Persons, united with other persons in self-giving love.

3. Today's society is broken. Why? Because its fundamental cell, the family, is broken. The young man caught in alcoholism, drugs or crime - where is his mother, his father? Our social campaigns of 'no to GBV', 'no to drugs', etc. are doomed unless we first have campaigns of 'yes' to family life, 'yes' to a child being born and growing up with his/her parents in a loving family.
4. The Son of God chose to enter Mary's womb, get born, and **SPEND 30 of his 33 EARTHLY YEARS** under Mary and Joseph in a family. There he '*increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men*'. (Lk 2:52) It is precisely in daily, mundane family life with its chores and challenges that we learn self-giving love and mature.
5. Heaven is not a private eternal audience between '*me and my Jesus*'. Instead, it is immersion in the self-giving love flowing between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit - in communion with Our Lady, the angels and the saints. How do we prepare for this heavenly life? By abandoning our self-centred isolation to live in loving communion with God, with our families, and with the whole human family. **SELF-GIVING LOVE** is the secret to happiness, happiness on earth and happiness in eternity.

PREScribed MASS WINE

This wine is canonically certified by the Bishop's Conference for use in the Holy Mass. Available for purchase from the Chancery are: -
Bottled Mass Wine (6 bottles x 750ml per case)
Boxed Mass Wine (4 boxes x 3litres per case)





JUSTICE, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Justice, Peace and Development Commission held its General Meeting on Saturday, 18 April 2026, at Holy Trinity Parish. Auxiliary Bishop Elias Kwenzakufani Zondi made a brief appearance and was warmly received. The meeting resolved to implement the following programmes in 2026:

Environmental Awareness, Development initiatives, Peacebuilding, reconciliation, and conflict mitigation Gender-Based Violence and Femicide interventions

The Commission, in collaboration with Peace Oasis International of the Durban University of Technology, organized and facilitated a Human Rights Dialogue with students on 25 April 2026, just days before the nation celebrated Freedom Day.

On 31 May 2026, the Commission Coordinator visited **St Anne's Parish, Chesterville**. In response to growing tensions surrounding foreign nationals in parts of the eThekweni Metropolitan

Municipality, the Archdiocese of Durban has begun parish visits to foster dialogue and understanding.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME

On 2 May 2026, the **Commission**, in collaboration with the **Youth and Young Adults Commission**, organized a cleaning campaign at the Pietermaritzburg Taxi Rank. We extend our gratitude to the **PMB Rank Manager** and the **Municipality** for their support. The materials used were kindly donated by the **Durban South Community Environmental Alliance**, led by Mr. Desmond D'Sa, a devoted Catholic from Christ the King Parish.



The J&P Coordinator joined **Fr. Richard Njanje SAC** of St Peter's Parish in Point together with the diverse parish community for a memorable encounter. The celebration of inculturation in music was especially beautiful, reflecting the richness of different traditions. Communities were encouraged to foster integration and to embark on skills-sharing programmes, strengthening unity and mutual growth.

On 12 June 2026, the Commission organized and facilitated a successful **Social Cohesion Dialogue** at the Diakonia Centre. The gathering was graced by the presence of His Grace, Archbishop Siegfried Mandla Jwara CMM, and Cardinal Wilfrid Napier OFM, together with members of the KwaZulu-Natal Christian Council (KZNCC). Representatives from Africa Unite, the March and March Movement, as well as migrants and refugees also participated, making the dialogue a rich and inclusive exchange of perspectives.



PLEASE JOIN US IN JOYFUL CELEBRATION!

The invitation card is framed with ornate gold-colored corner decorations. At the top center is a gold cross. Below it, the text "Archdiocese of Durban" is centered. The main title, "Priestly and Diaconate Ordination", is written in a large, elegant script. Below this, a paragraph states: "With sincere joy, the Archdiocese of Durban cordially invites the faithful to the Priestly Ordination of". This is followed by the names "Deacons Phiwayinkosi Jila and Nyabulo Ngobese" in a large script. Another paragraph states: "On this same day, the following will be ordained to the Order of the Diaconate:". Below this, the names "Thamsanqa Mbokazi, Sandile Msomi, and Bongumusa Sibeko" are listed. The text "Conferred by His Grace, Archbishop S.M. Jwara CMM" follows. A section with icons provides the event details: a calendar icon for "Date: Saturday, 1 August 2026", a location pin icon for "Venue: Emmanuel Cathedral", and a clock icon for "Time: 10h00". The card concludes with the sentence: "Let us unite in prayer and thanksgiving as we celebrate this joyous occasion in the life of our Archdiocese."

Archdiocese of Durban

Priestly and Diaconate Ordination

With sincere joy, the Archdiocese of Durban cordially invites the faithful to the Priestly Ordination of

*Deacons Phiwayinkosi Jila
and
Nyabulo Ngobese*

On this same day, the following will be ordained to the
Order of the Diaconate:

**Thamsanqa Mbokazi, Sandile Msomi,
and Bongumusa Sibeko**

Conferred by
His Grace, Archbishop S.M. Jwara CMM

 **Date:** Saturday, 1 August 2026
 **Venue:** Emmanuel Cathedral
 **Time:** 10h00

*Let us unite in prayer and thanksgiving as we celebrate
this joyous occasion in the life of our Archdiocese.*

UPDATE FROM THE REFUGEE & PASTORAL CARE DESK

“... Truly I tell you, whatsoever you do to the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, that you do unto me.” (*Matthew 25: 40*).

Dear faithful of God,

This report seeks to update you on the current critical situation in the country, and in Durban (the epicentre) in particular, concerning our brothers and sister Migrants, Refugees and Asylum-seekers. The escalation of the anti-migrant sentiment and activities in Durban has generated widespread fear among foreign-nationals residing in our communities.

Many refugees and asylum seekers, particularly women who survive through informal street trading, have been severely affected. Most of them depend on daily sales to provide food, pay rent, purchase school necessities, and meet their families' healthcare needs. Increasing threats and disruptions to informal trading activities have drastically stopped their ability to earn an income, and the consequences have been quite severe:

(1) Loss of livelihoods for hundreds of migrant traders; (2) Increased food insecurity among vulnerable households; (3) Rising rental arrears and threats of eviction; (4) Heightened psychological distress and trauma, (5) Increased protection concerns for women and children; (6) Displacement of hundreds of families from areas where they previously lived and worked; (7) Growing fear and terror of movement, limiting access to schools, healthcare facilities, places of worship, and free circulations.

The situation is particularly alarming for single mothers who often support multiple dependents without alternative sources of income. Many have exhausted their limited savings and are struggling to meet basic household needs.

In charitable response our Refugee Pastoral Care (RPC) of the Catholic Archdiocese of Durban has intensified its pastoral and humanitarian interventions based on the preferential option for the poor and the vulnerable.

In June we successfully secured 300 food parcels from a local generous donor which the RPC team together with His Grace Archbishop Jwara (CMM) distributed from Emmanuel Cathedral. We also received a donation of 200 blankets. Priority beneficiaries were: Single mothers, Child-headed households, Displaced families, Elderly refugees, Persons living with disabilities, Survivors of violence and trauma, etc. Also, multiple visits were conducted in different sites by His Lordship Bishop Zondi and the RPC team respectively who brought words of encouragement and hope to victims.

Dear people of good will, loss of income has created a housing crisis. Amid winter's cold many families are evicted and homeless, sleeping on the street with kids as young as 2 weeks old. However, RPC continues to provide pastoral care through: Prayer and spiritual accompaniment, Counselling and emotional support, Family support interventions, advocacy and Protection, etc. Refugees continue to live in fear, uncertainties, and under inhumane conditions.

We are very aware of the challenges ordinary South Africans themselves are continually facing. However, presently it is our fellow-brothers and sisters who need urgent assistance as they await voluntary repatriation, reintegration or resettlement.

Therefore, we plead with all people of goodwill for help. This help can be in the form of: 1. Food parcels; 2. Rental assistance; 3. Clothing and blankets; 4. Hygiene and baby care products; 5. Financial donations for emergency relief and voluntary repatriation.

Contact person: Fr Marcel (CSSp) – Chaplain. Tel: 031 303 1417/ Cell: 071 102 0558.



His Grace, Archbishop S.M. Jwara CMM, together with Rev. Fr. Marcel Kazadi CSSp and Dr. Hupenyu Makusha, distributed the donated food parcels at the Cathedral in June.



Please be advised that the Durban Branch will officially close its doors on **31 July 2026**, as the Sisters will be joining their community in Johannesburg. Their current WhatsApp number (**076 226 8768**) will remain active until the adoption of Johannesburg's contact numbers. For future correspondence, kindly note their new address and contact details:

New Address: 181 Queen Street, Corner Cumberland Road/Kensington

Contact Numbers: 011 622 5195; 076 226 8768