



Ad Clerum

Feast of St Mary the Virgin 2024

Number 7/24

WITH HIGH IMPORTANCE

Dear brothers and sisters of the Traditional Anglican Church

THE CONSECRATION OF RT REV STEPHEN SMUTS

The Consecration of Bishop Stephen took place on Saturday 7th September, the eve of the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was a special and joyous occasion attended by members of the TAC from throughout Southern Africa. We were especially blessed to have the Primate of the TAC, Archbishop Shane B Janzen as Chief Consecrator. He was accompanied by Bishop Craig Botterill, Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese of Canada East of the Traditional Anglican Church and a good friend of our Diocese. Bishop Wellington Murinda, Suffragan Bishop for Southern Africa, also travelled from Zimbabwe to attend as a co-Consecrator.

Bishop Stephen has been appointed as Bishop Coadjutor for the TAC Diocese of Pretoria and Southern Africa. He is also a full member of the global TAC College of Bishops, the highest decision-making body of the worldwide Church. A Bishop Coadjutor is an assistant to the Bishop Ordinary. The difference between a Suffragan and a Coadjutor is that, upon the death or retirement of the Bishop Ordinary, a Suffragan Bishop must resign or retire, whereas the Bishop Coadjutor naturally becomes the new Bishop Ordinary. This has been a deliberate part of the forward-looking strategy of the Diocese, as it eliminates all the time, expense and often confusion of Elective Assemblies that follows the death or retirement of a Bishop Ordinary and allows a seamless handover.

It is necessary for you to understand that your Church and Diocese has been very efficient in terms of succession planning and the forward vision of the Church. Considerable care has been taken to prepare career paths for our younger clergy leaders, and this is apparent in the comparative youthfulness of some of our Regional Deans, our Vicar General, Fr Godrey Mathibe, and our Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Stephen Smuts. The Church is well placed for sustainable growth and development, guaranteeing stable leadership and the implementation of Diocesan strategies for many years to come.

The Primate left Southern Africa with a very positive impression that had been created by you all. The clergy (both Priests and Deacons) were immaculate, as were the Lay Ministers and Servers. He was particularly impressed by the Mothers Union members, St Veronica's Guild, St Agnes Guild, Men's Guilds and St Bernard Mizeki Guild. Everyone put in so much effort to be at the Consecration, and he and Bishop Craig found the atmosphere exciting, the worship fervent and the music inspiring.

Thank you to you all for the part you played in the enormous success of the Consecration of our new Bishop.

There is a YouTube video at: <https://youtu.be/-3k4mKSQWfQ?si=Nfkaw-qSKOhW8Q22> and in the pages that follow is a pictorial record of the event for you to enjoy.

THE CONSECRATION



The Servers form up.



The Deacons and Priest gather



Bishop-Elect Stephen with the Primate



The Prayers of Preparation



"I will go unto the Altar of God"



The Procession enters the church



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*Above: Bishop-Elect Stephen was accompanied by the two Deacons from his Cape Town Parish, Dn Dalmaine and Dn Brian. The Primate preached a challenging sermon based on the Great Commission of Matthew Ch 28. Fr Barnad Lesenyeho (Regional Dean of Free State Region) and Canon Angelo Ericksen (Regional Dean of Northern Cape Region) presented Bishop-Elect Stephen to the four consecrating Bishops.
Below: The Bishop-Elect prostrated before the Altar. He was then interrogated by the Primate and consecrating Bishops.*



The Congregation were thrilled to meet the Primate, Archbishop Shane Janzen, and many travelled from all around South Africa for this historic moment in the life of the TAC in Africa. All the Guilds of the Diocese were well represented – Mothers Union, St Agnes Guild, St Veronica’s Guild, Bernard Mizeki Guild and Men’s Guild all played a part in the service. The music was a beautiful balance of tradition hymns and local songs. Thanks go to Mxolisi Bambo and Ron Gill for the music.

THE CONSECRATION



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The Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Holy Oil was followed by Bishop Stephen receiving his Episcopal Ring, being vested as a Bishop, he received his Pectoral Cross, the Holy Bible, his Crozier and finally, his Mitre.



Bishop Stephen was presented to the assembled Congregation with great rejoicing, and below, he is greeted and congratulated by Bishop Wellington Murinda



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The Regional Deans rejoice!

Then...we moved on to celebrate Holy Communion together



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THE FINAL BLESSING OF BISHOP STEPHEN



SOME OTHER PICTURES



*Bishop Wellington exhorted the congregation to evangelism, and praised +Stephen, much to his embarrassment!
Archbishop Michael thanked all involved in the success of the event.*



Introducing +Stephen's family, his daughter Michelle, son Kyle and his dear wife, Mel.



Archbishop Michael thanked the Primate, Bishop Craig and Bishop Wellington for their attendance.





Archbishop Shane B Janzen, Primate of the Traditional Anglican Church

THE EPISCOPAL BENEDICTION



Throughout the service, The Primate was ably assisted by his Chaplain, Fr Nama, of the Eastern Cape Region



A FEW PICTURES OF THE PROCESSION



THE CANONS AND REGIONAL DEANS



Canon Isaiah Molemi



Fr Mmbofheni Phasha (Gauteng)



Fr John Selolo (Mpumalanga)



Canon Mziwonke Mandla (E/Cape)



Fr Barnad Lesenyeho (Free State)



Canon Angelo Ericksen (N/Cape)

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Very Rev Godfrey Mathibe – Vicar General and, below, some of the assembled Clergy



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Preparation

Much preparation went into the event. Servers met under Canon Molemi at St Cyprians, Atteridgeville, Catering Team ladies met with MaDalene at the Bishop's home and vestments (16sets) were made for the occasion.



The happy Catering Team!



THE DISMISSAL – PRAISE GOD FOR A WONDERFUL DAY!



I do hope that you have enjoyed this pictorial record of the Consecration of Bishop Stephen Smuts. It has been the culmination of much prayer and work, and for everyone involved, a hearty ‘Thank You!’

Now that this has been achieved, we look forward to continued growth of the Traditional Anglican Church in Africa as we faithfully carry the Good News of Jesus Christ our Saviour to all God’s people, as our Primate has urged us to do.

Our Lord bless you and keep you

In Christ Jesus, our Lord

+ Michael Gill

Archbishop Michael Gill
Metropolitan TAC Africa
Bishop Ordinary of Pretoria and Southern Africa