



Ad Clerum

December 2017

Number 4.17

CONSECRATION AT ALL SAINTS, POLOKWANE

Sunday 5th November 2017, the Feast of All Saints, saw the next step forward in the planned growth and development of the Traditional Anglican Communion in Southern Africa. Bishop Wellington Murinda was Consecrated as Suffragen Bishop for Southern Africa, with great rejoicing, witnessed by all the clergy of South Africa, many from Zimbabwe, and a strong contingent from Zambia. Lay representatives from all our South African parishes attended, many having travelled hundreds of miles to get to Polokwane. There was also a good lay representation from Zimbabwe. It was a well-coordinated event, allowing for rich fellowship, and wonderful combined worship in many of the languages of our Sub-Continent. It was a day of fulfilment and joy, and one which allowed our people to see the vision of our Diocese, set some nine years ago, coming to fruition.

Part of the real sense of achievement of the day was the presence of Bishop Andrew Mukuyamba as one of the co-consecrators. His consecration in Lusaka in 2015 (in which Archbishop Shane Janzen and Bishop Stephen Strawn participated) was part of the plan to spread the load of episcopal work, allow for growth and development in the Zambian TAC, and empower African leadership. Many of our people had never met Bishop Andrew, and so his presence added to the joy of the occasion.



Bishop Michael introduces Bishop Andrew and Bishop Craig to the assembled clergy and servers prior to the service, in the bright Limpopo sun!

The Consecration of Bishop Wellington means that we have achieved our goal of a strong House of Bishops for Southern Africa well within our set time. We have recognised and raised up excellent local leadership and now have three African Bishops in place to serve God's people of the TAC. In the early days, we had to rely on visiting Bishops (for which we will be ever grateful) but now, the growth and responsibility has passed to competent African leaders.

Our thanks go to the College of Bishops of the Traditional Anglican Communion for 1) understanding our vision, and 2) giving us their support in the growth and development of the Southern African TAC. Our thanks also go to the International Anglican Fellowship, whose support for mission and evangelism has helped us so enormously over the years. I am quite confident that the investment of time and resources in Southern Africa has borne rich and plenteous fruit, and the global TAC will continue to see an organised and sustained growth in this part of Our Lord's Vineyard.

Particular thanks also go to the ACCC – The TAC in Canada – for their prayerful support, and for allowing Bishop Craig Botterill to come to South Africa and be a Co-Consecrator and the Preacher in our time of rejoicing. He and his wife, Angela, were warmly received by the people and Bishop Craig's meaningful sermon was enjoyed by all. Their gift of a crozier to Bishop Murinda was most generous.

There are others to thank; the Parish Council of All Saint's, Seshego, their Organising Committee, and their clergy, under the leadership of Fr John Selolo (Regional Dean for Limpopo). I also thank our Chancellor, Hon Paul du Plessis, and the members of the Diocesan Standing Committee, all of whom participated in the service. Dalene and Adinda made a wonderful set of vestments for the service in our TAC vestment workshop of St Berenice, and each parish council participated in support of this historic event, as did servers from many of our parishes. Ron Gill (St Andrews Mondeor), seen below, joined Mxolisi Bambo in leading the excellent music. We also thank the Consul General of Zimbabwe from Johannesburg for he and his staff's presence at the service. It meant a great deal to Bishop Murinda to have an official of the Zimbabwean government present to witness his Consecration. [*The Consul General and his staff were involved in an accident on the return journey to Johannesburg, but mercifully, no-one was seriously injured*]



The packed Pro-Cathedral of All Saints, Seshego, Polokwane. An overflow tent outside was needed for all the visitors to the Consecration.

This publication will continue in a pictorial record of the events of the day. You are welcome to share these pictures as widely as you wish.

All praise and thanksgiving be to Our Lord Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, for His blessing on our Communion and all its people. May the Name of Jesus be praised and glorified forever; Amen!

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ALL SOULS DAY 2017

Bishop Craig Botterill arrived in South Africa from Canada on All Souls Day, and was most gracious, despite a long and tiring journey, in agreeing to be the Celebrant at the All Souls Mass at Holy Cross, Pretoria. His presence was most appreciated by the Holy Cross congregation.



GETTING READY FOR THE SERVICE OF CONSECRATION:



The beautiful High Altar at All Saints Polokwane



Everything is made ready for Bishop Wellington



Bishop Michael and Fr John Selolo set out the vestments, and Bishop Craig prepares the Altar

THE PROCESSION



The Clergy gather outside the Pro-Cathedral for the Procession



The Procession arrives at the Altar

Many of the hymns were sung in Shona, the language of Bishop Wellington and his people. The Liturgy itself was in English, Tshwana, Xhosa, Sotho, isiZulu and Pedi.

THE CONSECRATION

Bishop Craig Botterill preached an excellent Sermon. His theme was “*Feed my Sheep*” and the clergy and people were blessed by his preaching. Following the Sermon, the Chancellor read the Mandate from the Primate of the Traditional Anglican Communion, Archbishop Shane Janzen.



The Bishop-elect is presented to the Consecrating Bishops by the Regional Deans



The Litany is sung while the Bishop Elect prostrates himself before the Altar



Bishop-Elect Murinda is interrogated by the consecrating Bishops. On either side of him are the four Regional Deans of the Diocese.



Kneeling during Veni Creator Spiritus The Regional Deans clothe Bishop-Elect Murinda



The Laying-on-of-Hands



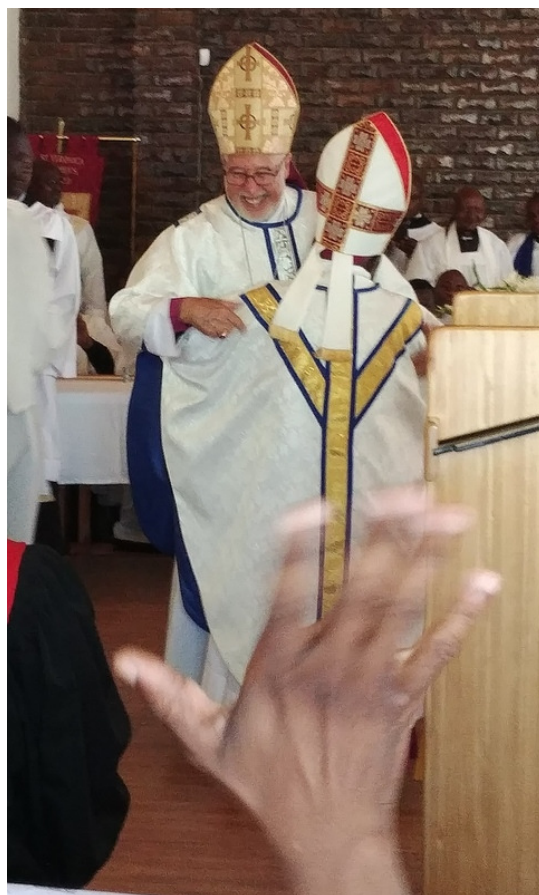
The Bible



The Ring and Crozier



The Mitre



Bishop Wellington Murinda is presented to the people and clergy with ululations and great rejoicing!!

The Bishops come to the Altar for Holy Communion



The highly organised servers



Deacon Mmbofheni Pasha



The faithful receive Holy Communion



The faithful stream forward to be blessed by Bishop Wellington Murinda





Bishop Wellington blesses the people



Bishop Craig assists in blessing the young people



Bishop Michael and Bishop Andrew are blessed by Bishop Wellington



The final blessing prayer

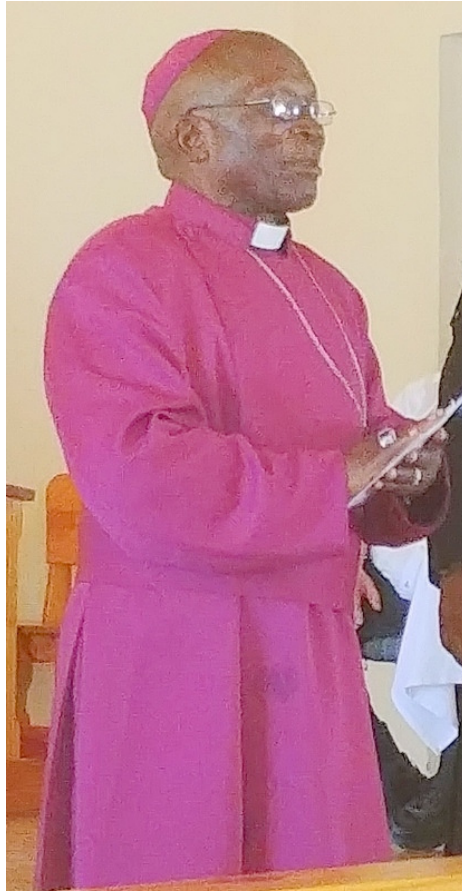


The Zimbabwean Consul General greets Bishop Murinda Mrs Murinda thanks the people for their support



A job well done...in the sweltering heat!

BISHOP WELLINGTON MURINDA



CONGRATULATIONS!

This historic Consecration was the first witnessed by most of our people. Only a few had managed to get to Lusaka for Bishop Andrew's consecration, and I was consecrated in Portsmouth, UK, at the TAC College of Bishops Meeting in 2007, many thousands of miles from our people. It was, therefore, all the more dramatic in being the first TAC Consecration seen by our clergy and laity.

This event ushers in a new period of accelerated growth for the Traditional Anglican Communion in Southern Africa. We have our policies in place to manage a careful and sustainable church growth, and for the TAC in Southern Africa, the future is very bright indeed, as we follow Our Lord Jesus Christ and obey His most Holy Will.

I do hope that you have been uplifted and inspired in your own Christian life by this vibrant testimony to the working of the Holy Spirit in the church of God in Southern Africa.

May Our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you.

Bishop Michael Gill
Pretoria and Southern Africa