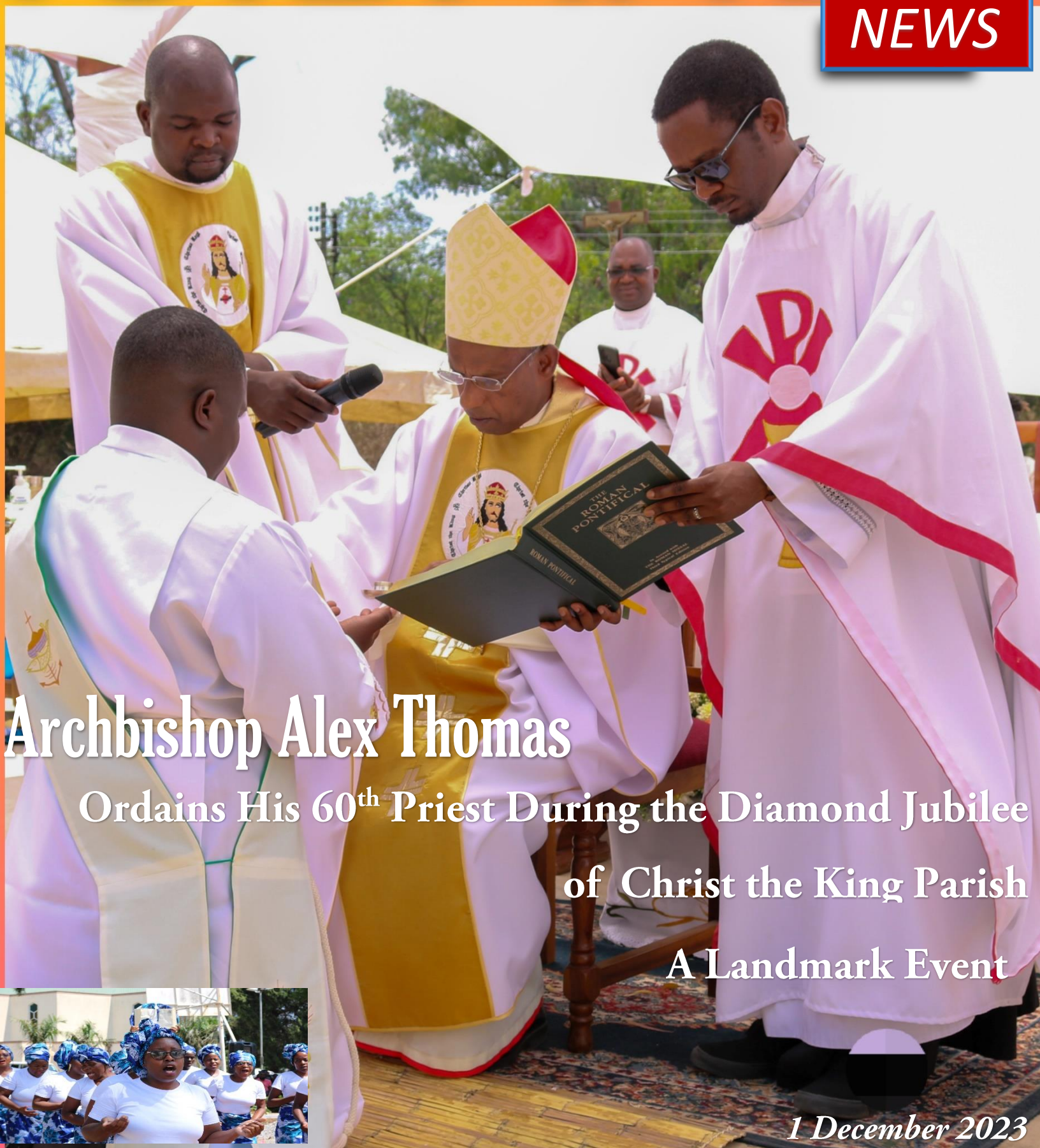


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NEWS



Archbishop Alex Thomas

Ordains His 60th Priest During the Diamond Jubilee
of Christ the King Parish
A Landmark Event



1 December 2023

Nokuthaba Thaka Reporter



podium project and making sure the parish grounds were neat and ready for guests, the youth and young adults were in charge of setting up the venue and the entertainment for the day. **In true synodal fashion the whole family came together for the success of the day.**

25 November 2023 was a beautiful day at Christ the King parish aka the Royal Household where in a trifecta the parish celebrated its diamond jubilee, the priestly ordination of one of their own sons and the sacrament of confirmation.

All celebrations of such magnitude require preparation and the CTK family put their hands to the plough in earnest. Spiritually the parish prepared with a three-day retreat led by Fr Nkululeko Ndlovu CMM hinged on the triple Cs (Calling, Consecration, Commissioning) and a Novena to Christ the King. Associations were tasked with food contributions, the maintenance team and St Joseph's men were hard at work with the



On the day itself the dancers were neatly dressed and comprised of all age groups from MCA to the elderly women guided by the AMR sisters. The choir showcased its versatility and creativity with a combination of vernacular, English and Latin songs accompanied by a melodic mix of drums, marimba and a live band. The summit of the Holy mass was the



ordination of our very own son Rev. Tatenda Kakwedza who was once part of the youth group before joining the CMMs.

After Holy Mass the main entertainment attraction was the regalia fashion show. In the weeks leading up to the day, parishioners were encouraged to buy diamond jubilee themed material as part of a



fundraising initiative. In a stroke of genius it was decided that a fashion show be held, where all the age groups were to showcase their Church oriented fashion creativity. Contestants were grouped into five categories; children/m.c.a, youth, women, men and then families. The competition was



steep especially in the women's and family category but that was much needed family fun for the day.

A Brief Historical background of Christ the King parish.



Mr. Gona

Chairperson

In his welcoming remarks Mr. Gona, the Chairperson of Christ the King parish acknowledged the presence of his Grace archbishop Alex Thomas, the CMM regional superior Fr. Stuart Vukai, the priests and all the faithful present. After welcoming the house the chairperson went on to deliver a brief history of Christ the King parish. According to him, Christ the King parish was blessed officially and opened on the 29th of November 1963 under the leadership of Fr Elma Schmid, Fr Odilo and Fr. Remegius Peters during the time when bishop Adolph Schmidt was bishop of Bulawayo. The parish was founded by the Congregation of the Missionaries of Marianhill who wanted to cater for hillside, Hillcrest,

Morning side among others eastern suburbs.

Below is a least of Priest who have worked tirelessly at Christ the King parish over the years.

Parish Priests : Fr. Elmar Schmid CMM 1961 – 1970, Fr. Odilo Weeeger CMM 1970 – 1993, Fr. Kevin O’Doherty, CMM 1993 – 2008, Fr. Fikile Dlamini CMM 2009 – 2010, Fr. Stephen Chikwanda CMM 2010 – 2015, Fr. Maqhawe Ndlovu CMM 2015 – 2018 , Fr. Similo Ncube CMM 2018 to date.

Assistant Priests: Fr. Mark Lucasinsky CMM 1963 – 1970, Fr. Fidelis Helfrich CMM 1970, Fr. Robert Boland CMM 1974 – 1992, Fr. Kevin Mapfumo CMM 2105 – 2017, Fr. Nkululeko Ndlovu CMM 2017 – 2019 , Fr. Jeremy Dube CMM 2019 – 2021, Fr. Thomas Sadya CMM 2021 – 2022, Fr. Geoge Vurayayi CMM 2022 to date.

Relieving Priests : Fr. Hebron Wilson Diocesan, Fr. Emmanuel Ndlovu Fr. Philemon Mlilo CMM, Fr. Proud Mukamba, CMM.



Archbishop Alex Thomas' Homily



In his Homily the Archbishop much-admired Christ the King parish for being firm against the changing times in the Archdiocese and city of Bulawayo. Moving on, his Grace emphasized that, just like a diamond which is admired for its strength, resilience, brilliance and perfection now is the time at 60 years of age that Christ the King parish should personify and manifest these aforementioned attributes of a diamond during this year of **Synodality and Co-responsibility of all the baptized** in the Archdiocese of Bulawayo. A Diamond jubilee in a person's life is a time or moment of resetting, reorganizing and restoration of a lot of aspects that form one's integral being. These can be spiritual, personal, pastoral, economic, social the list is endless. Therefore, as Christ the King parish a greater need of resetting and restoring ourselves is required in terms of active participation and fervent involvement in all diocesan events, said his Grace.

Encouraging all present the Archbishop went on to say, "as Christ the King parish let us move and work together with others, especially by being involved in various activities in the Archdiocese of Bulawayo such as meetings, workshops, congresses, retreats, pilgrimages and ordinations." Indeed, no parish is an Island, we all need each other and we are all called to work together as a family in the Archdiocese of Bulawayo.



Reflecting on the roots of the Feast of Christ the King the Archbishop stated that this feast was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as a reminder to the totalitarian governments of that era led by the likes of Stalin, Napoleon, and Mussolini that Jesus is the only sovereign King who is everlasting unlike the temporary kings of this world. This feast challenges us to see Christ the King in everyone of us especially those considered less important in the society and to treat each other with the same love, mercy, compassion and dignity which Jesus Himself showed us here on earth. On our baptism day said his Grace, we accepted and surrendered ourselves to Christ the King, it is during the celebration of Holy Communion that we continually relive this phenomenon. Therefore, let us continue to totally surrender ourselves to Christ the King by attending and actively participating during all liturgical celebrations of the Church.

At the same time, in the words of the Archbishop, everyone should realize that Jesus Christ is present to us today not only as King and God but also to lead, direct and guide us in whatever we do. Drawing on the gospel reading of the day (**Mt 25: 31-46**), his Grace encouraged all present to take serious their social responsibilities and to have a greater concern for the church, be it pastorally, liturgically, financially and spiritually. Selfishness, egoism and narcissistic tenderness go against the spirit of Christ the King. Promotion of teams and servant leadership while taking care of the Church and the impoverished should be at the fingertips of each faithful in the parish, young and old. Satanism and secularism should be rooted out at all cost as these are elements of the devil that go against the spirit of Christ the King, said his Grace.

Turning towards Rev. Tatenda Kakwedza his Grace emphasized these words, “a priest is a servant of



Christ and should desist from violating the promises he makes publicly during ordination, he is ordained not to be above everyone but rather to be a humble servant of God”. To the faithful present his grace encouraged them to assist the newly ordained to keep these promises and warned them against being the cause of the fall of many priests out of their selfish motives.



To the confirmands his Grace advised them to be always mindful of the fact that, it is through the power of the Holy Spirit that there are to become co-responsible ambassadors of the Catholic Church who are to actively participate in all Church activities, while maintaining honesty and sincerity in whatever they do and say.



The Archbishop concluded his homily with these words,

“May Christ the King rule in our families, hearts and in our society. May his kingdom come and may his love remain in our hearts and may we be servants to each other as Christ is servant to God the Father.”

CHRIST THE KING PARISH DIAMOND JUBILEE IN PICTURES.

