



***Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38***



***The words above from the Book of Acts are always to set the tone for our Priestly ministry. We preach Christ crucified, the repentance of sins and the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of all believers.....***

It is the Season of Pentecost; a time of celebration in which we are reminded of our eternal inheritance in Jesus Christ our Lord, unshakable and sure, and of the power given to each believer as we submit to the Holy Spirit. In this transitory world, the Holy Spirit within us gives us assurance and peace and a sense of God's unchanging presence. Our Lord is control of His church and we can trust Him to guard and guide His people in the way of truth.

We stand at an important moment in church history. Around us, 'mainstream Anglicanism' is rapidly crumbling; values that we have always known and respected, and morals that were not even under discussion a few years ago have been discarded one after the other, as liberal 'doctrines' have swept through the world, and through the church. Liberal clergy, of 'diverse' sexual persuasions, have grabbed at the opportunity to bring about rapid change at any price, and in too many cases, church leadership has simply capitulated.

As the clergy of the TAC, our coming into the Traditional Anglican Communion was a direct result of this destruction of the church we admired and had served, often for many years. Leaving was a

painful process for us, marking us as 'outsiders' and 'dissidents', whereas we are, in fact, engaged in preserving the true Orthodox Anglican way, and continuing in the Faith of our fathers.

This *Ad Clerum* will deal with a few of the pressing issues that are facing us as clergy today.

### **THE AUTHORITY OF HOLY SCRIPTURE:**

The first of your promises made as a TAC clergyman in your Oath of Canonical Obedience, and the first of mine made as a Bishop of the TAC in my Statement of Faith and Belief, concerns our acceptance of, and adherence to the authority of Holy Scripture.

We have all sworn that we "*believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation*". These words are utterly binding on our lives and ministries, and we renege on this primary promise and statement of faith at our peril, for we then begin to alter the document that carries the Message of Salvation, and the very words of Him who we follow as Teacher, Saviour and Lord. Our Priesthood, modelled on that of our Lord Jesus Christ, gives us neither the freedom nor the authority to change anything at all in Holy Scripture. We need the humility and discipline to '*know our place*' in Salvation History and be faithful priestly servants of the message of our Master.

I was present when a former TAC clergyman read the Last Gospel, but changed it to be 'gender sensitive', and I was obliged to correct him immediately, for in himself, he had *no* authority to play with the text. Sometimes this may seem hard to swallow, especially as our main-stream Anglican colleagues have decided to claim that they do indeed have the power and authority to defy the Church Fathers and Catholic Faith and Order, and make sweeping changes to the language of Holy Scripture, Holy Orders and the teachings on the Sacrament of Marriage and human sexuality, as well as changes to the liturgies of the church to reflect their modernist views.

We, however, continue to follow a clear Traditional and Orthodox path, and believe that anything imposed from outside must be tested against the Word of God as revealed in Holy Scripture. That which is not in agreement with Scripture cannot be accepted. This is what makes us Orthodox Christians and Traditional Anglicans, an unpopular choice in today's world, but a wise decision for our souls and the souls of our people. As Traditional Anglican Christians, we believe that what our Lord Jesus said and taught was a full and sufficient revelation to His followers and to His church for all time. Innovations, however interesting they may be, are not for our agenda.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God,  
and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for  
correction, for instruction in righteousness:

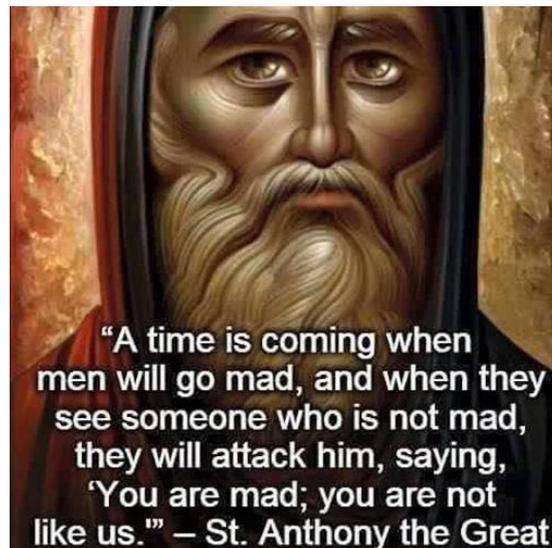
2 Timothy 3:16  
KING JAMES VERSION

## HUMAN SEXUALITY AND THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Holy Scripture teaches that marriage is a union between a man and a woman, a sacred event, prized by God himself, an image of the relationship between Christ and His Church. We have all read the prologue to Marriage in the Book of Common Prayer often enough to know that it is “*that holy estate Christ adorned and beautified by his presence, and first miracle that he wrought, in Cana of Galilee*”. (SAPB p440)

In the first chapter of the Book of Genesis, Holy Scripture teaches: “*So God created man in his image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*”[Gen 1:27 KJV] The latest fashion of LBGTIQ+ is not something that we, as Traditional Anglicans can or will ever ascribe to. LBGTIQ+ is quite simply wrong and an acronym for fornication. We will not condone relationships that involve practicing lesbian or homosexual behaviour, and neither can we accept the liberal movement toward so-called ‘trans’, ‘inter’ or ‘bi-sexual’ people, which makes a mockery of God’s creative handiwork. While the world is welcome to its perversions of normality, as orthodox Christians, we cannot be seen to condone such overtly sinful behaviour. Our attitude towards homosexual persons is that we will love them as we do all people, but we cannot and will not condone their behaviour, nor can we ever recognise it as ‘normal’. This stance puts us at odds with the world, for the lobby groups for LBGTIQ+ rights are very busy, and many of the mainstream churches have been bullied, and have capitulated and given in to their demands.

As TAC clergy, I urge you to be aware that this is an assault on the Christian family, on our children and young people. Large publishing houses and cinema companies are pushing an aggressive LBGTQ+ agenda. You must be alert, and you cannot be afraid to speak out on these things and to stand up against them.



Because of recent changes that have been made to the **Marriage Act 1961 (South Africa)**, in which it is now no longer possible for any person holding a Marriage Licence from the State to refuse to perform a same-sex marriage, I am instructing all clergy who hold a Marriage Licence to return the same to the Department of Home Affairs with immediate effect. I have made this decision in consultation with our Chancellor. I will not allow our clergy to be pressured into being a part of what are immoral actions. Should you hold a Marriage Licence, I require that I receive proof that you have indeed surrendered that Licence to the Department of Home Affairs for cancellation.

How then will we deal with Christian marriage within our parishes? It is very simple. When you are approached by any person wishing for Christian marriage from your parish, and that person is a parishioner in good standing, you are to proceed with Christian Marriage Preparation as before.

When you determine that the man and woman concerned are ready for the Sacrament of Marriage, they are to go to the Department of Home Affairs and obtain their Marriage Certificate there. The civil side of the ceremony will therefore be dealt with by the State. This is common practice in many countries throughout the world.

You will then be able to proceed with the Sacrament of Marriage, with the Exchange of Vows and the Giving and Receiving of Rings as set out in the Book of Common Prayer. The only difference is that there will be no signing of the Marriage Register at the church; as that civil activity will already have been completed at the Department of Home Affairs.

This will allow you not to be tricked or pressurised into something you cannot do, as same-sex people living in a union cannot be Communicants in good standing within your parish. As a TAC clergyman, you are not permitted to bless any same-sex union, on pain of losing your Licence, as per our Canon 32.1 "*no marriage shall be solemnized between members of the same gender*".

## THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

I am delighted to announce the formation of **Holy Trinity Seminary and Bible College**. This has been a long time coming and has been a part of our stated vision to expand the work of the Gospel in Southern Africa. Our Seminary will be based at the Parish of St Andrew's, Mondeor, Johannesburg, and the studies will be under the tutorship of our Chancellor, Hon Paul du Plessis, with assistance from Rev Fr Klaus Kuhne, Rector of St Andrew's, Mondeor.

It is imperative that every serving clergyman hold a theological qualification. We will begin with a Certificate in Theology, which will be obligatory for all Deacons going forward. No man will proceed to Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood without that basic qualification. Only once the Certificate in Theology has been completed, will we be able to discuss suitability for the Priesthood, but not before. There is good reason for our insisting on a qualification of this nature. If we wish to give quality Christian teaching to our people, we cannot use the work of others, or things taken from the internet. Our teaching and preaching must come from our deep personal knowledge of Holy Scripture and our experience as a man of God in prayer over the given text.

The Certificate in Theology, done in collaboration with the Kwa-Zulu Natal Missionary and Bible College, under the Rectorship of Rt Rev Dr Warwick Cole-Edwards, will cover an overview of the Bible, Old and New Testament studies, Systematic Theology, Selected Books of the Bible, Preaching, Hermeneutics and many other courses. Learning will be done on a distance learning basis, although we hope to offer some residential experience as Holy Trinity Seminary develops. Studying can begin almost immediately, and there is a flexibility about the time to take, which you will discuss with the Chancellor when you enrol.

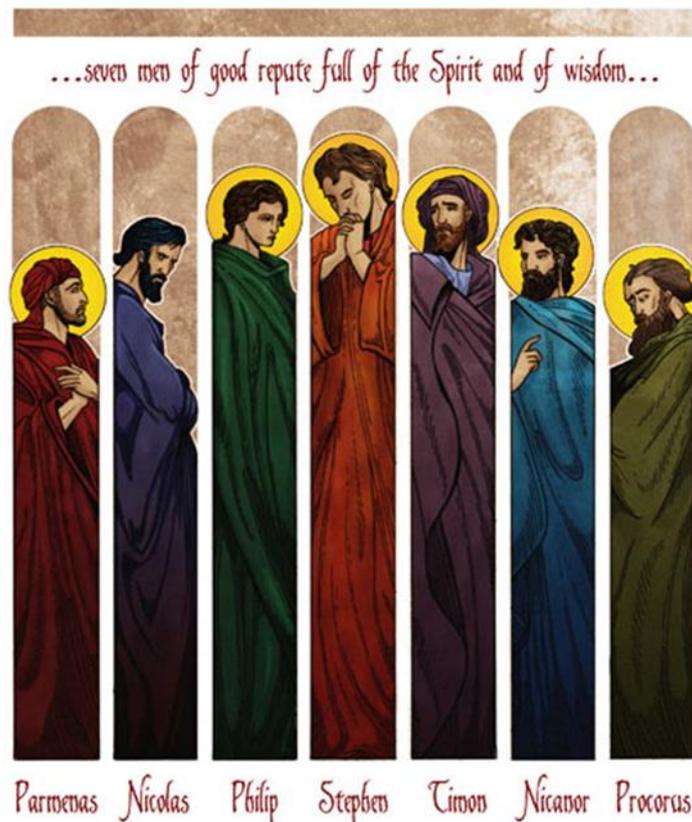
Not only are we requiring that all Deacons undertake these studies, but those of you who have been priested but have never furthered your studies will be required to complete the Certificate in Theology Course. Diplomas in Theology will be available in due course, but we are beginning our efforts with the Certificate level qualification.

If we wish to become the alterative expression of Anglicanism in Southern Africa, we need trained and theologically competent men to lead the fight for Christian Orthodoxy. Enthusiasm can go a long way, but a man who is enthusiastic *and* educated in his chosen field is a formidable foe.

We are most grateful to the people and Parish Council of St Andrew's Mondeor for their support of this initiative. This is a pioneering enterprise, and their enthusiasm to assist is highly appreciated. Special thanks to Fr Klaus for organising accommodation for the Seminary offices, and to Hon Paul du Plessis, whose commitment to the upgrading of the quality of service delivered by our clergy is

of inestimable value. He has a passion for the Holy Scriptures that I admire, and his knowledge will be of great value to those of you who will study.

All of you who are currently Deacons, or who are rapidly approaching ordination are to make contact with Paul on +27 82 498 4302 and by email on [pdup@live.com](mailto:pdup@live.com) to begin the process of registration for studies. This must be done without delay. He will respond to you with what is required, and you will then receive your material and begin! Exciting days lie ahead for you as you begin to deepen your understanding of the Word of God and discern His will for your ministry!



Although we are focussing our registration at the Holy Trinity Seminary and Bible College on those who are facing Ordination, or are already in Holy Orders, it is our intention to make the facility available to any TAC lay person who would like to deepen their knowledge of Holy Scripture. We will make further announcements to this effect in due course.

### **HOLY ORDERS:**

This is an area where, as Traditional Anglican clergy, we have seen too much innovation. The Traditional Anglican Communion came into being as a result of careless and divisive actions worldwide, driven by the “*putsch*” for the ordination of women to the priesthood. Throughout our communion, the TAC holds that the Diaconate and Priesthood are male and that this cannot be altered. This is the tradition of the Catholic Faith and it is not a ‘*rights issue*’ nor an insult to women in any way, as they quickly claim. The so-called ‘*pain*’ of women denied priesthood is a feeble and much used argument, but despite the pressure they have brought to bear, the stance of Orthodox Christianity remains unchangeable.

In wider Anglicanism, changes to Holy Orders have brought about division in the church and have added no real value to the work of the Gospel. It is interesting that one of the reasons given for women’s ordination was a lack of male vocations.... strange that we have no such problems!

## ORDINATION, SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2019

The service of Ordination of Priests and Deacons will take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2019. This will enable those ordained to present themselves to their parishes as men in Holy Orders on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

Ordination is a defining moment in any man's life, and we are blessed to have many men presenting themselves for ordination this year. These men are 'home grown' and none are drawn from other churches, and this means that we can develop our strong orthodox Anglican identity, and do not need to worry about "strange habits" coming into the church from other denominations. Our church is blessed in having men prepared to serve in Holy Orders and we commend them to your prayers.

In the second part of 2018, we had two men Ordained as Deacons in Cape Town, two as Deacons in the Eastern Cape, and one as Priest in Robertson, Holy Resurrection Parish. We are a flourishing and growing church, and God be praised for the blessings He has lavished upon us!

Our current group are almost all from parishes in Gauteng - St Stephen's Tokoza, St Andrew's Mondeor, St Cyprian Atteridgeville, Holy Trinity Mamelodi and Holy Cross Pretoria. They will be joined by a strong group from All Saints Pro-Cathedral, Seshego, Limpopo. It will be a powerful celebration of a growing and maturing church, and a time for great rejoicing.

Because of the number of men for ordination, and the number of Gauteng parishes involved, I have obtained the use of a large Methodist church in Centurion, near Pretoria. This will mean that transport will not be difficult, as the trip to Polokwane is very expensive. The service will take place at:

### **WEST VIEW METHODIST CHURCH, 83 TORTELDUIF CRESCENT, WIERDAPARK, CENTURION**

The church seats about 400, and there is adequate parking. Car guards will be present. The church will come up on a Google Maps search and is easy to find. [ [www.westview.org.za](http://www.westview.org.za) ]

The Service will begin at 10h00, the colour will be RED and any attending clergy should be correctly dressed in Eucharistic robes [Alb, amice, girdle and red stole].

Those in the procession and those being ordained will need to be at the church by 09h00 at the latest. We will then be able to organise seating and liturgical logistics without being rushed. There will be a separate hall designated as a clergy vestry where you will be able to robe and leave your belongings in safety.

Please be so kind as to respond to me on [frmichaelgill@gmail.com](mailto:frmichaelgill@gmail.com) or [gillm@kensec.co.za](mailto:gillm@kensec.co.za) with the numbers that will accompany you and your candidates. This will allow for proper catering and seating inside the church. I will require this information as soon as possible.



## MEETING OF THE TRADITIONAL ANGLICAN COLLEGE OF BISHOPS – CALGARY – CANADA

Bishop Wellington Murinda and I were able to travel to Calgary last week for a meeting of the TAC College of Bishops. Regrettably, Bishop Andrew Mukuyamba was unable to accompany us, as he was not able to obtain a Canadian Visa in time.

Our meeting took place in an atmosphere of prayer and unity, and we were very blessed by the competence of our Primate, Archbishop Shane Janzen, who kept the focus of the group and steady movement through a large agenda. I will report more fully on this meeting in our next *ad Clerum*, but one of the most creative decisions was the formation of a TAC Province for Africa, in order to accommodate the many people asking for TAC Membership. This goes with Indian and Latin American Provinces of the TAC.

I am pleased to say that in all my experience of Synods and church meetings, this was a gathering in which the Holy Spirit was truly at work and where men of God were open to His guidance. Things were achieved that usually take years to agree upon, and all the Bishops present were unanimous in their support of the movement of the TAC into the future. Bishop Wellington and I left the meeting feeling most optimistic about the future of the TAC worldwide, and enriched by the godly fellowship and worship we had enjoyed with our brother Bishops.



*Bishops of the TAC College of Bishops at work in Calgary*



*The Bishops of the TAC College of Bishops, Calgary 2019*



*Archbishop Shane Janzen leads the TAC College of Bishops in Holy Communion, the focal moment of each day*

I wish to thank you for your prayerful support in all we are striving to achieve for the sake of the Gospel in Southern Africa. Our Lord is with us and great things will be achieved by the new men for the ordained ministry, as they dedicate themselves to His service. We, for our part, are to intercede for them and for their families, and pray for their protection and peace as they begin their work.

As a part of the community of the redeemed, we are called to love each other and pray for each other without ceasing. The power of the Holy Spirit, so evident at Pentecost, is at work amongst us, my dear brothers and sisters, and for that we rejoice. God is using us, His humble servants, to His honour and glory! All praise and honour be to His Holy Name, world without end. Amen.

In Christ

*+Michael  
Southern Africa*