

Your Grace, Archbishop Thabo, thank you for granting me the opportunity to respond to my consecration and to pay homage as a new Bishop within your Province.

First and foremost, I give thanks to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has called me first to the order of deacons, then to the order of Priests and now to the office of Bishop, here in the Diocese of False Bay. God alone knows why he chose me, amongst all the excellent and holy priests in the Diocese.

I am being consecrated on the feast day of St Polycarp, a Bishop, who died a martyr, bound, and burned at the stake, then stabbed when the fire failed to consume his body. I am not sure if this will be my journey. I, however, can hear the voice of God saying, "I chose you" And for that call I believe I am so called. It is my prayer and commitment that I will not disappoint those clergy and laity who elected me.

I recognize the fact that I am the third Bishop of this Diocese who is only 18 years old, following the late Bishop Merwyn and Bishop Margaret. It is my duty to build on the foundation laid by them, yet craft the design envisioned through the Holy Spirit. We had Merwyn, Margaret and now Moses! I enter the Episcopacy with a vision discerned and affirmed during my retreat, thank you Canon John for leading my retreat in preparation for the Episcopacy. Thank you too to the Vicar General, Ron for leading the Diocese during the time of interregnum following Bishop Margaret's retirement. Thank you to the Chapter of the Diocese for ensuring the smooth running of the Diocese alongside the VG.

Thank you, Archbishop Thabo, for inviting the Bishops of ACSA to attend my consecration and to arrange for the Synod of Bishops to convene hereafter. Fellow Bishops, active and retired, your presence and support is sincerely appreciated. Thank you for travelling from afar to be present at my Episcopal consecration.

To my own clergy and people of the Diocese of False Bay, thank you for all your assistance, love and support you showed to me as a priest, Bishop-elect and, now your Bishop. May God bless you on the path of transformation and transfiguration that will be unfolded during my tenure as your Bishop. I count myself to be lucky and privileged to lead the Diocese with great humility in the power of the Holy Spirit. I also wish to

acknowledge that I am inheriting a “well-oiled machine” in the Diocesan Office and wish to express my thanks to my staff for embracing me as the new Bishop, since my election and for all the preparations to welcome me as Diocesan Bishop. This has not gone unnoticed, and I wish to assure you that I am looking forward to officially join you in office after the Synod of Bishops.

Like many other Dioceses we continue to deal with the after effect of the worldwide Covid pandemic. As a church we are rebuilding what it was before Covid. We acknowledge that some Parishes are more financially stretched than others. The reality is that some Parishes struggle to meet their Diocesan Commitment. Together, we shall discern the best way to deal with the inability of Parishes to afford the assessments to ensure our financial viability.

Permit me to acknowledge the Diocese of George where I served as Deacon and Priest before moving to the Diocese of False Bay. Your love, care and support are demonstrated by your presence here today. Time does not permit me to share more, but you know the role you have played leading up to this day. May God bless you in your journey back home.

Archbishop Thabo, I have served in many congregations, organizations and positions in the Church during my 31 years as an Ordained Priest and wish to assure you that my Episcopacy will be one of a compassionate Shepherd, a transformative leadership, and an inclusive ministry. My presenter indicated that I’ve been presented at the Elective Assembly to be “thoughtful, eloquent, soft in nature and as a strong strategist” ... to this I respond God be my helper.

With the words of 2 Timothy 1:5 in mind, I am reminded of the sincere faith of my parents planted within me long before I was ordained to the orders of the Church. I acknowledge my biological brothers and sisters and the extended family for their love and prayers and support.

Allow me to thank our Episcopal partners from the Roman Catholic, Methodist, Congregational and other faith groups for accepting our invitation to attend this service.

Our Diocese has a very special bond with the University of Stellenbosch which will continue during my episcopacy. Thank you, Dean of the faculty, of Theology for being in attendance today. People of other faith groups present today; your presence is acknowledged as we recognize that the office of Bishop is for all and depending on all.

I also wish to thank our international partners and friends, some of whom are in attendance today and those watching this service online. We will continue to strengthen the links and ties established by my predecessors and will form new partnerships during my Episcopacy.

From the day of the announcement of my election, I have experienced so much generosity, and well wishes from a lot of people whose names I am not mentioning, suffice to know that we are in the Lord's vineyard together, each one playing his own role, but answering to the one Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. Let us continue to keep each other in prayers and know that the love I enjoyed through you will remain in me.

I thank my own family, Yvette, Melanie, Bethany for never lacking to support me in my ministry. We now have two Bishops in the same household – one Methodist and one Anglican ... Lord have mercy. Thank you for always being there for me, I have no other choice but to acknowledge that you always stood by me with love, prayers, moral and material support. I will continue to count on you.

For all who have contributed to this occasion and all who are present here today I pray that God will bless and reward you. As Bishop, people of God, I assure you that I will be open to journey alongside you and will rely very much on your prayers and you can count on me also to daily, for prayers for you. I pray that our Diocese may be strengthened to embrace a world shattered and being rebuilt after the Covid pandemic.

Finally, people of False Bay, here I am, as your shepherd as one of you. Like St. Augustine says, "*With you I am a Christian and for you, I am a Bishop*". I will preach the Gospel and anything that will flow therefrom. We shall join hands together to work, to care and to embrace all of God's people.

May God bless all of us and may His Name be praised both now and forever. I thank you.