

**Archbishop Thabo Makgoba**  
**Parish of Rosebank – St Martin’s in-the-Veld Centenary**  
**February 2012**

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Dear people of St Martin’s in-the-Veld – dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, it gives me great joy to greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and to offer my warmest congratulations as you celebrate the centenary of the Parish of Rosebank.

I thank God for his faithfulness to you, and to the generations before you, who have made this Church a holy place of prayer and worship, and a beacon of light and hope in times of darkness. Though our country and our society has changed unimaginably over the last century, Scripture promises that Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and for ever (Hebrews 13:8). It is his gospel that has been proclaimed, in good times and in bad, as he empowered generations of his people in this place to go out in his name, and by his strength, to witness to our Lord and Saviour beyond the walls of the church, and to spread his good news in his world through acts of loving service.

Like St Martin himself, you have been ‘faithful soldiers and servants of Christ’ in fulfilment of the calling upon all the baptised, and have enriched the wider church of God in a wealth of spiritual and material ways. We express our particular gratitude to him for raising up so many people from within the laity and clergy of the parish to play leadership roles, both within the Church and within our nation.

My prayer for you all is that you may each find yourself growing in knowledge and love of God our heavenly Father; that you may increasingly ‘put on Christ’ and be changed to be more like him; and that your lives may be filled with confidence in your faith, that comes from the indwelling of his Holy Spirit.

And so may you continue to be blessed in your mission and ministry, so you may continue to be a blessing to others in God’s world.

Yours in the service of Christ

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