

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba
Judge Pius Langa – House Blessing
5 March 2012

- Earlier today, at Morning Prayer, I read these verses in the set Psalm (37:21-41)
‘If a man’s steps are guided by the Lord: and he delights in his way,
Though he stumble he shall not fall headlong: for the Lord holds him by the hand
... For the Lord loves justice: he will not forsake his faithful ones.
- Today, we celebrate the blessing of this lovely home – the home of someone who, we trust, also ‘loves justice’ – and who chooses the path of justice, of good, of faithfulness to God, not only in his professional life, but in every part.
- The introduction in the service book reminds us that ‘all good things we have are a gift from God...’ adding that ‘the Church sets apart things which God has given us for our use, to remind us that they are gifts of which we are his stewards.’
- We therefore bless a house ‘to show that it is a home where God is to be loved and honoured, and where the visitor will be welcomed in the love of Christ.’ In this, as the service book puts it ‘we take possession of the building for God, that it may be filled with the life and love of Christ, and that those who live [*and work*] there may live in his strength, under his protection, and for his glory.’
- And therefore, in blessing this new house, we are saying far, far more than merely asking for some sort of ‘holy good luck’ on these bricks and mortar.
- Rather, this service conveys the deliberate choice of Judge Pius that not only his house, but he himself – his whole life, both at home and at work – is dedicated wholly in the service of God.
- It is an acknowledgement that all he is (with his abilities, his intellectual capacities, his experiences, his achievements); and all he does (in and through his family, friends, social and professional contacts, his work and all the opportunities that come his way); and all he owns – all of these are a gift from God.
- And so today, he rededicates himself to continue walking in God’s ways: he asks to be blessed so he may live and work to share his blessings with others.
- All of us can do this – whatever our gifts. If we dedicate ourselves to God, he will use us powerfully, whether or not we are powerful in the eyes of the world.
- We should all seek to live lives that are shaped by the life of Jesus Christ, our dear brother, our Saviour, our Lord – open to be transformed to become more like him.
- Then we shall reflect him – and others shall see him reflected, we pray, in our lives – so that too can know him as Saviour and Lord, and always live to his praise and glory.