



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS

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Monthly Bulletin /Circular

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**TO ALL PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS WORKING IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS,
AND THE LAY FAITHFUL**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

1 The Month of March: Welcome to the month of March, 2022, a month that leads us into the special season of Lent, a season in which we are called to deepen our relationship with God through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. With the **Ash Wednesday** (March 2) the Church ushers all into the solemn season of Lent to experience the profound call to repentance and renewal. This month presents us with these important feast days: **St. Patrick** (17th March), **St. Joseph, the Husband of Blessed Virgin Mary** (19th March), **Annunciation of the Lord** (25th March).

2. Call to Prayer: Our Holy Father, Pope Francis has called on all Catholics to take 2nd March, 2022 as a day of prayer and fasting for Ukraine. We are therefore enjoined to offer our fasting and prayers on that day for the restoration of peace in Ukraine and other parts of the world.

3. A Few Thoughts on Lent: As we begin the season of lent, may I remind everyone of the following regarding the season:

a. **Abstinence:** All the faithful who have reached 14 years of age and above are required to abstain totally from meat or favorite dish or drink on Ash Wednesday (March 2) and Good Friday (April 15) and all Fridays in Lent.

b. **Fasting:** All the faithful between the ages of 18 and 60 years are obliged to fast. In practice, fasting involves limiting oneself to a single full meal or two smaller meals a day. Those who are sick, pregnant or nursing or whose health would adversely be affected by fasting should not consider themselves bound by this norm.

c. **Parents and teachers** are responsible for helping young persons, who are not bound by the norms regarding fasting and abstinence to recognize the genuine sense in penance and self-denial. We are required to also to pray fervently for the catechumens who will receive

the Sacraments of Initiation during this period. Please find below some of the other ways we can observe this period of Lent so as to benefit from the graces of the season:

- i. **Avoid Sin:** Keep yourself away from all occasions that could lead to sin. Repent and return to God by a good sacramental confession and do appropriate penance if you fall into sin.
- ii. **Practice self-control;** be more generous especially in giving to the poor and needy and in contributing to the works of the church, remission of debts and payment of just wages.
- iii. Pursue and achieve **reconciliation** with anyone with whom you are not at peace.
- iv. **Read the Scriptures** in order to deepen your intimacy with God, spread the kingdom of Christ and help others to know and return to Christ.
- v. **Pray before the Blessed Sacrament**, go to Mass often, if possible, daily.
- vi. Be regular at the **stations of the cross** on Wednesdays and Fridays and do it every day if you can.
- vii. Take part in the **Lenten programmes and retreats** that will be organised in your parish. Take full part in the **Holy week ceremonies**.
- viii. Pray the **Rosary** daily.

Bear in mind that all other Fridays of the year remain Days of penance in prayerful remembrance of the passion of Jesus Christ.

4. Lenten reflections by the archbishop: As has been the case in the last few years, the Archbishop, Alfred Adewale Martins will be offering a lenten reflections every day during the whole season. The reflections will be transmitted as follows:

NTA CHANNEL 10: DSTV Channel 369 @ 6:55pm

LUMEN CHRISTI: DSTV Channel 350 @ 1:00pm & 9:15pm

RADIO: Metro 97.7FM @ 5:55am & 9:15pm

All our Social Media Platforms: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram: Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos.

Everyone is encouraged to tune in and listen to the reflections as we pray that the Word of God will nourish our souls. Amen.

5. Archbishop John Kwao Amusu Aggey 50th Memorial Anniversary Activities: The second Archbishop of Lagos died 50years ago on 13th March 1972. A number of activities have been lined up in his memory and in celebration of his years of service, first as Auxiliary Bishop and later as the Archbishop of Lagos. The following activities, among

others, have been scheduled in conjunction with the **Archbishop J.K.A. Aggey Foundation**, a foundation which was established in his memory.

- **Saturday, March 5, 2022**- Posthumous Birthday Mass at St. Leo Catholic Church, Ikeja at 10am
- **Sunday, March 13, 2022**- 50th Memorial Thanksgiving at Holy Cross Cathedral at 08:30am Mass. Thanksgiving by members of the Archbishop Aggey Foundation.
- **Thursday, August 4th 2022**- Remembrance of the 65th anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Archbishop Aggey during the Archbishop Alfred Adewale Martins' celebration of the 10th Anniversary of his installation at Holy Cross Cathedral at 12 noon.
- **Wednesday, September 14th 2022 (Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross)**- 50th Memorial Anniversary Mass at Holy Cross Cathedral. Reception and other activities at OLPH Hall.

6. Archdiocesan Preparation for the 2023 Synod of Bishops: Activities in preparation for the synod have been going on all over the Archdiocese. We enjoin everyone to take active part in the process and pray for its success. The Synodal Prayer has been reproduced on the back of our **Archdiocesan Directory** and in the **Archdiocesan Liturgical Desk Calendar**.

7. Chrism Mass: in preparation for the 2022 Chrism Mass, all Parish priests are to pay the sum of N50,000 to their respective Deans who are in turn to remit the money as a Deaneries to the Planning Committees.

8. Augustine University, Ilara (AUI) Offers New Courses: Our Augustine University has got NUC approval to enroll students for the following new courses:

- B.Sc Mass Communication
- B.Sc Political Science
- B.Sc Biochemistry
- B.Sc Cyber Security
- B.Sc Fisheries and Aquaculture
- B.Sc Information Technology
- B.Sc Software Engineering

The University is still offering admission to new students for the 2021/2022 academic session. Please bring this to the notice of the faithful in your parishes and Associations of the lay faithful.

9. St. Augustine College of Education, Akoka, Yaba, Lagos (Project T. I. M. E) Affiliated to University of Ibadan: we call on Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge to inform their Parishioners that Admission is in progress for the 2021/2022 Session. With a minimum JAMB score of 200 and above for Full-Time and less for Part-Time Degree programmes ; 100 and above for NCE programmes, the College is the place for you. Our programmes and their Requirements include:

DEGREE PROGRAMMES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN:

- ❖ **Arts and Social Science:**
 - B.Sc(Ed) Economics
 - B.Sc(Ed) Political Science
 - B.A (Ed) English Language
 - B.Ed Social Studies
 - B.A (Ed) CRS/IRS
- ❖ **B.Ed Educational Management**
- ❖ **B.Ed Guidance and Counselling**
- ❖ **Science and Technology Department**
 - B.Sc (Ed) Physics
 - B.Sc (Ed) Chemistry
 - B.Sc (Ed) Mathematics
 - B.Sc (Ed) Biology
 - B.Sc (Ed) Computer Science

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS DEPARTMENT:

- ❖ B.Ed Early Childhood Education
- ❖ Nigeria Certificate In Education (NCE) Programmes (Full-Time And Part Time): 5 or 6 Credits in One or Two sittings
- ❖ PDE(Professional Diploma In Education)-First Degree or H. N. D. from any recognized Tertiary Institution.
- ❖ Catechesis- Practicing and intending Catechists or O' Level Certificate.
- ❖ All NCE Certificates Are Awarded By The NCCE(National Commission for Colleges of Education)
DURATION:Full Time-3years, Part Time-4 Years
- ❖ All Degree Certificates Are Awarded By The University Of Ibadan.

METHOD OF APPLICATION TO ALL COLLEGE PROGRAMMES:

Obtain your Application form at ST. AUGUSTINE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, 2, Moronfolu Street, by Pako Bus stop, Close to FCE(Technical) and UNILAG, Akoka, Yaba, Lagos State. OR LOG-ON TO www.staugustinecollege.edu.ng and follow the guidelines.

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL: 08065954493, 08024582945 OR 08033574050(Catechesis).

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. Annual Priests Retreat: The first batch of the Annual Retreat of Priests in the Archdiocese for this year has been scheduled to hold from Sunday 6th March - Friday 11th March 2022 at Domus Fidei (EHJ Generalate) 7, Amore Street, Ikeja, Lagos.

To this end, all priests are requested to promptly fulfill their financial obligations through the Priests Welfare Committee, Rev. Fr. Stephen Akinsowon.

Please note that the retreat is obligatory and NOT optional. Hence, ALL priests are required to participate.

b. 2021 CARITAS-LAGOS SUNDAY COLLECTION (13th March): This is to remind all Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge, that the proceeds from the Caritas-Lagos Collection is to be paid into the Caritas Account on or before **Monday 21st March, 2022**. Account details are as follows: **FIDELITY BANK, 4110033795, ARCHDIOCESE OF LAGOS-CARITAS**. We count on your cooperation.

c. Archdiocesan Lenten Pilgrimage: The annual Archdiocesan Lenten Pilgrimage will take place as follows:

Date: Saturday 12th March, 2022

Venue: Ave Maria Grotto, Ikate Elegushi, Lekki

Time: 8:00am

All Priests and Lay Faithful are expected to attend and participate actively in this spiritual exercise. Parish Priests & Priests-in-Charge are enjoined to encourage and arrange for the participation of their Parishioners.

In view of the above, we expect that all Parish Priests/Priests-in-Charge would have organized Confessions for the Lay Faithful in their various parishes so as to ensure that the time spent at the pilgrimage is maximally utilized.

d. Laity Week Celebration- The annual Laity week celebration comes up from the Sunday, 13th - 20th March, 2022 in all Parishes in the Archdiocese. The opening ceremony comes up on 13th March, 2022 at St. Michael Catholic Church, Ketu and the Laity week collection comes up on 20th March, 2022 in all parishes. Everyone is encouraged to participate actively.

e. Second Anniversary of Abule-Ado Explosion: The second anniversary March 15, 2022. All priests are expected to celebrate Masses for the happy repose of the souls of the victims of the explosion.

f. Admission into Catholic Secondary Schools: This is to inform our parents that admission into JSS 1 for the 2022/2023 academic session in all Catholic Secondary Schools in the Archdiocese of Lagos is in progress. The Entrance Examination comes up on 19th March, 2022 at the schools. Forms can be obtained at the school of choice, all Catholic Primary Schools in the Archdiocese, selected parishes and electronically on examcentre.ng or on any of the following 10 Catholic Archdiocesan Secondary Schools' websites:

1. St Gregory College, South-West, Ikoyi <http://www.stgregorycollege.ng>
2. Holy Child Girls College, Ikoyi <http://www.holychildcollegeswikoyi.org>
3. St Finbarr College, Akoka <http://www.stfinbarrcollegeakoka.com>
4. St Kizito College, Iju-Ishaga
5. Mater Ecclesiae College, Epe <http://www.materecclesiaecollege.com>
6. Sacred Heart College, Apapa <http://www.sacredheartcollegeapapa.com.ng>
7. Maryland Comprehensive Secondary School, Maryland <http://www.mcssmaryland.org>
8. Our Lady of Apostles Secondary School, Yaba <http://www.olassyaba.sch.ng>
9. Marywood Girls College, Ebute-Metta <http://www.marywoodgc-lagos.org>
10. St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic College, Okokomaiko

Sale of forms will close one week to the date of examination. Let us give our children the holistic advantages that Catholic education offers!

g. SCC Seminar: there will be an Archdiocese of Lagos SCC Seminar for delegated SCC leaders and facilitators on **Saturday, 5th March, 2022 by 10am at Holy Cross Cathedral**. Each parish is expected to send 5 delegates for the seminar.

h. JDPC Lenten Campaign 2022: The JDPC Lenten Campaign is an annual programme of the CBCN, and is implemented by each Arch/Diocese during the period of Lent. To this effect there will be a Lenten Campaign Collection taken up in all Parishes on the Fourth Sunday of Lent - 27th March, 2022 at all Masses. Proceeds should be paid into; **Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos, Union Bank, 0000550113** on or before 1st May, 2022. Parish Priests and Priests-in-Charge should give this announcement the publicity it deserves.

j. Quarterly Returns and Special Collections: Every Parish is expected to fulfill the canonical obligation of giving an account of its income and expenditures to the Chancery and make the required financial returns. Please be reminded that the returns from the following Special Collections are to be made in the first quarter of the year: **Caritas Lagos Collection- 13/03/2022, Laity Week Collection-20-03-2022**

We reiterate instruction that Parish Priests/Priests-in-charge should make **bank transfers** to forestall the challenges of returned cheques, irregular signatures and other problems that cause cheques to bounce. We emphasize again that Parish Priests or Priests-in-Charge, should ensure that they log into the new digital platform (HYELLA) to make their returns.

i. Mater Ecclesiae Monastery:

Monthly Retreat: Mater Ecclesiae Monastery, Sangotedo, Lagos organizes a day of spiritual retreat for young girls from 15 years and above for the purpose of discerning their vocation. The retreat is scheduled to hold on the first Saturday of every month.

Time: 9:00 am - 4.00 pm. Venue: Mater Ecclesia Monastery, Sangotedo, Lekki, Lagos.

Mater Ecclesiae Retreat Center: Mater Ecclesiae Retreat Center, located in the serene atmosphere of the Monastery, is officially open to everyone for personal and Group Retreats. Time for Public Adoration to the Most Holy Sacrament is **from Mondays to Saturdays 9:00am to 8:30pm; on Sundays after 9:00am Mass to 12:15pm; and from 3:30pm to 5:00pm.** Also, you can visit the Book Centre. **For more inquiries, call 09085648168.**

j. 2022 Leading for Mission for Clergy: Leading for Mission was introduced as a leadership training programme for all the clergy in the Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos in

February 2019. There is an annual re-run for all those who have not participated due to extenuating circumstances. The 2022 Batch will be offered on the last Wednesdays and Thursdays of every Month from February to April 2022. It is mandatory that all sessions are completed. Those who did not complete previous batches, newly ordained or newly posted clergy are invited to attend.

k. St. Gregory School of Pastoral Music: This is the Catholic School of Music of the Archdiocese of Lagos that offers choirmasters, choristers, and interested music lovers a Diploma Certificate in Pastoral Music after successfully completing a program of 3 years' part-time studies. It is aimed at training Music Directors for parishes, communities, schools and similar institutions as it helps to develop their interest in music and the relevant theological/pastoral knowledge required for making them into *Pastoral Musicians*. The school is currently affiliated to Augustine University, Ilara on affiliation for the award of the Diploma. To join the preparatory class, please click the link below for registration: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/15wZ44SWIkvZ6BnpSxELOitoBWk7pE1lZKA2oQ8icY/edit?usp=drivesdk> The preparatory class is a 3-month study time geared towards preparing interested persons for the Entrance Examination to join the Diploma program. Interested persons can also visit the school's page on Facebook with the link below: <https://www.facebook.com/StGregoryDiplomaSchoolOfPastoralMusic>.

For more information about the school, please contact the: Mr. Simon Eze 07069289868 (Registrar) or Rev. Fr. Peter Osuntope 08023700587 (The Director)

l. St John Paul II School for Marriage and Family: the Archdiocese of Lagos is offering Learning opportunities and Skills development for Marriage Facilitators, Married Persons, Singles/Widowed, Parents, Lay/ Youth Leaders

List of courses/trainings

1. Marriage Theology and Lived Experience.
2. Teaching Sexuality Education in the Family
3. Theology of the Body Made Simple for Youth Teenagers and Adults
4. Natural Family Planning (NFP) Instructors Course
Managing Couple Fertility Naturally (Love & Life Method)
5. Basic Christian Counselling Skills- Become a Trained Counsellor

For enquiries and registration, call Martina Ozegbe on 0813 028 5777 and 07030616170. Courses began in February, 2022.

m. Pauline Foods Empowerment program: there would be an empowerment program/training on Food Processing and packaging organized by Pauline Foods. The first batch began on Saturday 5th February, 2022.

Duration: Every Saturday for 2 months (February-March)

Time: 10am - 4pm

Venue: St. Paul Catholic Church, Ebute Metta

Mentorship: 6months after training

Batch 2: June-July 2022

Batch 3: September-October 2022

A 2-weeks crash program is also available for those who might take advantage of that. Interested persons are encouraged to register. For further detail, call Benjamin- 09044946744 or Joseph- 07037673899

n. Cecilian Academy of Sacred Music: Cecilian Academy of Sacred Music calls on music lovers who desire to improve their music career to enroll in her 3months/ 6months practical lessons in any/all of the following courses:

- Orchestral instruments
- Sight reading
- Voice Grooming/management
- Piano
- Choir management.

Start Date: Saturday, 12th March 2022

Time 10am every Saturday

Certificates will be awarded to deserving individuals at the end of each session. For more enquiries call Mr. Wilson on 09030905196 or 07035454075

o. Diploma in Catechesis (Regular and Online Program): For all Pastoral workers, Catechists; and lay faithful who wish to build their Catholic Faith.

Regular Classes: Twice a month - 2nd and 3rd Saturdays of the month

Online - Entirely ONLINE - Once a week via zoom.

It is structured to enable participants meet up with their respective work/business.

Forms: Two thousand naira only

Resumption: Online: March 10; Physical classes: March 12

For further inquiries: +234 803 357 4050 or +234 703 512 1621

p. Study of the Vatican II Document: How much do we as leaders and Catholics know of the Vatican II documents which flung open the windows of the Church? In the reawakening of this, we invite all Lay faithful, Catechists, Evangelizers to be part of the 5-week ONLINE learning session.

Begins: February 19, 2022

Registration: Five thousand naira only (5000.00)

For further inquiries: 08033574050, 08039603013, 08092898458

11. Priestly Ordination Anniversary:

We congratulate, rejoice with and request your prayers for Rev. Msgr. Obanla Anthony & Frs. Paul Hardy, Akhidue John, Adegun Francis, Lawrence Nwaneri, David Cheruiyot, Chikezie Wisdom, Ekpo Benjamin, Ideawor Kingsley, Martinos Theodore, Okpala Melchizedek and Gilbert Thesing as they mark their Sacerdotal Ordination anniversary this month. May God grant them lasting joy and the grace of final perseverance. ***Ad multos annos!!***

12. Bereavement:

We announce with deep sympathy, the demise of **Mr. Patrick Olaitan**, the brother of **Rev. Fr. Julius Olaitan** who died on Thursday, 24th February, 2022 and **Chief Ignatius Okon Etim** the brother of **Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Etim, MSP**. Kindly celebrate Masses for the repose of their souls and consolation of their families. May God grant them eternal rest. Amen

Signed

+ Alfred Adewale Martins

Archbishop, Metropolitan See of Lagos