



GETTING ACCEPTED IN THE PRIESTHOOD (64 years ago)

At the end of my philosophy studies, I went to say Goodbye to my Superior. He said sit down; do you remember I wrote to you on a post card. I was willing to accept you. I said I remember. He said I am a man of principle, and my principle is not to accept a student who has difficulties with studies. In your case I was not free to refuse you. I had to accept you!

When you are Old and a Monsignor, Write your Story,
Four years later he attended my Ordination.

Thank you
MAY GOD BLESS YOU



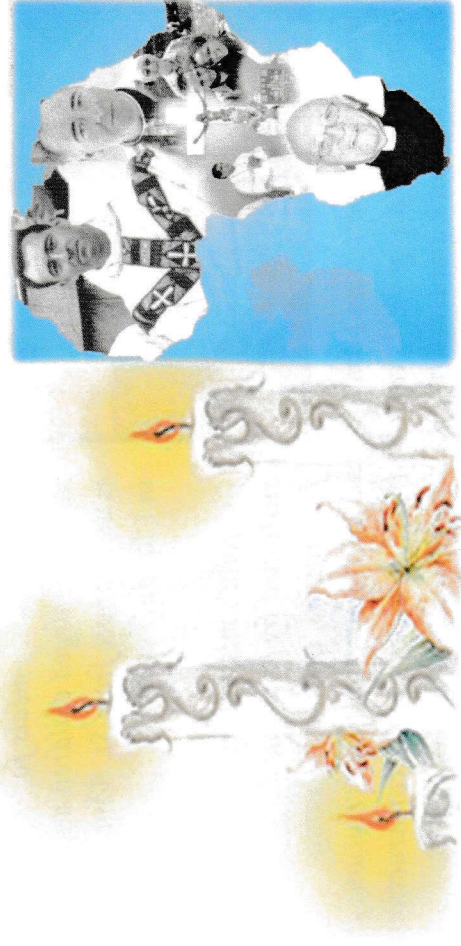
Over the span of six decades, Fr. John dedicated himself to serving his faith and Church, touching the lives of numerous parish communities. His contributions extended beyond spiritual guidance; he erected churches and established vital soup kitchens, ensuring daily meals for underprivileged children and families, with support from St. Vincent de Paul in Clonduff parish.

Fr. John's missionary work was sustained by generous donations, fundraisers, and unwavering community support from Clonduff and Rostrevor. With contributions from Ireland, significant projects came to fruition, including the construction of St. John's Church and its parish hall in Cradock in 1973 and 1983, respectively.

In 1983, Fr. John relocated to Port Elizabeth, where he led the development and expansion of numerous parishes, starting with Holy Spirit parish. His leadership led to the construction of St. Joseph the Worker church and the



CELEBRATING YOUR *Diamond* JUBILEE



MONSIGNOR JOHN CLARKE

In the 1950s, Fr. John embarked on his journey towards priesthood in Ireland. However, recognising the greater need for his service abroad, he was warmly received by Bishop Green of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, on 19th October, 1957. There, he continued his studies for priesthood, returning home for his ordination on 10th December, 1963, where Bishop Green officiated the ceremony at St. John the Evangelist Church in Ballymaghery, Hilltown.



repurposing of the old church into a multipurpose hall and soup kitchen. During the apartheid era, it was illegal for whites to live in a black or coloured area, so after this system ended a priest flat and catechism centre was built at St Joseph's in 1994. In Fr John's final parish, Algoa Park, he converted a large garage into St. Vincent's Church.

"Monsignor" is a title bestowed on a priest who has distinguished himself by exceptional service to the Church. It was granted by Pope Benedict XVI on 22nd October 2008

Fr John has devoted his life in South Africa to bringing people closer to Christ, helping the poor, ensuring that the hungry have food, being a confidante to all in his community and inspiring many.

May the LORD Reward what you have done!

May you receive Reward from the LORD. Ruth 2:12

