



ST JOHN'S PREPARATORY



BLESSING OF THE NEW PREP BUILDING



Including the Induction of Mr Lester Lalla as
11th Headmaster of St John's Preparatory

Thursday 30th September 2021 at 09h00
The Rt Revd Dr Steve Moreo, Bishop of Johannesburg



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Mr West & Mrs Mashele

The Bishop leads the service:

In the Name of God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Amen

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Open our lips, O God

And our mouths shall proclaim your praise

The world belongs to God

The earth and all its people

How good and how lovely it is

To live together in unity

Love and faith come together

Justice and peace join hands

If the Lords' disciples keep silent

These stones would shout aloud

THE COLLECT

Eternal God, you are the source of all wisdom, and you want us to know and love you: Grant to this school the grace of your presence, that you may be known as the inhabitant of this building and the defender of its purpose. Bless those who teach and those who learn that in humility they may rejoice in the knowledge of your truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Our children will live in the world we leave for them. They will live with the problems we have unwittingly created, and face challenges we cannot yet imagine. We cannot tell them how to live in that future, but they are learning from us now. What values, what virtues do we need to transmit to them that will give them the tools they will need?

In our community we are called to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every child. As Christians, we hold that each is a unique individual, precious in his or her own right, entitled to be received by loving arms and to be guided with kindness and respect. We take it as a duty incumbent on us all to provide that love, learning and support so that our children may grow in integrity and spiritual wisdom - joined to a larger humanity and loving life in all its challenge and wonder. Let us bless this new building and dedicate it to the glory of God.

THE WORD OF GOD

A reading from Psalm 139

Read by Tobi Gbadebo

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

*Our Father
who art in heaven
hallowed be thy Name
thy kingdom come
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive them
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen*

THE BLESSING OF WATER

Lord God almighty, we ask you to bless this water. By water and the Holy Spirit, you have given the world its beauty and fashioned us in your own image. Bless and purify this new school with this water that it may become a place of sound learning, leading to springs of living water welling up to eternal life. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

BLESSING OF THE ENTRANCE

The Bishop and Servers process to the entrance

Peace be to this school
And to all who enter here

The Bishop sprinkles water at the entrance of the school and prays:

All praise to you almighty Father, you neither slumber nor sleep: protect by your Spirit in their coming and going all who cross this threshold; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

In the faith of Christ Jesus who is the door of the sheepfold, we bless the entrance to this school in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen

The Bishop and Servers return to the podium.



BLESSING OF THE BUILDING

Your word is a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path

Let us pray

All praise to you, almighty Father, your foolishness is wiser than all human wisdom: enlighten by your Spirit all those who work and all those who learn in these new classes that in all their work they may know that your love is the beginning of wisdom for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

In the faith of Christ Jesus, who sat with the elders in Jerusalem, we bless this school in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

THE INSTALLATION OF THE PREPARATORY SCHOOL HEADMASTER

The Bishop invites Mr Lalla to stand beside him, and says:

Dear members of the St John's College Community, we take this opportunity to recommit ourselves to our School and to the Christian love and hospitality it upholds. As we install the 11th Headmaster of St John's Preparatory School, it is appropriate for us all to re-dedicate ourselves to the principles and virtues which we treasure and intend to preserve.

Bishop Jesus said: "I am the true vine and my Father is the vine grower". Jesus is as dependent on His Father as we are on Him.

Lester, will you seek to fashion your life to be dependent on God's guidance, and will you seek to emulate the life of Christ in your daily life as the Headmaster of St John's Preparatory School?

Mr Lalla With God's help, I will.

Bishop Members of the St John's College Community, will you constantly seek to build your lives on Godly values and respect all people with equal reverence?

All *With God's help, we will.*

Bishop Jesus said: "Every branch that bears fruit, he prunes." Jesus accepts that bearing fruit requires constant growth and pruning, and that new learning sometimes depends on the transcendence of old knowledge.

Lester, will you graciously receive the growth and the pruning of this new experience, accepting that both challenge and opportunity will be part of your journey in the sure belief that Christ is always within you?

Mr Lalla With God's help, I will.

Bishop Members of the St John's College Community, will you be loyal to our School in all its pains and joys, acknowledging that the strength of Jesus resides with us in all circumstances?

All *With God's help, we will.*



Bishop Jesus said: "My commandment is this: Love one another as I have loved you." Lester, will you make the love of God the foundation of all your dealings with the whole community of our school; our students, our academic staff, our administrative and support staff, and all others whom we host?

Mr Lalla With God's help, I will.

Bishop Members of the St John's College Community, will you love, support and care for Lester, his family, and for one another?

All *With God's help, we will*

Bishop As God has given you the will to commit yourselves to these things, so may He give you the strength to fulfil them.

All *Amen*

Mr Lalla stands before the Bishop

Bishop Let us pray

Almighty God, you put into our minds the desire to fulfil your will, and you give us the strength to perform it: grant to your servant, Lester, grace to be faithful to the charge entrusted to him and to be a godly example to those who are entrusted to his care. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen

The Bishop installs Mr Lalla into office with the laying on of his hand;

Beloved in the Lord, it is my privilege, in the name of God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and by the power invested in me, in the presence of this congregation, to install you, Lester, to the office of Headmaster of St John's Preparatory School. May the Lord give you wisdom, courage, strength, and love to do his will; and may His Spirit rest upon you and guide you in the work which you will do in His name, now and always.

Mr Lalla returns to the Bishop's side. The Bishop asks the congregation:

Will you give your loyal support and willing co-operation to your new Headmaster, so that these commitments may be fulfilled?

All *With God's help, we will.*

UNVEILING OF THE PLAQUE AND THANKSGIVING FOR MR LEES

The Bishop, Servers, Chair of Council, Heads, and Mr Lees process to the plaque.

Mr Lees stands in front of the Bishop - the Bishop prays:

Holy Lord, we thank you that your Spirit is forever urging our spirits to higher wisdom, love, and goodness. We give you thanks for the love and fellowship we have enjoyed with Patrick, and give thanks for his contribution to the building of this new school. We pray for your blessing upon him as the Headmaster of Pridwin that your Spirit may rest upon his continued work and ministry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Mr Lees returns to the Bishop's side as they stand before the plaque:

Our help is in the name of the Lord
Who made heaven and earth

Let us pray

Merciful Lord, you know the needs of your children. We thank you for the opportunity to unveil this plaque as it marks the opening of this new building, and we thank you for those who have contributed to the vision and construction of this new school.

The plaque is unveiled

We bless this plaque in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, praying that its intention will reach into all aspects of this school and be a means of inspiration, blessing, and grace to all who work and learn here.

Amen

BLESSING OF ALL STAFF

The Bishop invites all Academic Staff, Administrative Staff, Ground and Servest Staff to stand.

My dear Brothers and Sisters, our Lord Jesus Christ befriended those who work with their hands, and he chose them to be his disciples. He also gathered with leaders, with children, and with the learned, and he studied together with them.

Let us pray;

Remind us Lord that we are all equal in our work, and regardless of our rank or office, no one is more worthy of honour than another. Enable us to treat each other with respect and dignity, to be diligent in our commitment to our calling, and to be grateful for the opportunity to serve each other in love.

Amen

The congregation is seated.

ADDRESS by Mr Lalla

FINAL BLESSINGS

The Bishop invites the congregation to stand.

Lord Jesus Christ, you invited children to come to you unimpeded. May you instil in the hearts and minds of all those who lead our children, the same Spirit of loving and gentle hospitality. Guide and inspire our children with open hearts and open minds to prepare for the world that awaits them that they may fulfil the potential for goodness you have born in their hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Sung by the Choir:

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you,
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face towards you
and give you peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

THE SCHOOL HYMN

COLLEGIUM S. JOHANNIS

1. Lord God our Father, who art Light, Life and Love,
Look down on our College in love from above;
Pray make it a home where, with Thee its true head,
Sound learning may flourish and good will be bred.
2. Lord, for its sons may its purpose remain
Their minds, bodies, characters rightly to train –
That all true Johannians go forth from its gate
Equipped well to serve Thee in Church and in State.
3. May all our wants still by Thee be supplied
With bountiful increase should Thou so decide,
Let Thy holy angels drive evil away
And guard Saint John's College, for Thy Son's sake we pray.

Words: John Harris (OJ)

Music: Irish Traditional Melody

(Based on the School Prayer of Rev James Okey, Nash – 1906)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ, amen.





Fr Cyprian Rudolf M. A. (Oxon) (1882 – 1958) is one of the unheralded heroes of the early years of St John's College. A product of Westminster School, Keble College, Oxford, and Ely Theological College, he commenced his novitiate with the Community of the Resurrection (which had taken charge of St John's College in 1906) at Mirfield in Yorkshire in 1914.

He was sent to St John's in 1916, shortly after he had made his profession. To him is due much credit for beautifying the College grounds by starting gardens, planting trees and adorning the buildings with artworks. In doing the landscaping of the grounds, he worked closely with the architect, Frank Fleming. It was also Fr Rudolf who started the College museum, and he was editor of *The Johannian* from 1920 until 1925. Although not one to be at the forefront of affairs, he was nevertheless the sort of person who exercised by his personality and presence a salutary influence over the boys.

During a particularly hot and dry summer in the early 1920s, a young staff member approached Fr Cyprian, who was standing with a watering can at the young oak trees he had planted to the north of the Prep courtyard. 'Father,' the staff member asked, 'why don't you plant something fast-growing, such as wattles and blue-gums which will give us shade and shelter in a very short time?' To which Fr Cyprian replied: 'Young man, I am not planting for myself.'

This statement by Fr Cyprian epitomised the spirit of selfless service, aimed at securing the future of St John's College, which characterised the work of the Community of the Resurrection at St John's. It had an interesting echo in 1934, when the Community of the Resurrection announced its decision to hand control of St John's College back to the Diocese of Johannesburg. The Father Superior of the Community, Fr Edward Keble Talbot, wrote: 'There must be sadness in surrendering so glorious an institution as St John's. But it accords well with the purposes for which we exist, that we should pioneer in fields which can later be cultivated by others, and that they should harvest what we have tried to sow.'

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ANGLICAN DIOCESAN COLLEGE OF JOHANNESBURG

Headmaster: L Lalla B.Ed. (UKZN)

Visitor: The Rt Revd Dr Steve Moreo MA (UP) PhD (UP)