



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF TIKOLHO E KATHOLIKE EA ISIFUNDABHISHOBHI SASE

JOHANNESBURG

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4 March, 2020

Dear Parish Priest,

SUBJECT: REGINA MUNDI, SITE OF PILGRIMAGE

Over the decades, the parish of Regina Mundi in Soweto has developed into a well-known site of pilgrimage. During the late Seventies and during the Eighties, Regina Mundi was a gathering place for thousands of Sowetans. They assembled in the church building to protest against apartheid, to mourn their dead heroes and to express their aspiration for equality and participation. At that time people were not allowed to gather in the open. Gatherings took place on June 16th, March 21st, and on other significant days. Night vigils and funerals of political activists took place at the church. Regina Mundi was a regular site of clashes between the youth and the police. It is against this background that Regina Mundi Church gained its fame. Local pilgrims and those from abroad visit Regina Mundi because of its role in the liberation struggle. But this is only one side of the story. Regina Mundi has also been a place of gathering for many religious celebrations.

The purpose of this letter is to invite the Catholics of the Archdiocese, especially those of Soweto, to revive the original intention of building Regina Mundi. The church was built and named after Mary as Queen of the World. The late Fr. Gerald Coleman, o.m.i. intended it to be a place of veneration to Our Lady. It is for this reason that we would like to promote Regina Mundi as a place of pilgrimage in honour of Mary the Queen of Peace, of Mercy, of healing and of the entire human family.

A pilgrimage to Regina Mundi Church will take place **every first Saturday of the month** starting from **May 2nd, 2020**.

Time: 6H00 (a.m.)

The entire procession and benediction will take about 1½ hours.

This will be a pilgrimage of personal prayer.

Come one and all.

Sincerely,

+Buti Tlhagale o.m.i.
Archbishop of Johannesburg