

THE INDUCTION OF Fr. GERMANO JULIO MANJATE.

SUNDAY 15th.AUGUST 2010

On the day of the Induction I arrived at St.Georges at 9.00 just as the Memorial plaque for Fr.Isiais was being dedicated inside the Church. The building had been emptied the previous day and the altar, candles and pews had been moved outside and set up under an awning with a temporary raised dais for the altar. Very shortly the procession moved outside and the service began. The opening words from Bishop Dinis of Lebombo were for him. 'He was a faithful son and a beautiful flower, full of life now in a Holy resting place. To die in the service of the Lord is beautiful and Blessed. There are priests here who are envious, even jealous.

These words formed the opening of the Eucharist service, which was easily recognisable although there was no service sheet to follow. It was a very long service of Baptism and Confirmation during which the Bishop said 'For those who find the service long let me remind you we all have eternity yet to come.'

Fr.Germano was brought on to the dais and presented to the Bishop by his administrator and there was a ceremony of licensing and induction during which the elder of St.George's, Sr.Helder Mwando, the Archdeacon and other clergy welcomed him. It was then that I was beckoned up and read the following message in Portuguese. 'In the name of

fellowship we bring you into our partnership and promise to collaborate with you and pray for you and your family.' The day before the Bishop had written this out for me and asked if I would have a go. There were then messages from the Beira Governor's office. A smartly dressed lady who started her speech with a very lively song, joined in by the congregation. She spoke confidently of cooperation and help to Fr.Germano. I think there were two other officials who gave messages at least one smartly dressed man who also began with a song. At this point the Bishop asked me up again while he explained where I had come from and my reasons for being there. I was very touched as he directed me to remain with them as part of St.Georges, while he then thanked all the other visitors. I stayed there until the 'Peace'.

After communion the proceedings became less formal, gifts were brought from the various Church organisations and greetings were read out. Chris Hemborough helped me by reading the letter from us, which Fr.Paul had given me and Camica Hemborough had kindly translated.



Unfortunately during the later part of the service Sr.Mwando was taken to Hospital. He had been under the strain of his responsibilities and duties of the week and also his daughter was being confirmed. I was taken with the Bishop and Fr.Germano to Hospital and I met his wife and daughter there. I later learnt that he had not spoken for two days but was able to speak again on the Wednesday I left. I am trying to contact by e.mail to see how is now.

I stayed in Beira from the Wednesday for seven days during which time I was entertained every day and travelled round the parish a total of about 1100km.by road. I shall try to describe some other parts of my trip later on.

