The Centenary Service held in the War Memorial Chapel at Bishops, to commemorate its centenary; followed by the unveiling of the Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu Centenary Commemorative Statue.

30 October 2026

Background

Canon Harold Birt, Bishops' seventh Principal, proposed the construction of the Chapel for which the Memorial Chapel Fund was set up on 1 October 1919. The foundation stone was laid by the Governor-General, the Earl of Athlone, on 10 June 1925 and on 31 October 1926 the new War Memorial Chapel was dedicated by Archbishop Carter to honour the 112 former Bishops students who died in action in WWI. Their names are inscribed on the bronze tablet at the entrance.

Centenary Service held on Friday 30 October 2026

The service commenced at 07h45 when the sacristans, lay ministers and clergy processed in. The hymn in procession was "The Church's One Foundation"'.

The Archbishop Dr Thabo Cecil Makgoba – the school's Visitor - greeted the people, followed by the order of service for a Eucharist in the beautiful pamphlet printed for the occasion.

The First Bible reading was from Philippians 1:1 – 11. Psalm 15 was sung by all whilst standing. Then followed the Gradual Hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy"; and the Gospel proclaimed: Luke 14:1 – 6.

His Grace delivered the Homily preceded by a vote of thanks to the Tutu family and all who participated in the event. His Grace recalled with delight his election in the Chapel in Sept 2007 as the Archbishop of Cape Town. The message based on the Gospel, centred on Jesus' healing the sick. In the way that Jesus showed compassion His Grace turned to Bishop Tutu for his compassion and inclusivity, leaving no-one out. All are insiders, all belong from the Lord's incredible embrace. Turning to Paul's letter, His Grace emphasized how Paul warns against the dangers of factions. His Grace once again thanked the Tutu family (a statue in honour of Archbishop Tutu would later be unveiled), congratulated Bishops for the initiative, and wished the school well especially for the year end and at the time of students' exams.

His Grace gave the greeting of Peace.

The congregation was seated for the anthem sung by the Choir and conducted by the Director of Music, Mr Jaco Goosen. The anthem was especially commissioned for the 100th year of the War Memorial Chapel celebration: Te Deum – "We praise Thee, O God" composed by Franco Prinsloo.

There followed the Celebration at the Lord's Table. The Offertory Hymn was "Come People of the Risen King". "The Lord's my Shepherd" was then sung and was followed by the hymn: "Plea for Africa".

The Recessional Hymn was "Praise my Soul"; after which the congregation assembled on the lawns in front of the Chapel, for the unveiling of the Centenary Commemorative Statue, remembering Archbishop Tutu, Visitor to the school. Archbishop Tutu was the first Archbishop of Cape Town to be elected by the electoral synod meeting held in the Bishops Chapel, in April 1986.

The statue is a legacy project shaped by the hands of master sculptor André Prinsloo and brought to life by Alan Schnider, Chris Daniels and their team at the Crucible Fine Art Foundry. The sculpture was kindly donated by Niall Brown OD who matriculated from Gray House in 1973. The statue was unveiled and then blessed by His Grace.

The ceremony ended with Tea on the lawns at which the 15th Principal Antony Reeler thanked all who contributed to the event and occasion.

Photo Gallery:



Figure 1- The service commenced at 07h45 when the sacristans, lay ministers and clergy processed in.



Figure 2 - The First Bible reading was from Philippians 1:1 – 11 read by the Deputy Head Boy, Christopher Reid.



Figure 3 - The congregation in full voice.



Figure 4 - The Archbishop prepares for the reading of the Gospel.



Figure 5 - The College Chaplain Father Monwabisi Peter proclaims the Gospel: Luke 14: 1 – 6.



Figure 6 - The Archbishop offers the Greeting of Peace.



Figure 7 - The Archbishop celebrates the Eucharist.



Figure 8 - The congregation was seated for the anthem especially commissioned for the 100th year of the War memorial Chapel celebration: Te Deum – "We praise Thee, O God" composed by Franco Prinsloo.



Figure 9 - The Procession from the Chapel to the unveiling of the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Centenary Commemorative Statue.



Figure 10 - The unveiling of the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Centenary Commemorative Statue.



Figure 11 - His Grace blesses the statue and gives the Peace to the people present.



Figure 12 - The statue of Archbishop Desmond Tutu with Archbishop Thabo Makgoba.



Figure 13 - Archbishop Thabo with Bishop Geoff Davies (OD).



Figure 14 - Father Monwabisi Peter addressing the people.



Figure 15 - Mr Tony Reeler addressing the people.



Figure 16 - The Principal Tony Reeler extending a vote of thanks to everyone involved in the project.



Figure 17 - The sculptor, André Prinsloo, with his sculpture.



Figure 18 - The statue of Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu, former Archbishop of Cape Town and Metropolitan of the Anglican region covering Southern Africa.

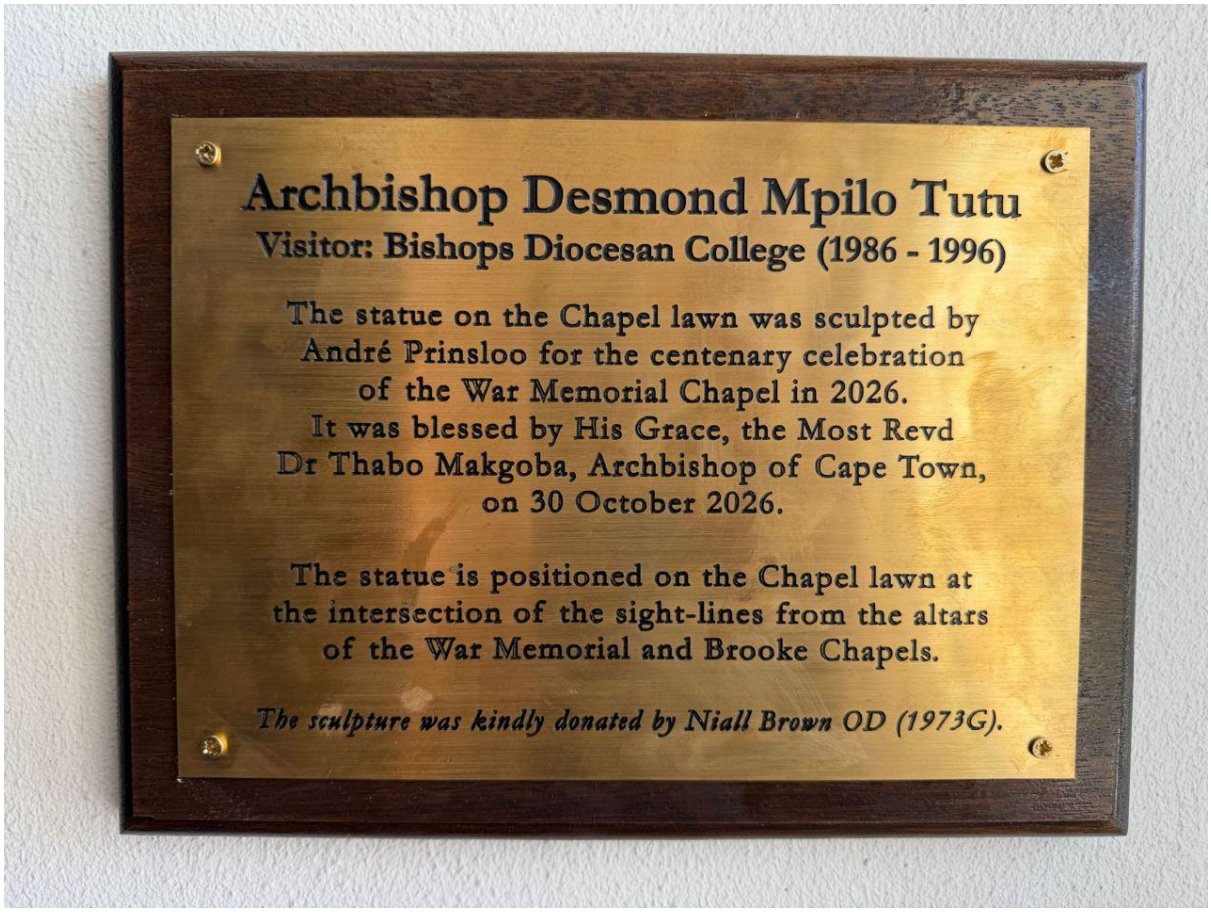


Figure 19 - The Memorial Plaque.

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