

**SACBC STATEMENT ON THE BOMBINGS AT ST JOSEPH'S PARISH,
PHOKENG (27/6/90)**

It is with great shock and sadness that the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference learnt about two bomb attacks in the early hours and vandalism on the property of St Joseph's Parish at Phokeng (near Rustenburg).

The Conference abhors such dastardly acts of violence. In no way do they contribute to the process of negotiations for a peaceful resolution to the problems in our country. Even less can they be considered as contributing to the establishment of that justice and peace that is God's desire for us all.

The first bomb was thrown through the church sanctuary (near the altar) and caused damage estimated at about R5 000. The second bomb caused extensive damage to a classroom in the commercial section of the parish school. A new fence was cut.

St Joseph's Parish is situated on the South African side of the border with Bophuthatswana's Phokeng Village, which has been plagued by faction fighting among the Bafokeng people since the failed coup attempt led by exiled Mr Malebana Metsing.

We hope that these misguided attacks on the property of St Joseph's Parish are not the work of people attempting to intimidate the Church into siding with them against others. It is the Church's mission to minister to all. Such action as perpetuated at St Joseph's Parish, Phokeng, will not deter the Church from her work.