



RIGHT REVEREND MICHAEL HARTLEY ELDON, CMG

8TH AUGUST 1931 - 7TH FEBRUARY 2011





“We live today in a world of change, and whilst the context of the Good News must and cannot be ever changed, nevertheless its mode of expression must be in a manner intelligible to and relevant to the people, young and old, of this age.”

Bishop Michael Hartley Eldon - 1972

A PONTIFICAL CONCELEBRATED EUCHARIST
OF THANKSGIVING
FOR THE LIFE OF THE LATE

RIGHT REVEREND MICHAEL HARTLEY ELDON

Born: 8th August 1931

Died: 7th February 2011

SERVICE HELD AT

Christ Church Cathedral
George Street
Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas

on

TUESDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY 2011

at 11:00 a.m.

OFFICIATING

The Most Rev'd. Dr. The Honourable John W. D. Holder

Archbishop of The West Indies
Bishop of the Diocese of Barbados

The Rt. Rev'd. Laish Z. Boyd Sr.

Bishop of the Diocese of The Bahamas and
The Turks and Caicos Islands

The Most Rev'd. Drexel W. Gomez

Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of The Bahamas and
The Turks and Caicos Islands

The Rt. Rev'd. Gilbert A. Thompson

Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of The Bahamas and
The Turks and Caicos Islands

Other Bishops of the Province of The West Indies

Cremation will follow.





DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr. Adrian Archer

ORGANISTS

Dr. Sparkman Ferguson

Fr. Fred Fleischer

A COMBINED CHOIR

Under the direction of Mr. Adrian Archer

THE DIOCESAN YOUTH ENSEMBLE

Under the direction of Mr. Kaylen Jervis

SERVERS

The Guild of St. Ambrose

Mr. C. Henderson Burrows, President

USHERS

From the Parishes in New Providence

Mr. Christopher Smith, Head Usher

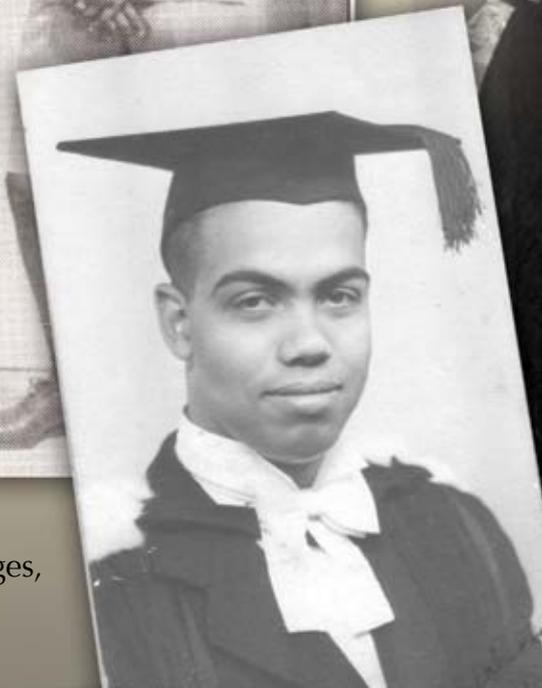
RT. REV'D. MICHAEL HARTLEY ELDON
8TH AUGUST 1931 – 7TH FEBRUARY 2011

Obituary

On 8th August, 1931, Michael Hartley Eldon was born to Sidney and Rowena Eldon of Delancy Street, Nassau, the first of two children. His father, Deacon Sidney Eldon, was a committed member of St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church in Virginia Street, where he was catechist, cantor, vestryman, and chorister, and Michael often accompanied him on his duties around the church. For as long as anyone knew Michael Eldon, he wanted to be a priest. This was a calling that had been felt by his father and grandfather before him, but as men of colour in The Bahamas, neither of them was able to achieve that dream. As a child, he would hold services in his home, often with a congregation of one, his sister, Keva; and as his extended family was one which kept many pets, he made a point of holding funeral services whenever one of them died, complete with hymns, mourners, procession and interments.

His parents, Sidney and Rowena Eldon, were committed to the advancement of their children. He was sent in 1937, at some expense to both his parents' pocketbooks and his mother's pride, to Queen's College, then notorious for excluding all but a handful of non-white Bahamians. There, he lost no time in distinguishing himself. Young Michael was somewhat of an athlete in his youth, distinguishing himself as a sprinter at Queen's College; but his preference was for scholarship. He came first in every class, and rose to become Head Boy, earning a First in the Cambridge School Certificate in 1947.

His academic achievement did not stop with his success at Queen's College. In 1949, thanks in large part to the guidance and support of T. A. Toote and A. F. Adderley, Michael went on to the University of Cambridge, and, together with Mr. Adderley's younger son Paul, he entered St. Catherine's College, where he read Theology (Paul read Law). After distinguishing himself with a First at Cambridge, he was offered places at several Oxford colleges,





and chose St. Stephen's House, an Anglican Theological College, continuing to follow his vocation.

In those days, Bahamian students abroad did not return home until they had finished their studies. While at St. Stephen's, Michael boarded during the holidays with Father Bartlette, Vicar of St. Saviour's in the East End of London. These times made a deep impression on the young theology student, exposing him to both the hardships and the

kindness of the people of the neighbourhood and the commitment of his host to his parishioners' well-being. These were lessons the young Michael brought home with him, and which he put into practice in the parishes he served in The Bahamas.

He returned to The Bahamas in 1954, and was ordained a deacon in Christ Church Cathedral on 22nd July, by the Rt. Rev'd. Spence Burton, S.S.J.E., Lord Bishop of Nassau and The Bahamas—17 days before his 23rd birthday and the canonical age for the diaconate (he was given a special dispensation for the ordination by the Bishop). He was sent to St. Agnes Parish as curate, where he served from 1954 to 1955. He was also appointed to St. John's College, where he taught Mathematics.

On 10th August, 1955, he was ordained a priest, and sent as curate to St. Matthew's Parish, where he was given charge of St. Margaret's Church, Kemp Road, and St. George's Church, Montrose Avenue, both then mission churches of St. Matthew's; he saw their establishment as parishes in their own right, and also served as Assistant Master of St. John's College.

These early years as a priest in New Providence opened up a new world to the young Father Eldon. From the beginning of his curacy at St. Agnes with Father Milton Cooper, Michael developed a solidarity with the Bahamian masses, and this expanded during his experiences at St. Margaret's and St. George's.

From the beginning of his accession to the priesthood, it was clear that Michael Eldon was determined to make his pastoral calling his life. He saw a great need among the people for a full-time pastor, a shepherd whose whole being was focussed upon the service of God, giving over the whole of his life to address his Bahamian congregants' spiritual, moral and educational needs.

In 1962, Michael Eldon was appointed Parish Priest of Grand Bahama by the Rt. Rev'd. Bernard Markham. At that time, the island was underdeveloped, and largely without resident priests. Michael served as priest for the whole island, travelling from west to east and back again, and establishing congregations as he



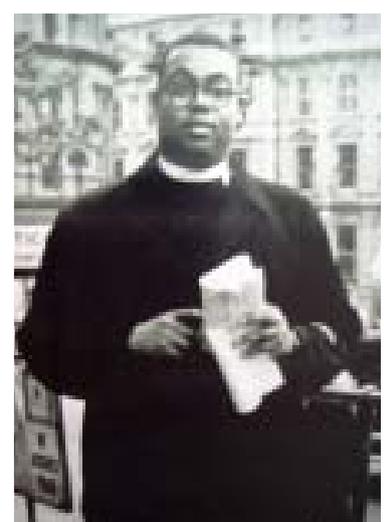
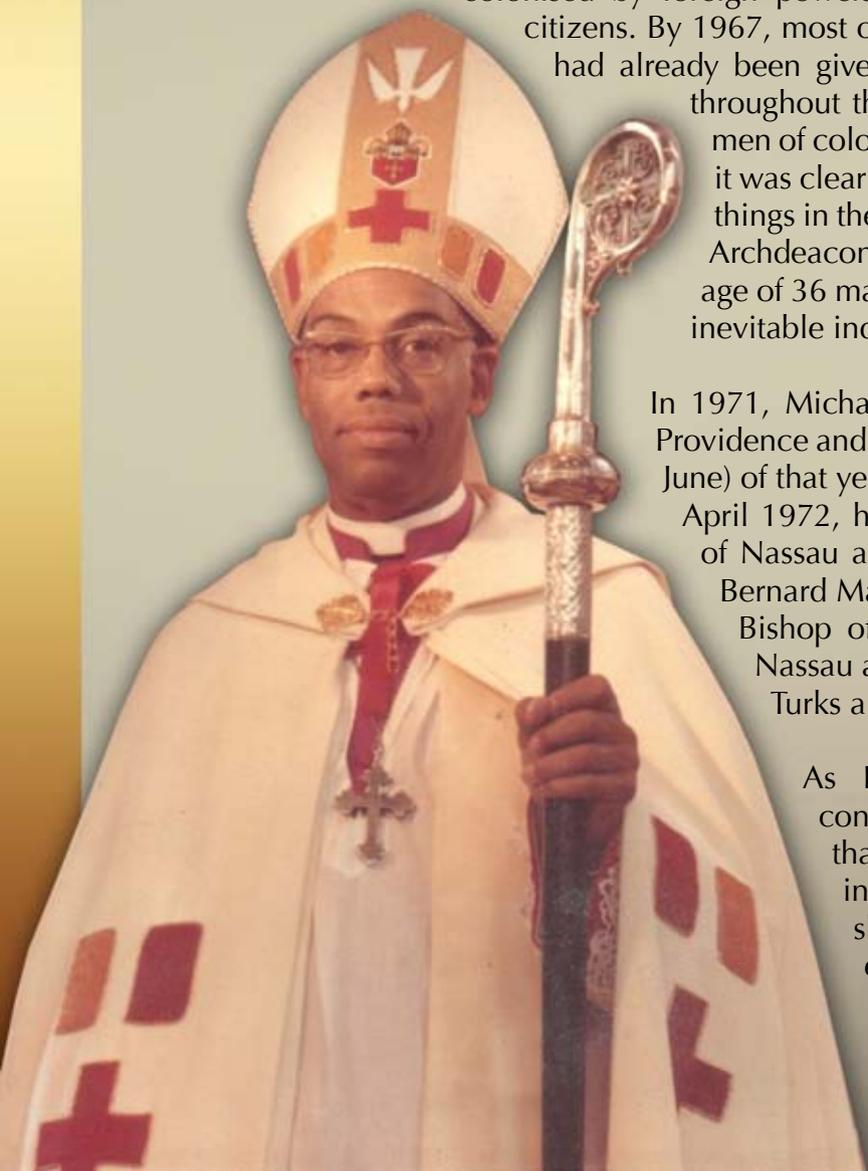
went. He saw the need among the people of Grand Bahama for pastoral care, and he worked tirelessly to meet that need. In 1965 he was made Rural Dean of the Northern Bahamas, and in 1967 he was appointed Archdeacon of Grand Bahama. He made it his mission to build Anglican churches for the congregations he had established. While in Grand Bahama, too, he served as a teacher and probation officer, and became Chairman of the Grand Bahama Christian Council.

Archdeacon Eldon's appointment came at a turning point in Bahamian history. The year 1967 was a watershed year, marking as it did the first time that a government made up of representatives of the majority of the people took office. At that time the entire world was changing in radical and profound ways. Territories hitherto colonised by foreign powers were being returned to their citizens. By 1967, most of the other West Indian colonies

had already been given full independence, and the Anglican Church throughout the Province of the West Indies was governed by men of colour and learning. The Bahamas lagged behind, and it was clear by now that Michael Eldon was destined for great things in the Bahamian Anglican Church. His appointment as Archdeacon of the Northern Bahamas at the relatively young age of 36 marked a commitment to prepare the church for the inevitable independence that was coming.

In 1971, Michael Eldon was elected Bishop Suffragan of New Providence and was consecrated on St. John the Baptist Day (24th June) of that year. Just under a year later, at the Elective Synod in April 1972, he was unanimously elected the eleventh Bishop of Nassau and The Bahamas in succession to the Rt. Rev'd. Bernard Markham. Bishop Eldon became the first Bahamian Bishop of the Diocese, then known as Nassau and The Bahamas including The Turks and Caicos Islands.

As Lord Bishop, Michael Eldon continued to practise the ministry that had made him so beloved in Grand Bahama—that of a shepherd tending his flock. His experiences in London, Bain Town, Kemp Road, the Valley,



and Grand Bahama had taught him that one of the greatest needs in the Diocese was for people to establish a personal connection with their priests and pastors. As Bishop of the Diocese, therefore, he sought to visit every parish at least once a year, including those in the southern Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands. In those days, long before regular airline service, getting to some of the islands posed a real challenge, especially given his very considerable girth. Nonetheless he would board the seaplanes and the dinghies that were required to access the various settlements, and think nothing of disembarking into the shallow waters to wade to the shore, as he very often had to do. In those parishes where even priests visited rarely, the presence of a Bishop—and a black Bahamian Bishop at that—was unprecedented, and earned Michael Eldon the love and respect of individuals throughout the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands, Anglican and non-Anglican alike. He made it a point throughout his Ministry to celebrate Christmas and Easter, the two most important Christian holidays, in some parish that did not have a resident priest; and he performed baptisms and confirmations throughout his Diocese for the same reason.

His presence was not only symbolic. Like many of his Eldon relatives, he was gifted with a prodigious memory; like his mother, he loved people. These two qualities together meant that he could identify every one of his parishioners by name, settlement, parish and pedigree. He loved the people he served and they loved him, and his visits throughout the islands provided him with some of his most precious moments.

His appreciation of the need to serve the whole Bahamas, and his deep love for his country, came together in a determination to indigenise the Bahamian priesthood and to ensure that every island of The Bahamas, if not each parish, was served by a resident priest. Like Canon Milton Cooper before him, he encouraged young Bahamians of all walks of life to enter the priesthood, and, inspired by his example, they did so. Under his leadership, Bahamian priests were trained, parishes established and churches built throughout the Diocese.

Under his leadership, too, Anglican education grew and expanded. Ever the scholar, Bishop Eldon remained committed to education, and used his own means to provide scholarships for young Bahamians of promise. Under his guidance, St. John's College, of which his father was a founding member, was developed and expanded; the parochial school of St. Anne's, originally established by Father John Pugh and his sister to serve the community of Fox Hill was similarly supported and recognised; and Freeport High School and Discovery Primary School were also brought under the umbrella of the Anglican Central Education Authority. In recognition of this commitment, the drive leading to St. John's was renamed Bishop Eldon Drive in 1996, Freeport High and Discovery Primary were together renamed Bishop Michael Eldon School in 2005, and the College of The Bahamas named its newest building the Michael Hartley Eldon Complex in 2006.



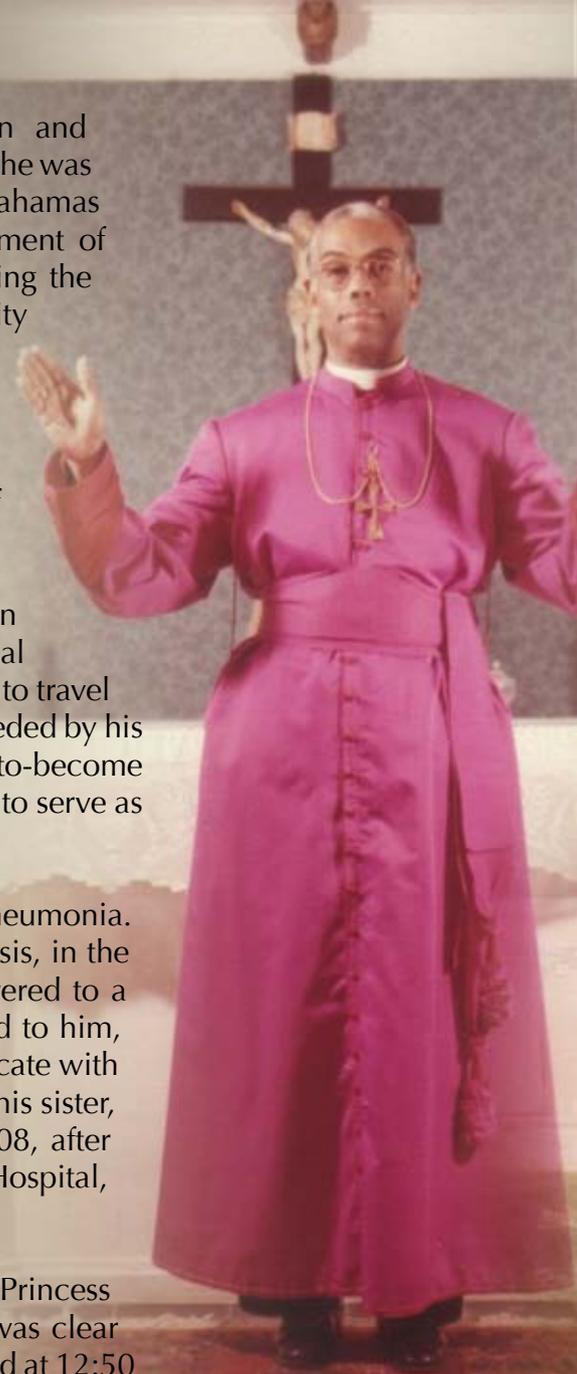
Bishop Eldon's scholarship, commitment to education, moderation and wisdom were also recognised by the Government of The Bahamas when he was appointed Founding Chairman of the Council of The College of The Bahamas in 1975, where he served for twenty years, overseeing the development of the College from community college to four-year institution, and laying the foundation for its further expansion and its progress towards university status.

In 1984, Bishop Eldon was created a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (CMG) by Her Majesty the Queen. In July 1996, he was honoured by the Government of The Bahamas with the award of The Bahamas Order of Merit (BOM).

After serving the Diocese for twenty-five years as Bishop, Bishop Eldon retired on 31st August, 1996, in some part due to the fact that his physical condition had deteriorated to such an extent that he was no longer able to travel around his Diocese and serve his people as he had done. He was succeeded by his fellow Bishop, Drexel Gomez, formerly Bishop of Barbados and soon-to-become Archbishop of the Province of the West Indies. Bishop Eldon continued to serve as Assistant Bishop until his final illness in 2005.

On 31st January, 2005, Bishop Eldon was admitted to hospital with pneumonia. Ten days later, on Ash Wednesday (9th February), he experienced a crisis, in the wake of which he slipped into a coma. Although he ultimately recovered to a limited degree, being able to open his eyes, understand what was said to him, respond to commands and show emotions, he was unable to communicate with those who visited him in any verbal way. He was cared for at home by his sister, Dr. Keva Bethel, and the private nurses of Nurses N.N.O.W. until 2008, after which he was moved to the Private Ward of the Princess Margaret Hospital, where he continued to be cared for by the nurses there.

On 31st January, 2011, family were summoned to his bedside at the Princess Margaret Hospital. Although he clung to life for seven more days, it was clear that he was failing, and he passed peacefully into the presence of his Lord at 12:50 on the morning of February 7th. He was beloved until the end, and was visited throughout his six-year illness by several of his former colleagues and parishioners alike, some of whom hailed from the Family Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and around the world, and who made it a point to see "Bishop" whenever they were in Nassau.

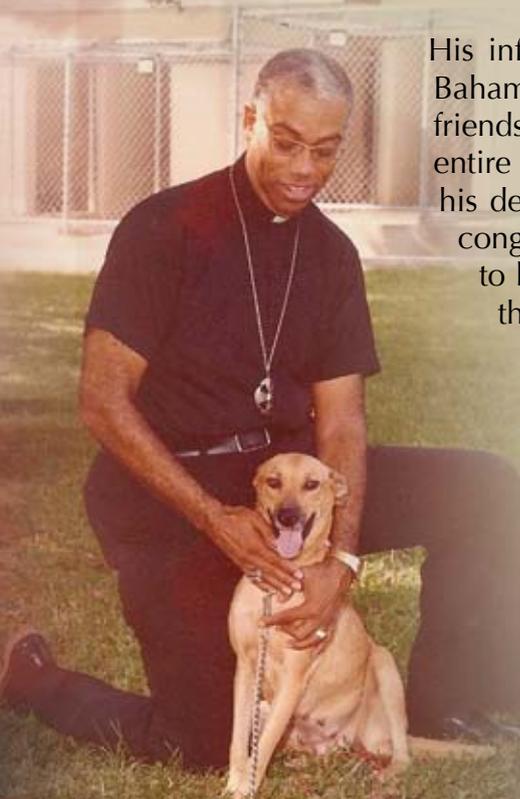




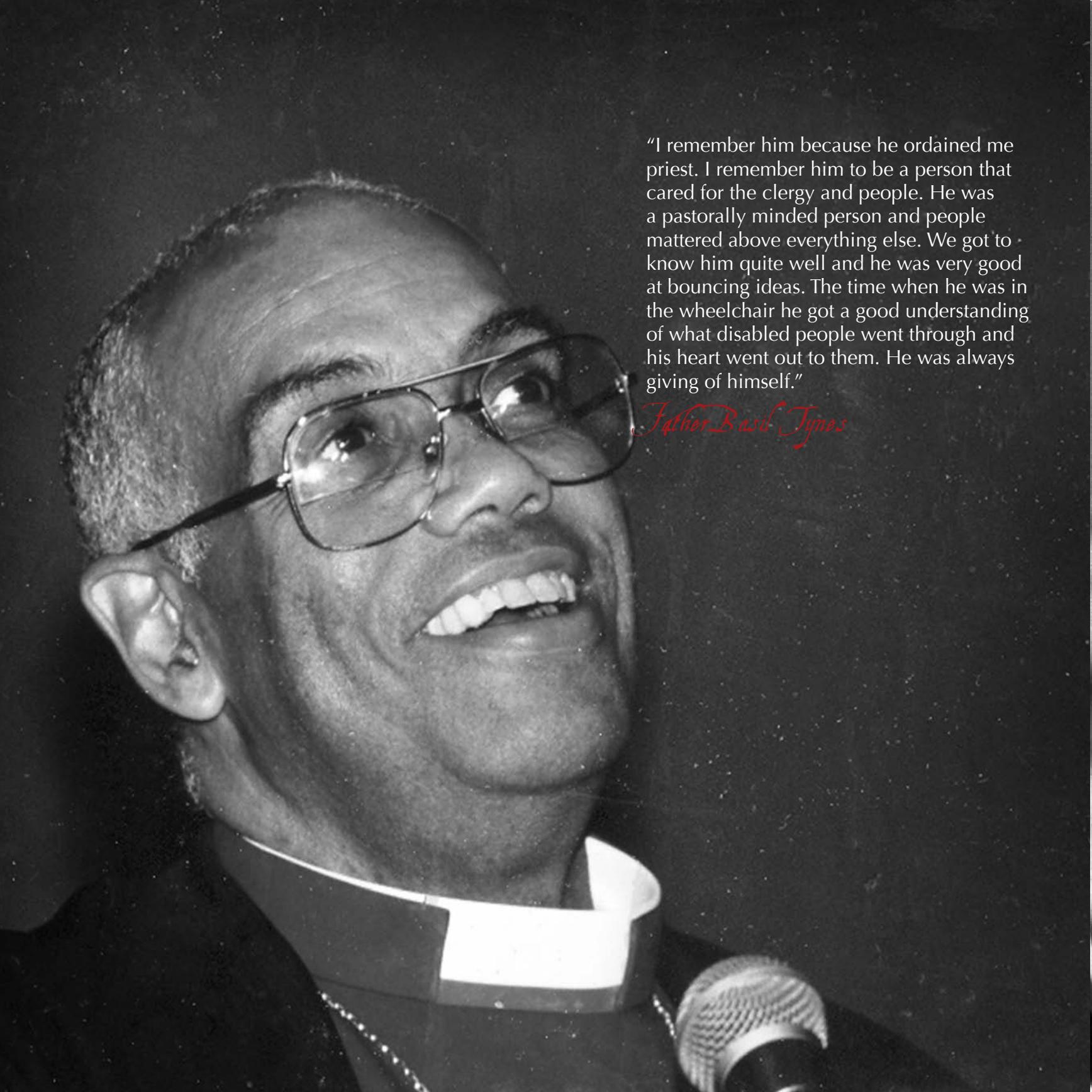
Perhaps the greatest sacrifice made by Michael Eldon in the service of his Lord was his connection with his own family. Although his mother resided with him from the time he was made Bishop until her death in 1998, his commitment to the wider Diocese meant that he saw his sister, her children, and his wider family on the rare occasions that he was available. Instead of blood relatives, he oversaw the welfare of several young men of the parish, whom he regarded as his adopted sons; chief among them were Canon Delano Archer, who was brought under his wing in Grand Bahama and remained faithful until his death, and Father Tyrone McKenzie.

Such was his commitment to his calling that many in the wider Anglican communion had the privilege of knowing Michael Eldon more closely than his blood relatives. It was not until his final illness that his sister and her family were given the opportunity of growing closer to him than ever before. Such was the bond between the Eldon siblings that Dr. Keva Bethel visited him almost daily throughout his six-year illness until her own illness in the summer of 2010.

He is survived by one sister, Keva Bethel; one niece, Nicolette Bethel; one nephew, Edward Bethel; one grand-nephew, Jaxon Bethel; a nephew-in-law, Philip Burrows, a niece-in-law, Tasha Bethel; cousins John and Sonja Lunn, Mabel Eldon and family, Adrian Lunn and family, Mark Lunn, Toby Lunn, David Lunn and family, Sylvia Wilkinson and family, Suzanne Farquharson and family, Rusty Scates and family, Deborah Lopez and family, Diane Scates, and the families of the late Edwin Deal, Freddie Deal, and Albert Lloyd Jr., and others including Delano Archer, Tyrone McKenzie, and Roosey Godet.

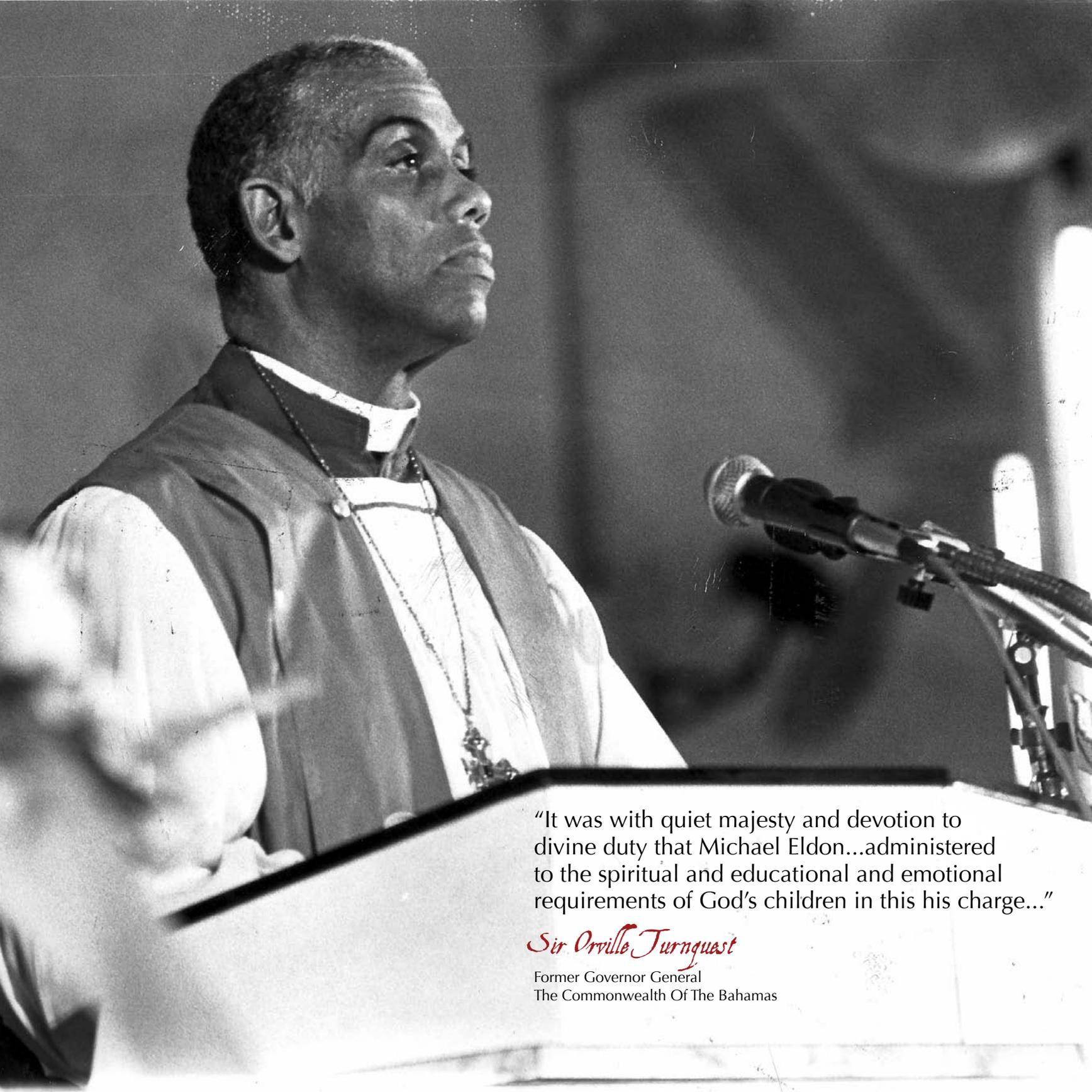


His influence and kindnesses extended throughout the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and beyond the borders of the nation to the Turks and Caicos, leaving friends, colleagues and protégés too numerous to mention. He is survived by the entire Anglican Diocese of The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands; by his dearest friends and his chaplains; by all the members of the various parish congregations, especially of the Holy Epiphany family, who called, visited, talked to him, prayed with him, turned him, and helped serve him in his illness; by the doctors and nurses who tended to him, both from Nurses N.N.O.W. and Private Medical Ward of the Princess Margaret Hospital, and all those who, known or unknown to his sister and her family, expressed their love for him in infinite ways great and small.



"I remember him because he ordained me priest. I remember him to be a person that cared for the clergy and people. He was a pastorally minded person and people mattered above everything else. We got to know him quite well and he was very good at bouncing ideas. The time when he was in the wheelchair he got a good understanding of what disabled people went through and his heart went out to them. He was always giving of himself."

Father Basil Tynes



"It was with quiet majesty and devotion to divine duty that Michael Eldon...administered to the spiritual and educational and emotional requirements of God's children in this his charge..."

Sir Orville Turnquist

Former Governor General
The Commonwealth Of The Bahamas

A PONTIFICAL CONCELEBRATED EUCHARIST
OF THANKSGIVING
FOR THE LIFE OF THE LATE

RIGHT REVEREND MICHAEL HARTLEY ELDON

8TH AUGUST, 1931 – 7TH FEBRUARY 2011

10:00 a.m. - Music Prelude by The Diocesan Youth Ensemble

10:35 a.m. – Organ Prelude by Dr. Sparkman Ferguson

Elegy - George Thalben-Ball, 1896-1987

Come Sweet Death - J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

Nimrod - Edward Elgar, 1875-1934

Solemn Melody - Wolford Davies, 1869-1941

Now We Pray Unto You - Deitrich Buxtehude, 1637-1707

+ + + + + + + + + +

RECEPTION OF THE BODY

Officiant: With faith in Jesus, we receive the body of our brother Michael for burial. Our brother was washed in Holy Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit. Let us, therefore, with confidence pray to God our Heavenly Father, the giver of Life, that He will raise him to perfection in the company of the saints.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Officiant: **Let us pray.**

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother **Michael**. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In Your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

THE SENTENCES

The Choir sings the Anthem.

I AM the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. St John 11: 25, 26

I KNOW that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God; whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another. Job 19: 25-27

WE brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we shall carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. I Timothy 6: 7; Job 1: 21

THOU knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayer; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternal. Suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from Thee. Amen.

I HEARD a voice from heaven, saying unto me, "Write, From henceforth blessed are the dead which die in the Lord: even so saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labours."

William Croft (1678-1727) / Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

INTROIT HYMN: THE STRIFE IS O'ER

ALLELUIA! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done,
Now is the Victor's triumph won;
O let the song of praise be sung.
Alleluia!

On the third morn He rose again,
Glorious in majesty to reign;
O let us swell the joyful strain.
Alleluia!

Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,
And Jesus hath His foes dispersed:
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst.
Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,
From death's dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live, and sing to Thee.
Alleluia!

COLLECT FOR PURITY

All: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your Holy Name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE DEPARTED:

Chief Celebrant: Let us pray:
Almighty God, we remember before you today Your faithful servant Michael; and we pray that, having opened to him the gates of larger life, you will receive him more and more into your joyful service, that, with all who have faithfully served you in the past, he may share in the eternal victory of Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD:

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9

Read by Mrs. Anita Doherty

*Principal, Bishop Michael Eldon School
Freeport, Grand Bahama*

Reader: A Reading from the Word of God written in the Book of Wisdom Chapter 3 verses 1 through 5 and verse 9

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

READER: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

The choir leads the singing of Psalm 23

an arrangement by Marty Haugen

(the congregation is asked to participate as indicated)

Cantor: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond fears, from death into life.

Congregation: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond fears, from death into life.

Cantor: God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want. I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love, I walk in the quiet waters of peace.

Congregation: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond fears, from death into life.

Cantor: Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul. You lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth. My spirit will sing the music of your name.

Congregation: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond fears, from death into life.

Cantor: Though I should wander the valley of death, I fear no evil, for you are by my side. Your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope.

Congregation: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond fears, from death into life.

Choir: Surely your kindness follow me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the Lord for evermore.

Congregation: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond fears, from death into life.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Romans 8:35-39

Read by Catechist Holton Dickenson

St. John's Church, Salt Cay, The Turks & Caicos Islands

Reader: A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans Chapter 8 verses 35 through 39

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

READER: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN TEN THOUSAND TIMES TEN THOUSAND

Ten thousand times ten thousand
In sparkling raiment bright,
The armies of the ransom'd Saints
Throng up the steps of light;
'Tis finish'd! all is finished,
Their fight with death and sin;
Fling open wide the golden gates,
And let the victors in.

What rush of Alleluias
Fills all the earth and sky!
What ringing of a thousand harps
Bespeaks the triumph nigh!
O day, for which creation
And all its tribes were made;
O joy, for all its former woes
A thousand-fold repaid!

Oh, then what raptured greetings
On Canaan's happy shore;
What knitting sever'd friendships up,
Where partings are no more!
Then eyes with joy shall sparkle,
That brimm'd with tears of late;
Orphans no longer fatherless,
Nor widows desolate.

Bring near Thy great Salvation,
Thou Lamb for sinners slain;
Fill up the roll of Thine elect,
Then take Thy power, and reign;
Appear, Desire of nations,
Thine exiles long for home;
Show in the heaven Thy promised sign;
Thou Prince and Saviour, come.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Congregation: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

- 1. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us * therefore let us keep the feast;**
- 2. Not with the old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness * but with the unleaven bread of sincerity and truth.**
- 3. Christ is risen from the dead * and become the first-fruits of them that slept.**
- 4. For since by man came death * by man came also the resurrection of the dead.**
- 5. For as in Adam all die * even so in Christ shall all remain alive.**

Congregation: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 10:11-18

Gospeller: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Gospeller: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John
All: **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes* it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.
All: **Praise to Christ our Lord.**

Congregation: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

TRIBUTES:

Mr. T. Baswell Donaldson, Chairman
The Council of the College of The Bahamas

His Excellency, the Governor General, Sir Arthur Foulkes

The Most Rev'd. Dr. The Honourable John W. D. Holder
Archbishop of The West Indies
Bishop of Barbados

"Michael Eldon was a popular, beloved, gentle people's person. He had a deep faith in God and high hopes for people. He was passionate about improving people and their lot. He loved the church, loved being in church and loved the worship of the church."

Rev. Laish Boyd

Bishop for the Diocese of The Bahamas
and Turks and Caicos Islands



The choir sings the anthem

THE EASTER HYMN (The Lord Now Victorious)

from the Opera "Cavalleria Rusticana" (Bishop Eldon's Favourite Opera Chorus)

by Pietro Mascagni (1863-1945)

O Lord of hosts, behold, earth's sorrow flieth,
Thy holy Son lives, nor dieth; from the dead He now has risen

We will sing of the Lord now victorious all the terrors if death were in vain!
Let us sing of the Christ ever glorious He is risen in glory to reign!

Oh, how radiantly shineth the Easter dawn, Bright with joy at the glorious triumph won.
Blessed its perfect peace, that shall never cease
Till men no more love the name of the Son.

We will sing of the Lord now victorious! We will sing of the Christ ever glorious
Power of death was in vain, He in glory shall reign!
In the glory of heav'n He is risen in glory to reign!
Alleluia! Praise the Lord!

SERMON: The Rt. Rev'd. Laish Boyd, Sr.

APOSTLES CREED:

Chief Celebrant: Let us with confidence and hope confess the faith into which were baptised, as we say

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS Nicolette Bethel Burrows & Edward Bethel
Niece & Nephew of Bishop Eldon

Leader: For our uncle Michael, let us pray to the Lord Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

Leader: Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress: Draw near to us who mourn for Michael, and dry the tears of those who weep.

All: **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader: You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend, comfort us in our sorrow.

All: **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader: You raised the dead to life: Raise our uncle Michael to eternal life.

All: **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader: You promised paradise to the thief who repented: Bring our uncle Michael to the joys of heaven.

All: **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader: Our uncle Michael was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit: Give him fellowship with all your saints.

All: **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader: He was nourished with your Body and Blood: Grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

All: **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader: Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our uncle. Let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Chief Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother **Michael**, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that his death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages.

All: **Amen.**

ACT OF PENITENCE

Chief Celebrant: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Chief Celebrant: Let us therefore confess our sins.

All: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and one another, in thought, word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are sorry and repent of all our sins. For your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your Name. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION:

Chief Celebrant: Almighty God, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

HYMN FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR: Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation

Christ is made the sure Foundation,
Christ the Head and Cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord, and precious,
Binding all the Church in one;
Holy Sion's help for ever,
And her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call Thee,
Come, O Lord, of hosts, to-day;
With Thy wonted loving-kindness
Hear Thy servants as they pray,
And thy fullest benediction
Shed within its walls away.

Laud and honour to the Father,
Laud and honour to the Son,
Laud and honour to the Spirit,
Ever Three, and ever One,
Consubstantial, Co-eternal,
While unending ages run.

All that dedicated city,
Dearly loved of God on high,
In exultant jubilation
Pours perpetual melody;
God the One in Three adoring
In glad hymns eternally.

Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants
What they ask of Thee to gain;
What they gain from Thee, for ever
With the Blessèd to retain,
And hereafter in Thy glory
Evermore with Thee to reign.

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERINGS

ELEMENT BEARERS: Students from St. John's College, N.P.
St. Anne's School, N.P.
Bishop Michael Eldon School, Grand Bahama
St. Andrew's Anglican School, Exuma

Chief Celebrant: Through your goodness, Lord, we have this bread and wine to offer, the fruit of the earth and the work of human hands. They will become our spiritual food.

All: All things come from you, O Lord, and of your own do we give you. Blessed be God for ever.
Amen.

HYMN FOR THE CENSING: Hark! Hark My Soul Angelic Voices Swelling

Hark! hark, my soul! Angelic songs are swelling,
O'er earth's green fields, and ocean's wave-beat shore:
How sweet the truth those blessèd strains are telling
Of that new life when sin shall be no more.
Angels of Jesus, Angels of light,
Singing to welcome the pilgrims of the night!

Onward we go, for still we hear them singing,
"Come, weary souls, for Jesus bids you come";
And through the dark, its echoes sweetly ringing,
The music of the Gospel leads us home.
Angels of Jesus, Angels of light,
Singing to welcome the pilgrims of the night!

Far, far away, like bells at evening pealing,
The voice of Jesus sounds o'er land and sea;
And laden souls, by thousands meekly stealing,
Kind Shepherd, turn their weary steps to Thee.
Angels of Jesus, Angels of light,
Singing to welcome the pilgrims of the night!

Rest comes at length: though life be long and dreary,
The day must dawn, and darksome night be past;
Faith's journeys end in welcome to the weary,
And Heav'n, the heart's true home, will come at last.
Angels of Jesus, Angels of light,
Singing to welcome the pilgrims of the night!

Angels, sing on, your faithful watches keeping;
Sing us sweet fragments of the songs above,
Till morning's joy shall end the night of weeping,
And life's long shadows break in cloudless love.
Angels of Jesus, Angels of light,
Singing to welcome the pilgrims of the night!

"Bishop Eldon's selection as Bishop was the Anglican church's answer to majority rule."

Bishop Drexel Gomez - 2011

Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of The Bahamas and
The Turks and Caicos Islands

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Chief Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**

Chief Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Chief Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Chief Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father almighty, everlasting God: Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of life eternal. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Chief Celebrant: Sovereign Lord and Father, to you be glory and praise for ever. In your boundless wisdom you brought creation into being; In your great love you fashioned us in your image; In your tender compassion you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour, to share our human nature; In the power of the Holy Spirit, He overcame the power of sin and death and brought your people to new birth as first fruits of your new creation.

On the night that He was betrayed He took bread, and when He had given thanks to you, He broke it and gave it to his disciples and said: "Take this, and eat it: This is my Body which is given for you, Do this for the remembrance of me."

And after supper He took the cup of wine: and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Chief Celebrant: Therefore, Father, according to the command of your dearly beloved Son:

All:
We remember His death.
We proclaim His resurrection
We await His coming in glory.

Chief Celebrant: And we offer you, Father, our sacrifice of thanks and praise. Send your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine that they may become the Body and Blood of your Son, Jesus our Lord and Redeemer. As we partake of this holy food of new and unending life, may your Holy Spirit establish us as a royal priesthood with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Agnes, St. John The Baptist and all your sons and daughters who share in your eternal inheritance; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With Him and in Him and through Him, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father Almighty, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, in songs of everlasting praise:

All: **Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Chief Celebrant: As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

All: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name; your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Chief Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

THE COMMUNION

Chief Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All: **Our souls will feast and be satisfied, and we will sing glad songs of praise to Him.**

AGNUS DEI:
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant him rest.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant him rest.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant him rest eternal.

COMMUNION HYMNS

**At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing
Jesus Lives! No Longer Now
Come Ye Faithful, Raise The Strain
Come See the Place Where Jesus Lay
Christ The Lord Is Risen Again
Jesus Christ is Risen Today
O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee**

AT THE LAMB'S HIGH FEAST WE SING

At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who hath wash'd us in the tide
Flowing from His pierced side;
Praise we Him, Whose love Divine
Gives His sacred Blood for wine,
Gives His Body for the feast,
Christ the Victim, Christ the Priest.

Where the Paschal blood is pour'd,
Death's dark Angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
Through the wave that drowns the foe.
Praise we Christ, Whose Blood was shed,
Paschal Victim, Paschal Bread;
With sincerity and love
Eat we manna from above.

Mighty Victim from on high,
Hell's fierce powers beneath Thee lie;
Thou hast conquer'd in the fight,
Thou hast brought us life and light:
Now no more can death appal,
Now no more the grave enthrall!
Thou hast open'd Paradise,
And in Thee Thy Saints shall rise.

Easter triumph, Easter joy,
Sin alone can this destroy;
From sin's power do Thou set free
Souls new-born, O Lord, in Thee.
Hymns of glory and of praise,
Risen Lord, to Thee we raise;
Holy Father, praise to Thee,
With the Spirit, ever be.

JESUS LIVES! NO LONGER NOW

Jesus lives! no longer now
Can thy terrors, Death appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
Thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! for us He died;
Then, alone to Jesus living,
Pure in heart may we abide,
Glory to our Saviour giving.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! to Him the Throne
Over all the world is given:
May we go where He has gone,
Rest and reign with Him in Heaven
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! henceforth is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm our trembling breath
When we pass its gloomy portal.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! our hearts know well
Naught from us His love shall sever;
Life, nor death, nor powers of hell
Tear us from His keeping ever.
Alleluia!

COME YE FAITHFUL, RAISE THE STRAIN

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness!
God hath brought His Israel
Into joy from sadness:
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters,
Led them with unmoisten'd foot
Through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the Spring of souls to-day:
Christ hath burst His prison,
And from three days' sleep in death
As a sun hath risen;
All the winter of our sins,
Long and dark, is flying
From His Light, to Whom we give
Laud and praise undying.

COME SEE THE PLACE WHERE JESUS LAY

Come see the place where Jesus lay
And hear Angelic watchers say,
"He lives, Who once was slain:
Why seek the living 'midst the dead?
Remember how the Saviour said
That He would rise again."

The First-begotten of the dead,
For us He rose our glorious Head,
Immortal life to bring;
What though the saints like Him shall die?
They share their Leader's victory,
And triumph with their King.

Now the Queen of seasons, bright
With the Day of splendour,
With the royal Feast of feasts,
Comes its joy to render;
Comes to glad Jerusalem,
Who with true affection
Welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesu's Resurrection.

Alleluia now we cry
To our King Immortal,
Who triumphant burst the bars
Of the tomb's dark portal;
Alleluia, with the Son
God the Father praising;
Alleluia yet again
To the Spirit raising.

O joyful sound! O glorious hour,
When by His own Almighty power
He rose, and left the grave!
Now let our songs His triumph tell,
Who burst the bands of death and hell,
And ever lives to save.

No more they tremble at the grave,
For Jesus will their spirits save,
And raise their slumbering dust:
O risen Lord, in Thee we live,
To Thee our ransom'd souls we give,
To Thee our bodies trust.

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN AGAIN

Christ the Lord is risen again!
Christ hath broken every chain!
Hark! Angelic voices cry,
Singing evermore on high,
Alleluia!

He, Who slumber'd in the grave
Is exalted now to save;
Now through Christendom it rings
That the Lamb is King of kings:
Alleluia!

He, Who gave for us His life,
Who for us endured the strife,
Is our Paschal Lamb to-day;
We too sing for joy, and say:
Alleluia!

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's King, Alleluia!
Where the Angels ever sing. Alleluia!

O JESUS, BLESSED LORD, TO THEE

O JESU, Blessèd Lord, to Thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestow'd
On me Thy Body and Thy Blood.

He, who bore all pain and loss,
Comfortless upon the Cross
Lives in glory now on high,
Pleads for us and hears our cry;
Alleluia!

Now He bids us tell abroad
How the lost may be restored,
How the penitent forgiven,
How we too may enter Heav'n.
Alleluia!

Thou, our Paschal Lamb indeed,
Christ, Thy ransom'd people feed;
Take our sins and guilt away,
Let us sing by night and day.
Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the Cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

Break forth, my soul, for joy and say
What wealth is come to me to-day!
My Saviour dwells within me now;
How blest am I! how good art Thou!

POST COMMUNION

ALL: Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

HYMN Christ Is Risen

Christ is risen! Christ is risen!
He hath burst His bonds in twain;
Christ is risen! Christ is risen!
Alleluia! swell the strain!
For our gain He suffer'd loss
By Divine decree;
He hath died upon the Cross,
But our God is He.
Christ is risen! Christ is risen!
He hath burst His bonds in twain;
Christ is risen! Christ is risen!
Alleluia! swell the strain!

See the chains of death are broken;
Earth below and heaven above
Joy in each amazing token
Of His rising, Lord of love;
He for evermore shall reign
By the Father's side,
Till He comes to earth again,
Come to claim His Bride
Christ is risen! Christ is risen!
He hath burst His bonds in twain;
Christ is risen! Christ is risen!
Alleluia! swell the strain!

Glorious angels downward thronging
Hail the Lord of all the skies;
Heav'n, with joy and holy longing
For the Word Incarnate, cries,
"Christ is risen! Earth, rejoice!
Gleam, ye starry train!
All creation find a voice;
He o'er all shall reign."
Christ is risen! Christ is risen!
He hath burst His bonds in twain;
Christ is risen! Christ is risen!
O'er the universe to reign.

"Bishop Eldon's voice was silenced by long years of illness but the message and legacy of this high, holy man remains strong and relevant today. He was an advocate for good, for scholarship, for social advancement, for human decency, and for Christian charity. We honour him in his passing and hold him up as most worthy of emulation."

*The Right Honourable
Hubert Alexander Ingraham*

Prime Minister
The Commonwealth Of The Bahamas

THE COMMENDATION

The Choir sings

The Russian Contakion of the Departed

Give rest, O Christ, to Your servant with your saints.

Where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting. Amen.

(The Officiant sprinkles the casket with Holy Water to remind us that in the waters of Baptism we were made members of Christ, children of God and inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven.)

The Officiant censes the coffin with incense, a symbol of prayer and our prayers ascending to God.)

Revelation 8: 3-4 Another angel with a golden censer came and stood at the altar; he was given a great quantity of incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar that is before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.

Officiant: Lord have mercy.

All: **Christ have mercy.**

Officiant: Lord have mercy.

Officiant: Our Father in Heaven.

All: **Hallowed be your name; your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us commend our brother Michael to the mercy of God our Maker and Redeemer. Deliver your servant **Michael**. O Sovereign Lord Christ, from all evil, and set him free from every bond, that he may rest with all your saints in the eternal habitation where with the Father and the Holy Spirit You live and reign, one God forever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Officiant: Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend your servant **Michael**. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

All: **Amen**

Officiant: Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord.

All: **And let light perpetual shine upon him.**

Officiant: May he rest in peace.

All: **Amen.**

Officiant: May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercies of God, rest in peace.

All: **Amen.**

Officiant: The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make His face to shine upon him and be gracious to him, the Lord lift up His countenance upon him and give him peace.

The Officiant then dismisses the people with these words:

Officiant: Alleluia, Christ is risen.

All: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Officiant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**THE BRASS ENSEMBLE OF THE ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE BAND PLAYS
THE LAST POST AND REVEILLE**

*The choir sings
Hallelujah Chorus
from "Messiah" by G. F. Handel (1685-1759)*

RECESSIONAL HYMNS For All The Saints

For all the Saints, who from their labours rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesu, be forever blessed.
Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia!

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the Saints who nobly fought of old,
And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia!

O blest communion! fellowship Divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave, again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm of Paradise the blest.
Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The Saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on His way.
Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia!

Officiant: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and giving life to those in the tomb.

The Son of Righteousness is gloriously risen, giving light to those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The Lord will guide our feet into the way of peace, having taken away the sin of the world.

Christ will open the kingdom of heaven to all who believe in His Name, saying, Come, O blessed of My Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you.

Into paradise may the angels lead you. At your coming may the Martyrs receive you and bring you into the Holy City, Jerusalem.

POSTLUDE

Fantasia in G-Gravement - J.S. Bach BWV 572, 1685-1750

AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH

MAGNIFICAT

My soul doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel : as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS

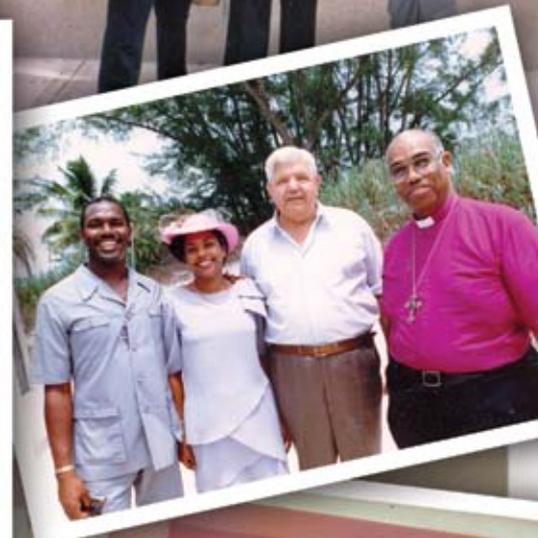
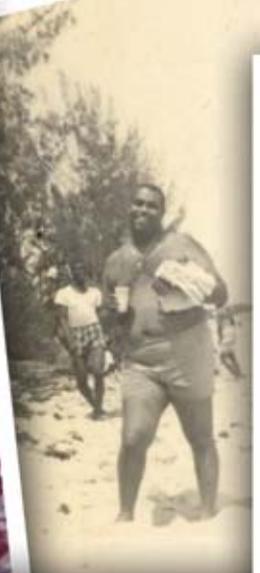
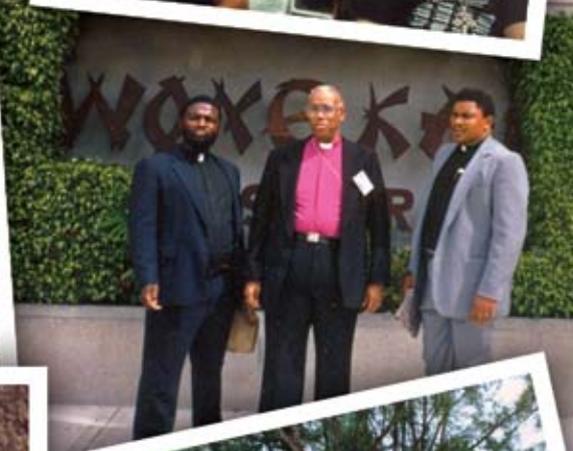
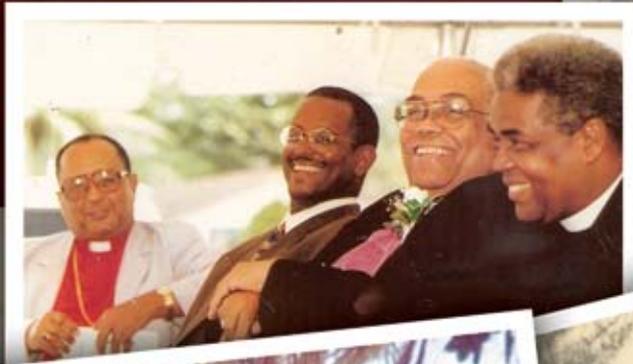
Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace : according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

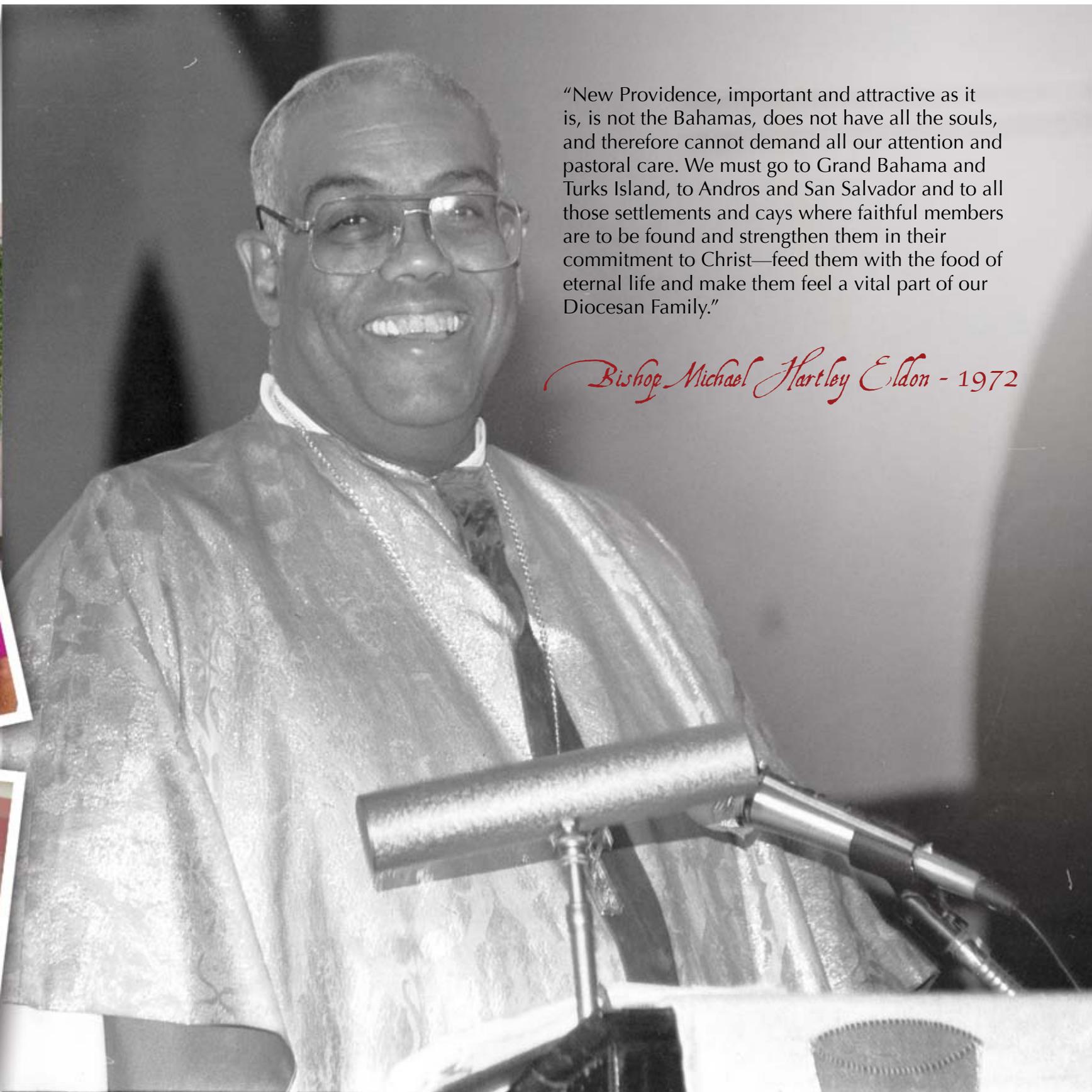
"Bishop Eldon's presence and influence was far broader than the Anglican community. He truly served The Bahamas. In my view he was a Prince of the Christian Church. He was truly an inspiration, and one thing I will remember about him is that he was always pleading for all of us to do more in the development of the Family Island communities and I believe that we should truly put action behind these ideas, not only in honor of him, but as a religious community."

Pastor Simeon B. Hall

Pastor, New Covenant Baptist Church
Past President- Bahamas Christian Council

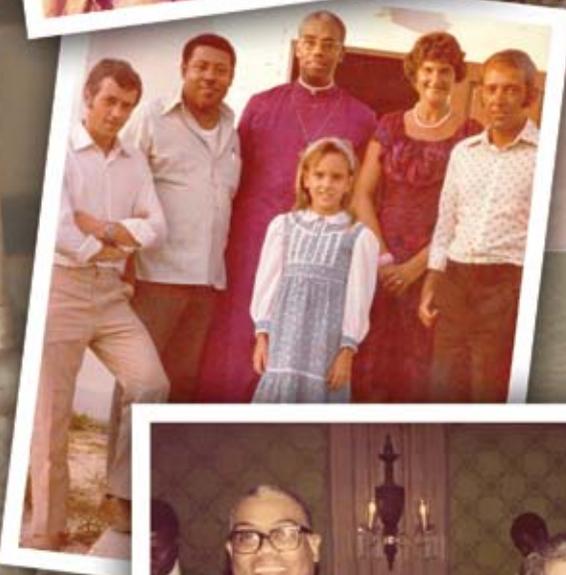
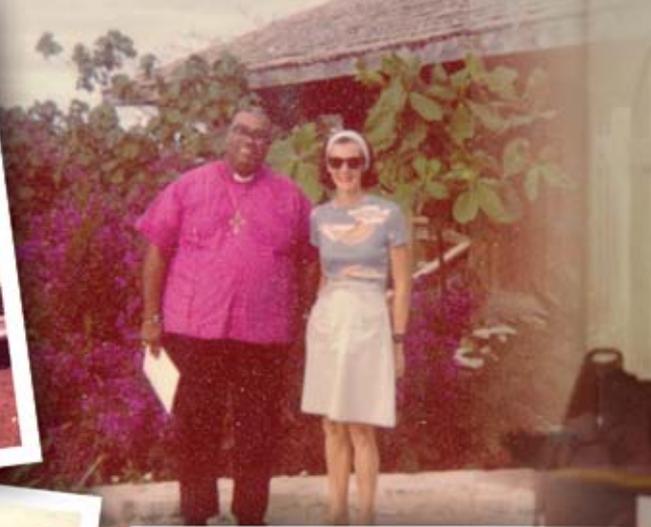
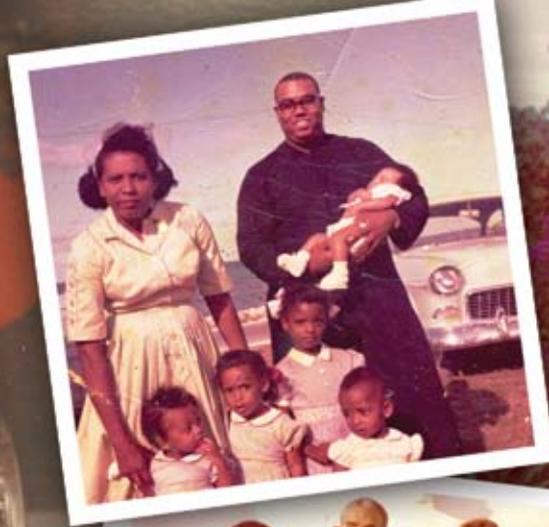
"Giant of a Man"





“New Providence, important and attractive as it is, is not the Bahamas, does not have all the souls, and therefore cannot demand all our attention and pastoral care. We must go to Grand Bahama and Turks Island, to Andros and San Salvador and to all those settlements and cays where faithful members are to be found and strengthen them in their commitment to Christ—feed them with the food of eternal life and make them feel a vital part of our Diocesan Family.”

Bishop Michael Hartley Eldon - 1972







9 February 2011

The College of The Bahamas extends its condolences to Dr. Keva Bethel, President Emerita and Scholar in Residence and Dr. Nicolette Bethel, Associate Professor, School of Social Sciences, on the passing of their brother and uncle, Rt. Rev. Bishop Michael Eldon.

The College and the country mourns the passing of a legend, who led by his personal convictions and worked tirelessly to develop the spiritual and intellectual foundation of an independent Bahamian people.

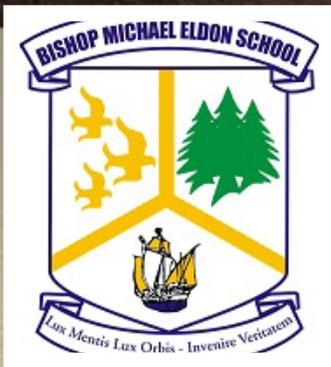
As the first Bahamian Anglican Bishop of The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands, his passion for education and love of God and humanity was ever present in classrooms, churches and communities across The Bahamas.

Bishop Eldon served as founding Chairman of The College of The Bahamas' Board of Directors from 1975 to 1995. He was named Chairman Emeritus of The College of The Bahamas in 2004. In 2006, the Thompson Boulevard Complex was named in his honour.

At this sad time, our hearts go out to the Eldon family and the people of The Bahamas. Bishop Eldon was a valued pillar of our institution. He will be greatly missed.

My wish for the College of The Bahamas institution is truly a College of The Bahamas education that is fashioned for all Bahamians. A college with a high academic reputation but at the same time flexible enough to encourage young men and women from rural areas to be a part of it.

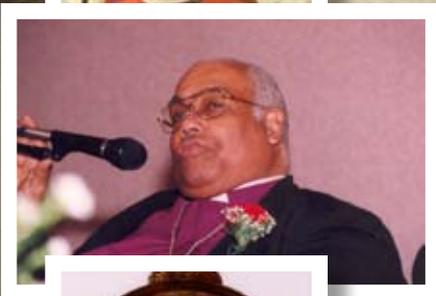
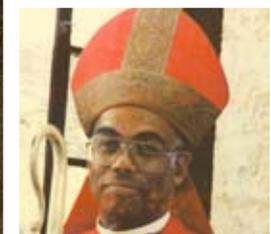
Bishop Michael Hartley Eldon



RIGHT REVEREND MICHAEL HARTLEY ELDON

Chronology

- + Born 8th August, 1931
- + **1947**— Graduated Queen's College at 16 years old
- + **1949**— Enrolled in St. Catherine's College in Cambridge England where he completed his Master's Degree
- + **1954**—Completed his theological training at St. Stephen's House in Oxford England
- + **22nd July, 1954**—Ordained as an Anglican Deacon
- + **10th August, 1955**—Ordained Anglican Priest by Bishop Spence Burton
- + **1962**—Appointed Rural Dean in Grand Bahama by Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Bernard Markham
- + **1967**—Appointed Archdeacon of Grand Bahama
- + **24th June, 1971**—Was consecrated Suffragan Bishop with the title Bishop of New Providence.
- + **20th April, 1972**—The Diocesan Synod unanimously elected Michael H. Eldon, Bishop Suffragan as 11th Bishop of Nassau and the Bahamas including the Turks and Caicos Islands.
- + **1975-1995**—Founding Chairman of the College of The Bahamas Board Of Directors
- + **1984**—Named Companion of the Order of St. Michael & St. George (CMG) by Her Royal Highness Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
- + **31st August, 1996**—Retired from active ministry- He had ordained some 50 priests... established some 12 new congregations and scores of new edifices.
He confirmed an estimated 20 thousand people.
- + **1996**—He was honoured by the government with the award of the Bahamas Order of Merit
- + **September 2005**—The name Freeport Anglican High/Discovery Primary School was changed to the Bishop Michael Eldon School.
- + **19th January, 2006**—The College of the Bahamas Thompson Blvd complex was officially named in honour of Bishop Eldon.



Message of Gratitude

We, the family of the late Rt. Rev'd Michael Hartley Eldon, would like to express our humble gratitude and sincere appreciation to those who in one way or another provided our family with the support and prayers that comforted us in our time of sorrow. Your prayers and most especially your presence with us today are greatly appreciated and have helped to strengthen us during this time of challenge and transition.

Although our hearts are still mourning, our spirits are lifted knowing that Michael will always be loved and remembered by all. We ask that you keep each of us in your thoughts and prayers as we continue the healing process. May God bless and keep each of you in His perfect peace.

The Family

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Bishop Michael Eldon Scholarship Fund.

Special Thanks

The Rt. Rev'd Laish Z. Boyd Sr.
The Rev'd Canon Delano Archer
Mr William "Roose" Godet
Mr Bertram Knowles
The Venerable I. Ranfurly Brown
The Venerable Keith Cartwright
The Venerable Kingsley Knowles
The Venerable James Palacious
The Rev'd Tyrone McKenzie
The nurses of Nurses N.N.O.W.

Private Medical Ward of the Princess Margaret Hospital
Mr Adrian Archer
Mr. Jerome Sawyer
The Tribune
The Department Of Archives
All photographers that have made contributions to this memory book
The Clergy, Administrative Staff and Vestries of the Diocese of The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos

Funeral Service Entrusted To:
Bethel Brothers Morticians
P.O. Box N-1026
Nassau Street
Nassau, Bahamas



Provided by SIDDA Communications Group
Nassau, N.P. Bahamas
Phone 1 (242) 448-8937
info@siddagroup.com
www.siddagroup.com