



Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist
Manche Masemola Procession and
Eucharist



The commemoration of Manche Masemola of Sekhukhuneland is set for 4th February, the date of her martyrdom. Her statue adorns Westminster Abbey alongside other Martyrs of the 20th Century. The Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist holds an annual pilgrimage to the site of her grave, outside Marishane in Sekhukhuneland, on the first Sunday of August each year. The pilgrimage begins with a procession followed by a special liturgy in which we recall the events surrounding Manche's death and how they relate to us today. The Sermon is then preached and the Eucharist continues with the Peace.

Increasing numbers of churches are now being dedicated in memory of Manche Masemola. This service can be used at the Patronal Festival of such churches, or at her commemoration.

As we remember the life and death of Manche Masemola, we have an opportunity to explore questions that God raises for us through her witness:

- ✦ *How can we support those (especially women and children) who are victims of violence and abuse? How can we transform society to respect women and children?*
- ✦ *What does it mean to be both Christian and African?*
- ✦ *How can we (particularly young people) serve God in a rapidly changing world?*

The liturgical colour is red.

A team of young people has been chosen to lead the first part of the service.

Greeting and Welcome

†Martin welcomes the congregation at the start of the procession, explains the purpose and outline of the service, and opens with a prayer. We extend a special welcome to our guests from other churches, organisations and government.

The Procession

The procession will take place directly to the place where the congregation will be seated. During the procession, we sing hymns, songs and choruses.

Manche Masemola Liturgy

This liturgy will take place in stages, with seven sections, where we recall events in the life and death of Manche Masemola. It includes the Praise, Penitence, Readings and Prayers – so they do not take place later in the service. After the Sermon we proceed directly to the Peace.



1. Manche attends baptism classes**Narrative:**

Manche was born in about 1914 and martyred in February 1928. It is said that one day Manche and Lucia, her cousin who was staying at Manche's home, went to Church. They heard Fr. Moeka telling the congregants that they ought to repent in order to gain eternal life. Manche arrived home and asked her mother to be allowed to go to Church. She was told to go to Initiation School first. But still even after that she was not allowed to go to church.

Reading: Luke 2:41-45

Prayer: For Discipleship, including Baptism and Confirmation candidates

Hymn or Song:

2. Manche's parents object**Narrative:**

As Manche continued to steal away with Lucia to Hearers' Classes her mother would beat her each time she came back home.

Reading: Luke 2:46-52

Prayer: For Families

Hymn or Song:

3. Manche predicts her death**Narrative:**

One day in October 1927 Fr Moeka met the girls under a tree and told them not to go against the wishes of their parents, after he heard that the Manche was punished each time she had been to church. On another occasion the Confirmation candidates voted for western clothing for Confirmation. After that Manche came to say she would stick to traditional dress, to which Fr Moeka replied, "Then you won't be baptised." Manche answered, "Then I will be baptised with my own blood."

Reading: Luke 18:31-34

Prayer: For Situations of Conflict

Hymn or Song:

4. Manche flees from her home**Narrative:**

Manche and Lucia had gone with members of the congregation to Manganeng on mission where they spent the night. The following day they slept at Jane Furse. After arriving home she was beaten, and a traditional healer was called in to give her medicine to drink. There was a belief that Christian activity had made her look bewitched. One day she was in the field with her mother, who wanted to beat her, and Manche ran and hid in a corn basket. Her mother tried to spear her and then to

use a firebrand to kill her. Manche escaped and ran away from home to tell Lucia, who was no longer staying with her.

Reading: Luke 12:49-53

Prayer: For those who are suffering

Hymn or Song:

5. Manche is beaten to death

Narrative:

Manche's mother would sometimes take Manche's clothing away so that she could not go to Church. She would go to pray daily at the rocks. Later her parents took her at night to a distant and lonely place to be tortured. Both parents thrashed her until she died, and Elesina Masemola was a witness to this. She was secretly buried. Her sister Mabule died soon afterwards, and was buried next to Manche's grave.

Reading: Luke 23:33-34

Confession and Absolution:

A re ipoboleng dibe tša rena

Modimo yo maatla ka moka

Tate rena wa magodimong

ka boitsholo re ipobola dibe

gore re sentše pele ga gago

mme ke molato wa rena

ka kgopolo le ka polelo le ka tiro

le ka tšeo re šitilwego go di dira.

Ka baka la Morwa wa gago, Kriste Morena wa rena

re lebalele tšohle tše di fetilgo

gomme o re fe gore re go direle

ka bophelo bjo bofsa

gore go tumišwe Leina la gago.

Modimo yo maatla ka moka, yo a lebalelago ka moka ba ba insholago ka kgonthe, o re lebalele dibe tša rena mme o re lokolle go tšona; o re matlafatše go lokeng ka moka mme o re boloke bophelong bjo bo sa felego; ka Jesu Kriste Morena wa rena.

Amen

Hymn or Song:

6. The "Daughters of Mary" form

Narrative:

Fr Augustine Moeka started the religious community of women who were contemporaries of Manche, and whose sole mind was on evangelisation and prayer. The first report on this was made in 1931 with reference to the Sekhukhune Mission. The four were initially under the wing of Mother Juliet C.S.M.V and then under Sister Josephine of the C.R. They took their first vows after being novices on

St John the Baptist Day in 1934 in St Peter's Church at Marishane. Their final profession was in Nov. 1937 were the Bishop presided. Later they moved to St. Francis Priory at Jane Furse, where at first they were doing washing at the hospital, and then looked after orphans who were handed over to them by the hospital. They were sisters Julia, Epiphea, Agnes and Maria. Their uniform was a simple blue habit with a black girdle and white veil.

Reading: Luke 24:1-10

Prayer: For the Church

Hymn or Song:

7. Manche's mother is baptised

Narrative:

Manche's mother was one of the 32 confirmation candidates in 1967. It is said that she arrived three hours early for the service. Fr John Tsebe presented her to the Bishop - John's wife, Norah, had led her to Christian faith.

Reading: Luke 24:45-49

Baptismal Creed:

**Ke dumela le go tshepa Modimo Tate,
yo a hloedilego lefase.**

**Ke dumela le go tshepa Morwa wa gagwe Jesu Kriste,
yo a lo polotšego batho ka moka.**

**Ke dumela le go tshepa Moya wa gagwe o Mokgethwa,
yo a fago batho ba Modimo bophelo.**

**Ke dumela le go tshepa Modimo o tee,
Tate le Morwa le Moya o Mokgethwa. Amen**

Hymn or Song: (*Mission Praise 708: To God be the glory*)

Collect: *APB p 319*

Choir Item:

The Word of God

The Sermon: **Rev Dr Vicentia Kgabe**

Brief Prayer: *Responding to the proclaimed word*

The Eucharist continues with The Peace. Members of Chapter, please join †Martin at the Lord's Table. All clergy, please assist with the distribution of Communion.

During Communion, the clergy and others will offer prayer ministry to the congregation.

After Communion there will be a brief opportunity for guests to greet the congregation.