

THE MOST REV DOCTOR BURNETT, THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER IN THE CHURCH, HAS SUCCEEDED, IN EVERY CHARGE TO PARISH, SEE OR SYNOD, TO AWAKEN AND REAWAKEN THE CONSCIENCE AND VITALITY OF HIS FOLLOWERS AND TO LEAD THEIR THOUGHTS TO NEW HEIGHTS OF SELFLESS DEDICATION. RESISTING A TEMPTATION TO ASSOCIATE THE WORD 'CHARGE' WITH THE CONCEPT OF THE CHURCH MILITANT, LET ME RATHER SEIZE UPON ITS HERALDIC CONNOTATION AND SAY THAT, ON THE BANNER OF THE CHURCH, HE ENSURED THAT ITS IMAGE WOULD NOT BE SEJANT BUT RAMPANT.

CHALLENGES CAME TO HIM IN MANY WAYS - THE PHYSICAL CHALLENGE OF A KNIFE-WIELDING ASSAILANT AT A ROADSIDE STOP NEAR GRAHAMSTOWN ; THE CHALLENGE OF APATHY AMONG DISHEARTENED CHURCH MEMBERS ; AND THE CHALLENGE OF GOVERNMENT PRESSURE ON CHURCH POLICY. NONE OF THESE FOUND HIM WANTING, OR SUCCEEDED IN WARPING THE FRIENDLY DISPOSITION THAT HAS EARNED HIM THE NAME OF "THE SMILING PRELATE". FOR ALL THIS, WE HONOUR HIM TO-DAY.