

Archbishop Desmond Tutu 1931-2021

■ **1931:** **Desmond Tutu** born of mixed Xhosa and Motswana heritage in Klerksdorp, small gold-mining town in then-Transvaal

■ **1932:** Baptised into Methodist Church. Family later changes denomination to Anglican Church

■ **1943:** Confirmed at St Mary's Church, Roodepoort

■ **1945:** Joins church as server to priest, **Trevor Huddleston** (right, in 1987), a strong opponent of apartheid and arguably Tutu's biggest influence



■ **1951:** Begins teacher training. First meets lawyer **Nelson Mandela** at Debating Society event

■ **1953:** Ruling National Party implements **Bantu Education Act**, racially segregating schools

■ **1955:** Marries **Nomalizo Leah Shenxane** in Catholic ceremony

■ **1956:** Quits teaching to train for clergy

■ **1960:** Ordained as Anglican priest. Studies in UK and East Jerusalem

■ **1976:** Becomes rector of Soweto parish, speaking out against apartheid during township rebellion, but refusing to back violent struggle

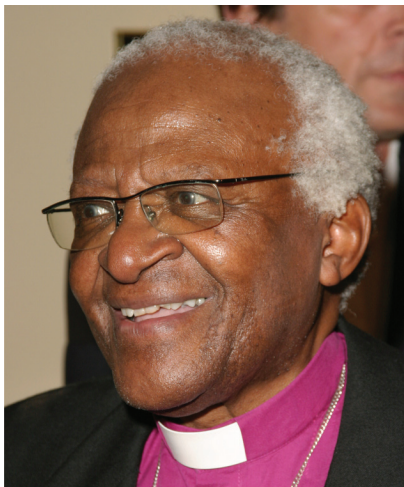
■ **1977:** Speaks at funeral of **Steve Biko**, activist murdered by police



■ **1978:** Becomes **General Secretary of South African Council of Churches**, supporting international economic boycott of apartheid regime, meeting and urging world leaders to apply sanctions

■ **1984:** Awarded **Nobel Peace Prize** in snub to South Africa's rulers

■ **1985:** Appointed **Bishop of Johannesburg**



■ **1986:** Becomes **Archbishop of Cape Town**, head of Anglican Church in South Africa

■ **1988:** Support for **Sharpeville Six** protesters, whose death sentences are later commuted

■ **1989:** Meets new **President F. W. de Klerk** to call for end to apartheid

■ **1990:** **De Klerk** agrees to free **Nelson Mandela**. Tutu announces ban on clergy joining political parties, in bid to quell inter-party violence

■ **1994:** Mandela asks Tutu to head **Truth and Reconciliation Committee** following victory of **African National Congress** in post-apartheid elections, to try to heal deep, historic wounds



■ **2013:** Excluded from Mandela funeral after public criticism of ANC

■ **Dec 26, 2021:** "Moral conscience of a nation" dies at home in Cape Town