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(1968 — 2012)

Archdeacon Terefe Akalu (Tekle Georgis) (1968-2012)

The late Archdeacon Terefe Akalu (Tekle Georgis) (1968-2012)

Archdeacon Terefe Akalu was born on 10/11/1968 from his father Ato Akalu WeldeKirkos and mother W/zro Tewabech Weldeyes in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Terefe Akalu started out his religious studies and service to the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church from a very young age at Membere Sebhat, Kidist Selasie church, Entoto, where he was thought by some of the best spiritual fathers and intellectuals of the church. Terefe was well known and liked by everyone he met for his good nature, politeness and pleasant humour. On completion of his religious studies, he was ordained as a deacon in 1981 by the Late Patriarch His Holiness Abuna Tekle Haymaonte.

Terefe attended Amha Desta Junior School for his early educations and later Etege Menene Senior Secondary School for his higher education.

Young Archdeacon Terefe arrived in London, UK in 1992. From the day he set foot in London, Terefe continued his service to the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church and the believers as a deacon at St Mary of Debre Tsion, under The Late Archbishop of Europe His Grace Abuna Yohannes. His service gradually extended to believers and followers of the church in other parts of the UK and across Europe.

It took no time for Archdeacon Terefe, to settle in at St. Mary of Debre Tsion in London. His politeness and dedication to service won the hearts of his seniors and peers alike.

His affectionate smile and kindness; his distinguished voice and eloquent chanting, singing hymns quickly left their mark on many of the church members. Archdeacon Terefe was gifted with his own unique style, grace and movement when using the Kebberow during thanks giving and wudase.

Archdeacon Terefe, is known for putting a smile on the face of others. He was gifted with pleasant humour and disarming smile which he used with purpose to defuse tense situations or broker peace. He was a humble servant of the church.

Archdeacon Terefe also pursued his desire for higher education and graduated from Thames Valley University with a degree in Accounting in 2004.

Archdeacon Terefe tied the knot with W/zro Negede-Tsion Zekale on 2/05/2009 in sacred holly matrimony at a ceremony held in at Membere Sebhat, Kidist Selasie church, Entoto, Addis Ababa, where he started out his religious service as a child. His married life brought him great joys and fulfilment. The highlight of his marriage came in October 2011 when his son Be-abe Terefe was born.

Archdeacon Terefe served God and his church with dedication and passion all his life. He served Reese Adbarat St Mary of Debre Tsion for the past 20 years with unwavering commitment.

In unexpected turn of events Archdeacon Terefe was taken ill and receiving treatment at a hospital in London. However, to a great sadness and sorrow of his family, his friends, members of the church, and everyone who knew him around the world, he did not make recovery.

He rested in peace on 27/05/2012.

The sudden passing of Archdeacon Terefe has brought so much pain to his family, the entire Church at home and abroad, the clergies and his friends far and near. Archdeacon Terefe (Tekle Georgis) will be sadly missed by his family, and every one who had the pleasure of knowing him. We pray to God to grant his soul rest in His Heavenly Kingdom.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, Reese Adbarat St.Mary of Debre Tsion is mourning the lose of one of her dear sons. We invite members and friends and well wishers to attend the farewell funeral service, which will take place at St Mary of Debre Tsion, Queenstown Rd, Battersea London, SW8 on Sunday 03/06/2012.

The body of Archdeacon Terefe will be repatriated to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Monday 4th June 2012. The burial service will take place at Membere Sebhat Kidest Sellasie church where he was baptised, grew up as a child, ordained as a deacon and got married.

We ask you to think of the families of Archdeacon Terefe Akalu in your prayers in these difficult days and ahead.

May God grant his soul eternal peace, and give strength and condolences to his family.

The Parish Administration Council of Reese Adbarate St Mary of Debre Tsion,
Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church.

London June, 2012

