

## **Very Rev Fr. John Alex Adeyi 1965 - 2016**

John Alex Adeyi was born on the 9th of July, 1965. Known as 'Little John,' he attended St Francis Primary School at Otukpo. In 1978, John proceeded to St James' Junior Seminary Makurdi. Upon completion of secondary education, John was admitted for priestly formation at St Augustine's Major Seminary Jos in 1983 and ordained a Deacon in 1989.

On the 14th of July 1990, three young Idoma deacons, Revds.' Ambrose Ameh Ekeh Onmoke Sylvester Allam and John Alex Adeyi were ordained Catholic Priests at St Francis Church Otukpo Benue State, Nigeria.

Fr John had vast pastoral engagement, he was Co-pastor at St Augustine's parish Otukpo. After two years he became parish priest at St Edwards Owukpa. He was appointed first Rector to Aokpe pilgrimage centre. Here he was instrumental in the development of both the visionary and the centre.

In 1998 Fr John Adeyi and Fr. Onmoke Sylvester proceeded to Rome, Italy for further studies. Fr. John completed his Master's degree in Pedagogy and communications from the Gregorian university in Rome.

On return to Nigeria he undertook active pastoral apostle work across the length and breadth of Otukpo Diocese.

In 2003 the new Bishop Most Revd. Apochi Michael appointed Fr. John Adeyi his Vicar General on pastoral matters; an office Fr. Adeyi John held diligently as well as administrator of various parishes across the diocese. His last duty post was Priest in charge of St Bernard's Okpoga.

Fr. John got kidnapped on the 22nd of May 2016, a Sunday afternoon after Mass along Otukpa/Ugbokolo Road.

The kidnappers asked for a 10 million Naira ransom for his release. However, family and friends raised 2 million. Hope were high for his release, the whole church prayed, individuals, groups and other denominations also joined in.

Finally, our anxiety came too bare, as Fr John Adeyi was found dead in Otukpa precisely two months after his kidnap. His death sent shock across the country. We pray for a peaceful repose to the soul of Fr. John Adeyi; May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace. Amen.