



Anglican Church of Southern Africa
Diocese of Grahamstown

The Bishop of Grahamstown
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Second Special Ad Clerum
24 March 2020

02/2020

Dear People of God

Lenten greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We continue to pray for you without ceasing as this pandemic is a challenge to humanity throughout the world. We give thanks to God for all the wisdom He blesses us with. It is during times like these that we depend on that wisdom. We wrote to you in our last Ad Clerum detailing our response as a Diocese to the Coronavirus pandemic. These guidelines were meant to assist all clergy and laity concerning our worship.

Even this time we want to reiterate that we support the declaration of a 21-day Lockdown as an attempt to curb the spread of this virus. As a church we are called upon to discern the time and act accordingly. This Lockdown affects everybody, every religion and every family, every business and every class. Actions like these are in the best interest of all of us and specifically, the most vulnerable sectors of our people. In our churches we have young and old and we have to protect all of them from the ravages of this disease, Covid-19.

We write to you in the love of God and advise you as follows.

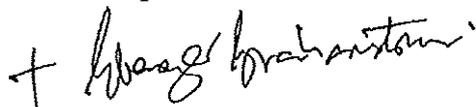
1. There will be no church gatherings and services for the duration of the Lockdown.
2. Believers are encouraged to spend this time in fasting and praying. We believe that this is what is going to save us from this pandemic.
3. Rector's and Priests-in-Charge are encouraged to use whatever technological means at their disposal to keep contact with their congregants.
4. This shutdown affects funerals and weddings. Whilst it might be easy to postpone weddings it might be more difficult to do so with funerals.
5. Do not be anxious about anything, better stay calm. This will pass.
6. Comply with everything the President has said.
7. This Ad Clerum is adding to the first one and we will update you as the situation presents itself.
8. Families should be made aware that there will be no physical PASTORAL care as clergy have not been included in the list of those who are exempted from this Lockdown.

9. Archbishop Thabo gives guidance to those who will be praying and worshipping at home. **“at midday, every day, please could we ring our church bells around southern africa for ten or fifteen seconds as a signal to those, in every country in our province who are ill or live in fear, despair and perhaps anger, assure them that god is here, that he loves us, that we are not alone and that this too shall pass”**.
(The updated guidelines, Tuesday, March 24th)
10. We are called to pray with the Archbishop **“God bless the world, give it wisdom at this time, grant us relief and release, be with those who are ill, and bless the carers fighting this pandemic. In Jesus’ name. Amen”**.
11. We remind you, during this period, of the prayer of St Teresa de Avila **“Christ has no body on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours. Ours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out; ours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and ours are the hands with which He is to bless us now.**
12. Those families that have funerals currently can utilise Wednesday and Thursday for that as it does not seem like they will be able to bury their dead during the Lockdown.

We would like to encourage everyone to trust God and not test God. It is our firm belief that our fast and prayer will yield the desired effect. We, as a church, are guided by the Word of God, we are encouraged by the actions of the Israelites during times of pestilence, war, famine and drought.

May God the Holy Trinity remain in you in these amazing times. The Anglicans believe in Benedictine spirituality. As you will be staying in your homes pray without ceasing for humanity, the world our Archbishops, Bishops and the entire leadership of the Church, Christians and our Ecumenical brothers and sisters.

Grace and peace



BISHOP OF GRAHAMSTOWN

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