



Anglican Church of Southern Africa
Diocese of Grahamstown

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Ad Clerum
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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

BISHOPSBOURNE FAMILY

We thank God for you the diocesan leadership and diocesan family at large. Thank you for your unceasing prayers. The good news in our family is that our daughter Zipho got married on the 22nd of August 2020 to the Mbuku family in Queenstown. They are from the Msiya Basothu clan. The mother of our son-in-law is the daughter of the late Revd Jayiya. We give thanks to God for the expansion of the family. Our son Anda will be finishing his graphic design studies at Cape College, Cape Town, and will start his internship either in Port Elizabeth or East London. My mother is now 88 years of age and is still enjoying good health. Once again, we miss you because of the lockdown but we are one in spirit. Let us continue to uphold one another as a diocesan family.

PREPARATION FOR THE RE-OPENING OF CHURCHES

We are getting feedback from some parishes as they want to re-open around mid-September. Other parishes want to re-open 1st October and we are still waiting patiently to find out what the rest of the parishes are thinking in their readiness to open their churches.

EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

We are guiding all parishes with what the State President has said about smaller meetings of 20 people and of 50 people can happen as long as social distancing of 2 meters in between is observed and cloth masks are worn by each and every person and no singing – only recorded music will be allowed. On the other hand, before an executive meeting or meeting of a guild can happen and before a parish council of 50 people could meet, they must make sure that the hall or the church is sanitized outside and inside. It means that you should get a credible company to do the deep cleaning and get a certificate from the local municipality declaring your church ready to be opened. After every event, the church or hall must be sanitized - whether for a meeting or for worship or for a guild meeting.

The other thing is that if the parish has more than 50 communicants, we need an action plan from that particular parish – of how they are going to spread their services. And also the Guilds must make sure that they are confined to 50 people at their gatherings. They must also give us an action plan of how they will hold their gatherings. We are still waiting for the feedback and answering of the questionnaire which was sent to you earlier.

BEREAVEMENTS

We are saddened by all those who died during the lockdown especially our clergy and their spouses. We continue to pray for the families of the late Canon Moletsane; the late Revd Jeanette Faniso, the late Revd Themba Philip, the late Revd Mlandeli Tekile the late Revd Mvuleni Mvula the late Revd Kolekile Twantwa, the late Revd Mnikeli Mkiva and his wife and the late Zoleka Mduzana and all other precious parishioners who have died during this time of the lockdown. We thank God for their life and contribution in the diocese. May their souls rest in peace and rise in glory.

DIOCESAN FAMILY DAY

We thank God for you as our diocesan family as we all express our unity in Jesus Christ. Our unity cannot be broken by race, nationality, tribalism, and languages. Thank you for all who have contributed their love gifts to sustain God's mission in the diocese. Let us continue to contribute until 31st December 2020 as we understand the problems of the lockdown. As soon as we arrive on level one of the lockdown or when we can participate in a diocesan mass service, we will let you know where we can meet for a thanksgiving service. We encourage all diocesan parishioners, guilds, diocesan orders, clergy, churchwardens and layministers to donate generously towards diocesan family day as we have a target of R1.2 million. Thank you for your 2019 love gifts contributions which were ±R900 000.00.

LENT & THEOLOGICAL SUNDAY

Remember that the theological Sunday contributions are collected for the College of the Transfiguration so if that money can be deposited into the family day account and reference it Name of Parish/Theological Sunday. Let us also make sure that the Lenten contributions are forwarded to the diocese as they are used for the diocesan projects. If you have already done so – well done if not – we request that follow your brothers and sisters who are committed to pay their contributions towards the mission of God in the Diocese.

INSURANCE & MEDICAL AID

We have put Rectors, Priests-in-Charge, Churchwardens, Treasurers, Parish Councilors in a position of trust so that they make sure that the Diocesan Acts are obeyed and to make sure that all parish properties in the diocese are insured. The absence of your insurance contributions shows us that your parish buildings and furniture are not insured. Let us not be negligent. Only when disaster strikes you want to pay our insurance. We are called to be proactive.

It is surprising that in this lockdown in a situation of coronavirus which demands such a high healthcare, that we can have parishes that are not paying the medical aid in the diocese as requested. It would be a disaster when the medical aid policy bounces when we have priests in hospitals. I personally know that you are capable enough not to disappoint us as a diocese by paying your dues on time. We are already past the halfway mark of the year. Some of you are being transferred and it would be better when you are transferred you leave your parish clean so that the next incumbent can start on a clean slate.

ACSA

We call upon you to pray for the Synod of Bishops and the PSC that will be happening in the month of September. Let us pray for the Archbishop and other bishops – giving thanks to God for their leadership in this lockdown situation – that God may uphold our Episcopal leaders and clergy to be protected, energized and be successful in their ministry as we are proud of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. The Lambeth Conference has been shifted again to July/August 2022. We call upon to you pray for the Archbishop Justin Wellby the Chair of the Conference and all the organizers.

COLLEGE OF TRANSFIGURATION

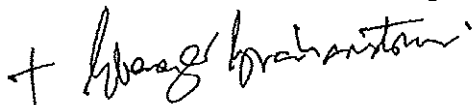
We give thanks to God for the leadership of the Revd Canon Vicentia Kgabe and all the College Professional Staff for continuing the studies online for our theological students. We also pray for the admin and ground staff who are going through the implications of the Covid-19 regulations. We call upon you to uphold them in your prayers.

ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE AND DSG

We give thanks to God for the ministry of Shelly Frayne as headmistress of DSG who has left us at the end of 2019 and started her new ministry as headmistress of St Cyprians Girls School in Cape Town. At the same time, we welcome the new headmaster of DSG Mr Jannie de Villiers and his family. We pray for our two schools as they are going through the process of transformation, policies of racism and all other policies that involve transformation. We give thanks to God that the schools are fully functioning after their financial wobble during the first six months of the year. We call upon as the diocesan family to pray for our lovely schools including the Holy Cross, Good Shepherd and Kingswood and all other schools in the Eastern Cape.

May God bless us all as we are partners in God's mission.

Yours in the service of the Shepherd of shepherds



BISHOP OF GRAHAMSTOWN