



Anglican Church of Southern Africa
Diocese of Grahamstown

The Bishop of Grahamstown
The Rt Reverend Ebenezer St Mark Ntlali

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27 May 2020

Ad Clerum

May 2020

Dear People of God, my dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Response to the statement by President Ramaphosa

Greetings in the Name of Christ our Saviour.

We are still in lockdown during this coronavirus pandemic which continues to cause stress and anxiety to our dear people. As followers of Christ, we continue to hold on to Christ who is present with us during this time of crisis. Our prayer is that we will renew our relationship with Christ Jesus anew and be more aware of new and different ways to be the Body of Christ and be light, as Jesus instructed.

During the President's address, we were informed of the call for a day of prayer on Sunday, 31 May 2020. Sunday, 31 May, is Pentecost Sunday when we remember the outpouring of God's Spirit and pray for renewed experiences of the work of God's Spirit. We therefore encourage each and every person to join this day of prayer, where we are in our homes, and pray for:

- an end to the coronavirus
- all people infected with the virus
- all families who have lost a loved one to the virus
- all people who are working to keep us safe
- guidance in responsible and cautious choices and behaviour of our people as we move towards level 3 of the lockdown

Furthermore, we thank God for the ministry of the SACC and its leadership, together with our Archbishop Thabo Makgoba and their negotiations with Mr Ramaphosa. We are

thankful for the decision to give churches the go ahead to work towards opening up our buildings.

It is however a process that will take time to implement. Our concern is the protection of our parishioners and we need to make sure that policies and protocol is in place to assist with making sure that we are ready to re-open our church buildings.

We, Bishop in Chapter will be having a zoom meeting first to discuss and put a plan in place to ensure readiness for opening the buildings. Therefore please continue as before, until such time as we inform you differently.

We continue to pray for each other and together through our livestreaming of services, You Tube videos and WhattsApp messages. God as our guide will lead us through this suffering to resurrection. Let us therefore continue to trust God, hold on to God, allow God to carry us when needed and follow God to waters where there is rest.

Grace and peace

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bishop Grahamstown', written in a cursive style.

BISHOP OF GRAHAMSTOWN

**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. (St Teresa de Avila)**