



Anglican Church of Southern Africa
Diocese of Grahamstown

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Ad Clerum
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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

Epiphany greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your hard work during the lockdown of 2020. Seemingly, we are not yet out of the pandemic. Nevertheless, we need to adhere to the advice of the Synod of Bishops, ACSA and President Ramaphosa.

We call upon all of you to follow these Covid 19 regulations of the second phase being the adjusted level 3 as follows:-

1. The President of the Republic of South Africa announced that with effect from midnight on the 28th of December 2020, SA would revert to Level 3 restrictions.
2. In addition, the President also announced further hotspot areas affecting Western Cape, the Garden Route, KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng.
3. With immediate effect all social gatherings, including faith-based gatherings are prohibited until the 15th of January 2021. The situation will be reviewed then.
4. A new curfew from 21:00 until 06:00 was imposed.
5. The wearing of face masks compulsory. Failure to do so constitutes an offence punishable by law.
6. Implications for church and worship
 - a. ALL places of worship are closed with immediate effect.
 - b. Places of worship may **only** be opened for purpose of conducting a **funeral**.
 - c. The prohibition on gatherings both social and faith based means we are not able to worship, conduct weddings, baptisms, confirmations or ordinations until further notice but at least for the next two weeks. The team working on other implications for ministry and will update these.
 - d. Funerals must be held in full compliance of all health protocols.
 - e. A designated compliance officer must be appointed in writing.
 - f. Attendance at funerals restricted to **50** if venue can accommodate 50 while maintaining a social distance of 1.5 m between all attendees.
 - g. Smaller venues are restricted to 50% of capacity of the venue.
 - h. These numbers to include ministers and altar parties.
 - i. Masks **must** be worn at all times.
 - j. **No singing** is permitted, although a soloist may perform, observing social distance and health protocols.

- k. Recorded music may be played.
- l. Funerals to be completed within **two hours**. One hour for the actual service and the next hour for the committal or cremation service.
- m. No night vigils or prayer meetings allowed.
- n. When going to sympathize or express condolences to the family, please keep visit short, observe social distance, sanitize and wear a mask. These are hard asks of us all, but it is needed, to save lives.
- o. No social gatherings to be held in our homes too.
- p. No after tears gatherings, including lunch or tea etc.
- q. In order to reduce pressure on mortuaries, every effort to be made to conduct **funeral within five days**.

We pray that as a Church of God in Christ Jesus, we do not lose hope. We continue to worship in our homes and we call upon all our clergy to try and use technology in communication and worship with the parishioners.

Be assured of our prayers. Please continue to pray for us as we lead you. Also uphold your spiritual leaders in prayer. I end with the doxology of St John the Apostle in his book of Revelation 1: 5-6: “to Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priest to serve His God and Father – to Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen”.

We know that even this pandemic will end and God’s people will be freed from it.

DIOCESAN DUES

Thank you very much for complying with payments of assessments, insurance, medical aid etc. We continue having a humble request that you meet these commitments in order that we may be able to maintain the payroll, running expenses of the Diocese and ACSA. May God in Christ Jesus in the Spirit give you the necessary grace under these economic circumstances and give you the courage to make sure the mission of God goes forward irrespective of the limitations posed by Covid 19 regulations and its pandemic.

EDUCATION

We give thanks to God for all our children and grandchildren and those who studied in 2020. We pray that as the schools re-open the Lord Jesus Christ may bless them, protect them and that all may keep safe in the midst of this pandemic.

Grace and peace



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)