



FROM THE BISHOP'S DESK

To: Incumbents, Priests-in-Charge and Churchwardens: **COVID - 19 / 004**

“Hear my prayer O Lord and give ear to my cry: be not silent at my tears.” Ps 39:13

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Great Shepherd, who protects, comforts, and feeds us.

We find ourselves in an ever increasing grip of the Corona Pandemic. Today in South Africa we have reached over 100 000 of confirmed cases of people, who have tested positive of COVID 19, and almost 2000 people have died as a result of COVID 19. These numbers is no longer just statistics made up of numbers, the numbers have faces, and it is persons known to us or to others that are close to us.

I receive reports, almost daily of parishioners in our Diocese that tested positive. In some cases it is more than one family member. This is in densely populated areas as well as in rural areas.

We in our own family, this past Sunday, lost a loved one, as a result of COVID 19. It is the cousin of my Wife. Lynn and I are currently in self-isolation after she, at work, was exposed to a colleague who tested positive. We have had ourselves tested and we tested negative but were advised to self-isolate for 14 days. We are in day 8 of Self-isolation.

I wrote to the Incumbents, Priests-in-Charge and Churchwardens on the 2nd June 2020. There, I requested that each Parish put in place a COVID 19 Response Team. And that the Rector or the Priest- in - Charge, the Churchwardens and the Parish COVID 19 Team determine the readiness of the Parish to open for **in -person -worship** under strict conditions.

Parishes were asked to reply by no later than Friday, 12 June, 2020. We had 97% of the Parishes that responded, 3% indicated that they are ready to open for **in - person - worship**, within two weeks' time, 4% indicated that they will be ready within four weeks' time, and 2% indicated that they will be ready in two months' time. The remaining did not indicate any specific time.

In the light of current patterns and trends of the spread of COVID 19 in the areas that make up our Diocese, the current conditions and challenges at local Parish level, and the fact that most of us as clergy have preconditions that places us and others at risk it appears to be inadvisable for our churches to open for **in - person - worship** for now, except for funerals. The opening of our churches for **in person - worship** will need to be revisited before the end of August 2020 unless the Province decides otherwise.

May God bless all of us as we seek to protect His people in our care.

Yours in the service of Christ.

+Brian George

Aan: Rektors, Priesters-in-Bevel en Kerkvoogde: **COVID - 19/004**

“Hoor, HERE, my gebed, en luister na my hulpgeroep; en swyg nie by my tranen nie.” – Ps 39:13

Liewe Susters en Broers,

Wees gegroet in die naam van Jesus, ons Groot Herder, wie ons beskerm, vertrou en voed.

Ons bevind onself in ‘n al stygende greep van die Corona Pandemie. In Suid Afrika het ons meer as 100 000 bevestigde gevalle van mense wie positief getoets het vir COVID 19, en byna 2000 mense het gesterf as gevolg van COVID 19. Hierdie syfers is nie meer net statistieke wat opgemaak is uit getalle nie, die syfers het gesigte, en dit is mense wie bekend is aan ons of aan ander na aan ons. Ek hoor feitlik daagliks, van Gemeente lede in ons Bisdom wie positief getoets het. In sommige gevalle is daar meer as een familie-lid. Dit is in dig-bevolkte areas sowel as in landelike gebiede.

Die afgelope Sondag het ons, in ons eie familie, ‘n geliefde verloor weens COVID 19. Dit is die niggie van my vrou. Ek en Lynn is tans

in self-isolasie nadat sy by die werk in kontak was met ‘n kollega wie positief getoets het. Ons het onself laat toets en, hoewel dit negatief was, is ons aangeraai om vir 14 dae in self-isolasie te gaan. Ons is tans in dag 8 van self-isolasie.



Op die 2de Junie 2020 het ek aan die Rektors, Priesters-in-Bevel en Kerkvoogde ‘n skrywe gerig waarin ek versoek het dat elke Parogie ‘n COVID 19 Reaksie Span in plek moet stel. En dat die Rector of die Priester- in – Bevel, die Kerkvoogde en die Parogiale COVID 19 Span moes vasstel hoe gereed die Parogie is om oop te maak vir gesamentlike, persoonlike aanbidding (in -person –worship) onder streng voorwaardes.

Parogies is gevra om teen Vrydag, 12 Junie, 2020 terugvoering te gee. Uit die 97% van die Parogies wie gereageer het, het 3% aangedui dat hulle gereed is om binne twee weke oop te maak vir gesamentlike aanbidding, 4% het aangedui dat hulle binne vier weke gereed sal wees en 2% het aangedui dat hulle eers oor twee maande gereed sal wees. Die res van die Parogie het nie ‘n spesifieke tydgleuf aangedui nie.

In die lig van die huidige patroon en verloop van die verspreiding van COVID 19 in die areas wat deel uitmaak van ons Bisdom, die huidige toestande en uitdagings op plaaslike Parogiale vlak, en die feit dat die meeste van ons Priesters ly aan onderliggende toestande, wat ons en andere in gevaar stel, blyk dit nie raadsaam te wees vir ons kerke om oop te maak vir gesamentlike aanbidding, behalwe begrafnisse nie. Dit sal nodig wees om die oopstel van ons kerke vir gesamentlike aanbidding te herbesoek voor die einde van Augustus, tensy Provinsie anders besluit.

Mag God ons almal seën in ons strewe om Sy kinders in ons sorg te beskerm.

U dienaar in Christus.

+Brian George

Iya: Kuba Priste nama Gosa: **COVID-19/004**

Yiva umthandazo wam, Yehova, kubekele indlebe ukuzibika kwam. Musa ukuthi tu ezinyembezi zam. Indumiso 39:13

Bazalwane noDade, abahloniphekileyo

Mandibulise ngegama lika Yesu , Umalusi wethu omkhulu osikhuselayo, osithuthuzelayo nosondlayo. Sizifmene sikwisimo sokuqatsela kwalo gilikanqo we Corona. Namhlanje eMzantsi-Afrika sifike kumanani angama khulu amabini amawaka (200 000) zemeko zabantu abachaphazeleke kwi Corona Covid-19, kangange 2000(amawaka amabini) abathe baphulukana nemiphefumlo yabo ngenxa yalobhubhane. Lamanani asimanani nje kodwa aneembuso kwaye ngabantu esibaziyo nabasondeleyo kuthi. Ndifumana ingxelo , rhoqo ngamarhamente kule diocese athe achaphazeleka maxa wambi iba lilungu elinye nangaphezulu athi achaphazeleke kusapho. Nathi kusapho lwam kwicawa edlulileyo, siye sashiwa ngulowo simthandayo ngenxa yalo bhuhane(COVID-19),ngu kanina ka nkosikazi wam u Lynn. Nam nonkosikazi sizibeke bucala emva kokuba emsebenzini wakhe kubekho ugxa wakhe othe wachaphazeleka sesisifo. Siye sayoxilongwa sivavanyelwa esisifo, zabuya izizphumo zisithi siphile qete akukho nento , sacelwa kodwa sizigcine bucala for 14 yeentsuku ngoku sikwi 8 days. Ndabhalela abeFundisi , namaGosa ngomhla we 2 June 2020, apho ndicela ukuba iParish nganye ibe neqelana le COVID-19., nabeFundisi namaGosa benze ke (COVID-19 team) nezokuthi kujongwe okulungela ukuvulwa kweenkonzo phantsi kwemigqaliselo elilululima. Amabandla ebecelwe aphenndule ngolwesihlanu 12 June 2020. Uninzi luphendule 97%, laze iqedlana 3% bathi bakulungele ukuvula iinkonzo kwiiveki ezimbini. Abanye bathi kwiiveki ezine babe belongile 4%, abanye bathi kwiinyanga ezimbini ezizayo. Abanye ke abatshongo ukuba bakulungele nini ukuvula. Indlela ekhawuleza ngayo ukunwenwa le ntsholongwane kwingingqi ezithile kule diocese yethu ingumceli mngeni loo nto abeFundisi babone ikukubeka ubomi bamarhamente emngciphekweni ukuvula amabandla ngoku ngaphandleni ke kwemingwabo. Ukuvulwa kwetyalike zethu kunqulo lwabantu bonke sakuthi silujonge kaphinde ekupheleni ko Agasti 2020. Ngaphandleni kokuba kubekho isigqibo esivelayo kwi Provinsi.

Wanga u Thixo angasisikelela sonke sisafuna ukhuseleko lwakhe.

Owenu kwinkonzo ka Kristu.

+Brian George