



Anglican Church of Southern Africa
Diocese of Grahamstown

The Bishop of Grahamstown
The Rt Reverend Ebenezer St Mark Ntlali

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Ad Clerum

July 2020

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

BISHOPSBOURNE

We, +Ebenezer, Mama Noncedo all the children and grandchildren thank you for your love and prayers for us. Although we are not able to meet due to the Covid-19 lockdown regulations, we are one in God's Spirit and excited by your unceasing support. We continue to thank God for taking care of us all.

COVID-19 DIOCESAN TEAM

The convener of the Covid-19 Diocesan Team and the Liaison Officer to ACSA is the Revd Canon Dr Samuel Beja.

The Convener writes...

The emergence of the COVID 19 pandemic onto the world stage has put the whole global village community on a tailspin that is not only perplexing but also with an impact of unprecedented proportions in all aspects of human endeavour. The Life of the people of God and community of worshippers have not spared either in all the pandemonium, confusion, fear, and uncertainty that goes with all this

Whereas, there had been conflicting ideological positions regarding the wearing of face masks initially, it has come out resonating and unequivocal from the Ministry of Health, that the wearing of masks by all, including members of the public is must, as a means of curbing and curtailing the torrid spread of infections. The recommendation is the general use of Cloth Masks as opposed to Respirator Type [Surgical and N95] masks. These are to be reserved for frontline health care workers

To this end, the Diocese of Grahamstown is embarking on a drive for mass production of these relatively inexpensive cloth masks for distribution amongst the poor and needy who cannot afford nor readily access them. This project; which will incorporate the production of, also, inexpensive Sanitizer Solution; we suggest it be spearheaded and championed by the Mothers Union as it snugly fits, and dovetails the M U's Objectives 4 and 5 as well as resonating with their Strategic Objectives for 2017 - 2020:

- To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and their protection
- To help those whose family life has met up with adversity

- To enable those, we work with to discover and use the skills and knowledge they possess in ways which nurture relationships, strengthen communication, and develop practical skills

To give effect to this ideal, the intention is to leverage capacity at parish level with coordination located at Archdeaconry Leadership level and using M U structures as the vehicle of delivery. This would ensure quality control and brand uniqueness of the product, distinguishing it as of origin in our Diocese

Further, the Diocesan Liaison Structure, recently established will be embarking collaborative initiatives through the ACSA Provincial Office in areas of communication and coordination of activities including guidance in handling challenges such as the spiralling incidents of Domestic and Gender Based Violence as well as the highhandedness exhibited by the Law Enforcement Agencies in their attempts at ensuring compliance with Lockdown measures – which unfortunately have demonstrated flawed application of the Law and unnecessary loss of life in some instances

REGIONAL CLUSTERS:

Albany and Grahamstown

Alice and Winterberg

King Williamstown East & West

Kidds Beach & East London South

Greater East London [Central, East & West]

Ser. No	Diocese / Archdeaconry	Responsibility- Designates
1.	Diocesan Core Group	Rev Canon Dr Sam Beja [0833781113]; Dr Bongiwe Yose [0834544804]; Rev Dr Bongiwe Prim Beja [0846576193]; Ms. Nonkosazana Gqola [0646504820]; Dr Mthandeki Xhamshe [0833782211 / 0813244111]; Mrs Nomsa Vena [0833780148]
2.	Greater East London – Central, East & West	Mrs Hina [0762503847]; Mrs Pule [0638844069]; Mrs Damane [0713554036]; Ms. Makuku Oliphant [0827067282]
3.	Kidds Beach & East London South	Ms. Pumza Qongwana [0823812615]; Ms. Nomatshawe Charlie [0824246669]
4.	King Williamstown East & West	Mr Pali [0722091834]; Ms. Nono Tokwe [0787198965]; Ms. Phumla Ngcakana [0828420267]
5.	Alice & Winterberg	Rev Nomakorinte Biko [0760782072];
6.	Albany & Grahamstown	Mrs Ngxoweni [0783473269]

COVID-19 DIOCESAN SOLIDARITY FUND

We have formed a Diocesan Solidarity Fund with the Archdeacon to the Ordinary BTM Mfenyana as convener, 0720363232. The following are the Management Team:

- 1) Ven J Rusch
- 2) Rev Etienne Maree
- 3) Canon Zeodor Arends
- 4) Ven N Maqoma
- 5) Rev Mndi
- 6) Mrs Jane Bradshaw
- 7) Sub-dean Dyantyi

The convener writes...

It has been a challenging time for all of us to continue MINISTERING to God's people in ways we had never thought about before. What is heart-warming for us is the number of Incumbents who took it upon themselves to use various methods of connecting with their congregations. The positive spin-off of this is the sharing of services, sermons and prayers from different parishes. It is also has shown us how we can reach even those parishioners who do not attend services regularly. Even though we embrace this new approach, we also believe that at the center of our worship is fellowship. We are reminded of what the writer off the book of Hebrews says in HEB.10:24,

‘And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,
(NIV)

As a Diocese we are confronted by the same challenges that the country is facing, central to that is a need to provide support to the most vulnerable. We know that of the number of people who support our parishes and the Diocese are pensioners and the working class. They are the ones who are bearing the brunt of this Lockdown. We commend our government for allowing informal traders and Spades to operate. This ensured that in those households there is food on the table. It is common knowledge that there is a larger percentage of people who have no income during this time. We should remember that some of those are the ones who spent whatever little money they had to support our parishes. Now that they have nothing what is the church doing to alleviate their hardship?

We would like to congratulate those parishes that are providing food parcels to the destitute. I encourage you to continue with this good initiative. People are also looking up to us for assistance and hope. We feed them spiritually, now is the time to take the lead from our Saviour Jesus Christ the Son of a Provident God, who looked at the crowd and felt compassion, sat them down and asked His disciples what they had. It is that time that as your Bishop I ask you, ‘What do you have?’ I hope that you will be able to respond like the disciples and bring something. It might come from you or it can come from other legal sources.

We would like to establish a Diocese Solidarity Fund. This fund will go towards supporting our parishioners, especially the poor with food or any other products that might be necessary. It will receive donations from Anglicans, friends of the Anglicans, the Private Sector, Government and society at large. It will be managed by the Diocese of Grahamstown Development Trust under the Executive Trustee, Ven BTM Mfenyana. It will open a new account and will report quarterly. We are putting together a team of people with relevant skills to manage the Fund. An office will be identified where all donations in kind will be held.

This team will draw up the guidelines for marketing, administering, accessing and accounting. The Archdeacon to the Ordinary will be an ex officio member. The team will account to the Bishop and whoever he deems fit to join him. Those who are Rector's or Priests-in-Charge in the team will have to nominate another person to represent his parish when the parish applies for assistance.

We are appealing to all Archdeacons, Rectors, Priests-in-Charge, Clergy, Churchwardens, Leaders of Guilds and Orders to support this initiative so as to enables our church to bring Christ's love to God's people. We implore you to contribute as driven by your heart. Your contribution will be acknowledged.

The Account Number will be forwarded to all parishes once it is opened.

We commend this initiative to your prayers, May the Lord give us a spirit of unity of purpose and Christ-like generosity. Remember Christ has neither eyes, ears, hands nor feet except ours.

TRANSFERS

We have done a lot of transfers throughout the diocese. These transfers were informed by the following:

- Canon 25.6 Change of Incumbent or Assistant Cleric
- Chapter VII.2; 5a &b of the Acts of the Diocese 2019.
- Some clergy has been in parishes for a long time e.g. 14 years, 10 years.
- We are in a multi-cultural church, therefore we are training clergy to work in all pastoral charges irrespective of race, tribe, language or culture.
- The age of our clergy as well as their spirituality – bringing new wine to pastoral charges.

We, Bishop in Chapter, has done the transfers according to the Acts of the Diocese and the mind of Chapter.

COVID-19 REGULATIONS AND READINESS TO OPEN CHURCH BUILDINGS

We, Bishop in Chapter, have provided you with the Diocesan Covid-19 Policies and ask you to adhere to these policies. We trust that these policies as well as the questionnaire sent out, will assist you with the process of getting ready to use church buildings. The policies and questionnaire are open-ended as covid-19 regulations continue to change and therefore the policies will also need to be adjusted.

Please follow the following process:

1. Circulate the questionnaire to all members of your parish.
2. The rector, church wardens with your archdeacon complete the questionnaire.
3. Send your responses to the Covid-19 Team lead by Revd Canon Dr Beja.
4. Indicate a date when you will be ready to open the church building.
5. Put together a plan of the procedures for getting ready.
6. Forward the plan and date to the Dean and the Bishop.
7. The final approval will be done by the Bishop.

DIOCESAN FAMILY DAY

The Diocesan Family Day is a once off event during the month of August, where we express our unity as ‘The Body of Christ’ through worship. On this occasion we also forward our love gifts as our commitment towards God’s mission. We trust you have all received correspondence on your targets for Parishes, Guilds, Ibutho Labavuseleli, Diocesan Orders, FOV and Ordinands, Clergy and Spouses and Diocesan Staff. As we are not able to meet in August, kindly deposit your love gifts in Call Account 612 320 020 24 and clearly reference please.

We hope to meet as a Diocese and celebrate our Family Day before the end of the year. Please pray for this to be possible.

ORDINATION OF PRIESTS

Be informed that we are planning to ordain priests in our Cathedral on 16 December 2020, depending on the Covid-19 regulations.

RETREATS AND WELLNESS PROGRAMMES

Due to Covid-19 regulations we were not able to plan or have any retreats or wellness programmes. Please take care of yourselves and organise personal retreats with your Spiritual Directors.

SELECTION CONFERENCE

We will communicate the date through the office of the Dean, who will invite possible candidates.

MOTHER'S UNION ELECTIONS

Elections for deputies, treasurers, secretaries, etc need to be organised. We, together with the MU President, will be guiding you through the process following the MU regulations. Please pray for this process and ask God to bless us with the suitable people to take the MU further

ST AGNES GUILD

We will be conducting the elections of the Guild with the Diocesan Organiser following the constitution and policies of St Agnes Guild. We pray for this process and ask God's blessing on all who will be elected and thank God for those faithful servants who have served God's church thus far.

PARISH WARDENS, MEMBERS OF PARISH COUNCILS

We, Bishop in Chapter, have learned that some parishes have not been able to elect new office bearers. We have resolved that in those parishes where elections did not take place, the Parish Wardens and Council need to continue till March 2021. Where elections did take place, the new office bearers will take the parish forward. We hope and trust that you will find this helpful as we do God's ministry to the best of our ability during this lockdown.

WHITSUNDAY/PENTECOST LOVE GIFTS

Please forward the love gifts to all Assistant Clergy (Deacons and Priests). When there is no Assistant Clergy the gift goes to the Rector.

QUARTERLY CONSTITUTIONAL MEETINGS OF DIOCESE

These meetings were disrupted by the Covid-19 regulations. When we realised that the lockdown was a hindrance, we decided to have virtual meetings. We are pleased that the virtual meetings are going well.

COTT STUDENTS

Please remember our three students together with their families who are studying at COTT at this time. We commend them to your love, care and prayers especially their parishes and archdeaconries. Our students are Revd Wongama Nkumanda (first year diploma), lay minister Ben Fete (third year diploma), Revd Siphokazi Matini (advanced diploma).

PASTORAL CARE

Please note Layministers, Deacons, Priests and all members of Guilds responsible for pastoral care:

When there is a need in the community for care and support, get the telephone number of the person and family and promise to call back. After preparing yourself through prayer, reading scripture and thought, phone the person in need and ask them to put the phone on speaker in order for those involved to be able to hear. Minister to the person and family over the phone. Ask the family to keep you informed and to update you. We cannot, as we would usually, go and visit homes

when people are sick unfortunately. We need to be careful. Remind our parishioners that we called to do ministry differently these days. If the person has been infected with Covid-19, please encourage the family to be transparent about the illness and take the necessary precautions.

BEREAVEMENTS

We had a number of bereavements in the Diocese. Revd Lizo Sokopo (Rector at All Saints, Breidbach), Revd Jeanette Faniso (Assistant Deacon at St Francis, Mdantsane), Revd Themba Philip (Rector-elect at Holy Cross, Mdantsane), Lay Canon Mrs Nontobeko Moletsani (Holy Cross, Mdantsane), Mrs Zoleka Mduzana - wife of Archdeacon Chuma Mduzana (St Philips Gompo). Bishop Ebenezer's sister-in-law Mrs Beatrice Cikizwa Tyali.

There has also been many other members of our parishes and family members who have passed-on during this time of the lockdown. Kindly continue to uphold all of these families in your prayers.

May the souls of the departed rest in peace and rise in glory.

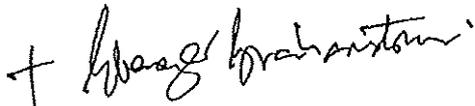
CELEBRATIONS

We are pleased to inform you that lay minister Jonas of Holy Name, Stutterheim has celebrated his 100th birthday. He has completed 100 years on this earth. We give thanks to God and we congratulate him and wish him good health.

Please also uphold him in your prayers.

We thank God that we are able to connect with you in this way. Please continue to pray for us, as we pray for each of you.

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)**