



Anglican Church of Southern Africa
Diocese of Grahamstown

The Bishop of Grahamstown
The Rt Reverend Ebenezer St Mark Ntlali

P O Box 181 • Grahamstown • South Africa • 6140 • email: bishop@grahamstowndiocese.org.za
Tel. Home (+27) (0)46-622 2500 Office (+27) (0)46-636 1996 • Fax (+27) (0)46-622 5231

Ad Clerum

April 2020

No. 04/2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

BISHOPSBOURNE

Greetings from us +Ebenezer, Mama Noncedo and the Bishopsbourne family who is on lockdown with the rest of the country. We believe what Paul said, “In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1Thes. 5:18 KJV). He still reigns and He will rise and remove all fear and doubt from His people. Our gratitude is informed by our knowledge and faith that nothing is impossible with God. Thank you for your prayers which carry us. Please be assured of our continued prayers for each of you during this challenging time.

LOCKDOWN

We urge all of you to continue to obey the rules of the Lockdown they are meant to minimise the damage this virus is capable of. As Christians we cannot be found disobeying authority and endangering people's lives. We commend all those who have stayed at home and maintained the necessary standards of hygiene viz. washing of hands with soap, coughing into your tissue or flexed elbow and keeping your distance from others especially sick people.

Remember to use this time for prayer and fasting. Pray for those who are critically ill because of this virus and all those infected and affected. Let us pray for all doctors, nurses admin and cleaning staff at our medical facilities who risk their lives for the sake of saving others. Pray for government leaders that God would bless them with wisdom to lead us out of this pandemic. May all their efforts come to fruition. It was heart-warming to hear our President saying ‘ God bless Africa’.

TRIDUUM

It was difficult to observe Palm Sunday away from our church buildings, but we found creative ways to connect ourselves with each other. During the Triduum, you are encouraged to observe these important days in the comfort of your own homes. We can sacrifice these services for one year and observe them for many more years after that.

Thank you to all the clergy who continue to find ways to support parishioners through messages and services via whatsapp and live streaming. We will be celebrating together in spirit.

UPDATE ON FUNERALS DURING LOCKDOWN

Time has come again that I communicate other regulations and also amend some according to those released by the Minister for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Min. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma on the 2 April 2020.

It seems that municipalities also release their own Regulations. Please make sure that you get hold of your Municipality's as well. ***We shall use, as an example Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality.***

In the event of a loss of a loved one who resides outside of the borders of your province and district one is allowed to transport that body across boundaries. Only two relatives are allowed to travel with the body.

1. Who may attend

People allowed to attend their relative's funeral even across national, provincial and district borders: a spouse, or partner of the deceased, child whether it is your biological, adopted or stepchild, child-in-law of the deceased, parent of the deceased whether biological, adopted or stepbrother or sister of the deceased, grandparents or a person closely affiliated to the deceased

A closely affiliated person is a person with parental responsibilities and rights in respect of the deceased / a person who had developed a significant relationship based on caregiving, psychological or emotional attachment to the deceased.

2. Documents for attendance

When attending across borders, one has to obtain a permit from a nearest magistrate's office. It is supposed to be issued by the highest authority of that office. It can also be obtained from a Station Commander of your local police station. You should bring a Death Certificate or a certified copy of the Death Certificate. If it is not yet available one must make a sworn Affidavit which corresponds to Form 3 of Annexure C. When you obtain the permit you are allowed to be in that Metropolitan, Municipality only for 48 hours. You are not allowed to stay with a relative or friend. You should stay at a lodge, hotel or guest house. The owner will ask for your permit.

3. Number allowed to attend a funeral

The number remains 50. We would like, on the basis of clarity given by the Min. For COGTA indicate the following:

a) 50 includes everybody who will be inside the church or tent.

b) The undertaker is not included in the 50 as they do not usually stay there all the time.

c) In our rural communities, the grave diggers are not included in the 50.

d) Count your guests. All going to attend the funeral, need to receive invitations. A ***register*** with the names with all tending the funeral is kept. Water with soap or sanitisers need to be provided. People must not wash from the same container when washing hands. Only paper towels should be used.

e) Those invited to the funeral must still get a permit from the local Police Station or Magistrate. Those attending, need to travel with ***your invitation and your permit.***

4. Clergy

All Rectors and Priests-in-Charge have been issued with ***Permits to conduct funerals***, but ***ALSO*** get ***permission*** from the Police or Magistrate ***OR*** if not possible, ***make an affidavit*** at the local police station.

5. No night vigils are allowed.

6. The viewing needs to happen at the Funeral Parlour and not at the church

service to avoid crowding which might lead to the spread of infection.

- 7. Hand washing ceremony**, needs to happen *after church service*. **Only family** (25 people for Buffalo City Municipality) go *to graveyard*. Others go home. **No catering**.

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR REV SOKOPO

We give thanks to God for enabling us to conduct our beloved priest's funeral on the 2 April at Holy Trinity. It was a fitting farewell to an educationist, sportsperson and priest. It was sad to think that hundreds would have loved to attend but could not because of this virus. We thank the Rector of Holy Trinity for availing the church to the family. Thanks must also go to Archdeacon Prof. Emeritus Mtuze for all the preparations and support given to the family and all of us.

Our gratitude goes to All Saints Breidbach for enabling Rev Sokopo to practice his ministry at their parish. We understand your pain and pray that the Lord comforts you with the comfort He promises in Isaiah 66:13.

This has left All Saints without a shepherd. We are praying for God's guidance as we discern who could be sent there. Ven. Mtuze, by virtue of being the Archdeacon, will be the Rector of the parish until we find one. Please continue to pray for the Sokopo family and All Saints Parish, Breidbach.

DIOCESAN DUES

We would like to thank all parishes that continue to pay their Diocesan Dues. The Diocese has to meet its obligations even during this time. We would like to encourage parishes to pay their dues on time. We are mindful of the economic impact of the Lockdown and feel for all those who will be adversely affected by it.

CALL BY ARCHBISHOP

Archbishop Thabo is calling on all of us pray for divine intervention at this time. He informed us that people can watch services from Channel 344 from 9 to 13 April. Different denominations, including ours, will be given an opportunity to conduct a service or address God's people.

There are resources that the province is making available for use at <https://anglicanchurchsa.org/coronavirus-resources-for-prayer-and-worship/>

Enjoy a Spirit-filled Eastertide. Stay safe.

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)**

