

The Bishop of False Bay
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COVID 19 – FALSE BAY DIOCESE UPDATE

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My dear Clergy and People of False Bay,

We are in week two of the National lockdown and we are entering into the Holiest of Weeks, commencing with Palm Sunday. Despite the social distancing and physical isolation, we remain connected, not separated, as we are united in the body of Christ. Many have put palms or leafy branches on their doors and gates, making a statement that it is Palm Sunday. Every bit of your handiwork tells a story. Please send photos to our Diocesan Administrator for our website.

We have learnt from Italy that week two of Covid 19, is the most critical period when infections reach a peak. Please be very vigilant. Do not let down your guard.

God is walking with us through the storm of Covid 19 into a new beginning. Something new and good is being born – we are in labour together and always, God walks with us. As a country and as a Diocese we are in ‘growth pains’. Our clergy have been amazing with innovative ways of reaching us with meditations, service clips, online services and resources for our reflection time. The clergy continue to gently journey with their flock. In previous years we would attend the Palm Sunday service and not the daily services of Holy Week. This year is different and demands of us to pass through the whole experience of Holy Week, with its themes of opposition, betrayal, denial, trial, suffering, crucifixion and burial.

On the way to the cross this week, let us allow what is happening to us in this period of lockdown to take root in us. Grieving is also part of the journey – death and resurrection on a daily basis. It is a time to forgive and heal and let go of grudges. Jesus loves us all. In all our confusion, in all our weakness, he loves us. Keep the candle of hope burning. Jesus is rekindling our hope. Let the love of Jesus take root in our hearts this week. When this lockdown is over, I am sure that we will have massive celebrations in our churches. It will be like a “triumphal entry” back to our Spiritual homes to give thanks to God for saving us.

I want to congratulate, affirm, support and encourage you for coming forward to help carry the crosses of our suffering brothers and sisters. You have poured out tons of love. It will never be ‘business as usual’ in our churches and communities again.

BISHOP’S BIRTHDAY

It is my birthday on Monday, 6 April. I do not expect any calls or gifts. I humbly ask you to consider giving a donation to the Covid 19 Food Parcel appeal. A grocery hamper will cost in the region of R350. Hope Africa is sourcing food parcels online and they will be collected by essential services identified in each Diocese for delivery to the most vulnerable. I am dedicating my birthday to help the destitute in a tangible way. Please join me. Get your family and friends to join in. A letter from the Archbishop and the platform through which you can make donations is on our website.

Take care and stay safe. Continue to pray for all those affected and infected by the Corona Virus. Pray for those on the frontline who are in daily danger of contracting the disease. As from Monday, In our Diocese, screening and testing is being doing in Khayelitsha and Blackheath. Pray for the vulnerable and fearful.

My dear clergy and people, we are entering into a week of high drama. In this high drama we cannot be mere spectators.

Nameste. The love in me greets the love in you.

