

LOCKDOWN DAY 47 – 12 MAY 2020

Molweni, Hello dear friends and family of False Bay Diocese,

Scripture: Galatians 6:2 Song: *Take my hand Precious Lord*

Today, we have two celebrations, being the Feast day of Simon of Cyrene as well as International Nurses Day. The Scripture that binds the two together is Galatians 6:2 *“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.”*

Just when Jesus begins to think that he can go no further on the way to the cross, just when the soldiers begin to doubt that Jesus can make the long journey up the hill, they grab a man from the side of the road, Simon of Cyrene, and force him to carry the cross. Simon feels the bite of wood on his shoulder, and certainly he must have wondered why he, an innocent man, should be asked to do this. Of special **significance** is that Simon may have been the first person from the **African** continent to be in the company of Jesus.

The theme of International Nurses Day this year is *“Nursing the world to health.”* This rings rightly with the pandemic situation the world is facing. The day also marks the anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s birth in 1820, the founder of modern nursing. This day marks the contribution that nurses make to society. One of the many quotes of Florence Nightingale is *“How very little can be done under the Spirit of fear.”*

Like Simon of Cyrene and like Nurses, God gives all of us **helping** roles in life. Pray for the strength to do your part and not give in to fear. Jesus **never** forces us. When it seems that the ability to respond has disappeared, we can only call out: *“Give me the gift to give myself, to rest in you. O Christ, in body and in spirit.”*

Many around us are feeling the **bite** of Covid-19 on their shoulders. How are we easing their pain? They are feeling restless, are we listening and caring? Are we helping them to find rest in their weariness? Are we helping to calm their fears and anxiety? Give them a call, send them a message to give them your love in their loneliness.

What we are celebrating today is worthy of celebration. We are remembering and thanking God for a **faith community of church and community of nurses** that has been here for so many years; we are rejoicing at the generosity and commitment of all those who helped to establish our churches and the nursing profession, and who help to **keep it going** today. We remember how many lives have been changed by the day-by-day, week-by-week ministry of nurses, clergy and all people of God.

Even though our church buildings are shut, it is the church that **has prepared** us for this lockdown. God is not confined to church buildings. We as members of our churches **share the responsibility** to carry one another’s burdens and to entrust them to the Lord in prayer, beyond our own confusion. We are brought to life each time by the visit of the Holy Spirit, our Comforter.

Please reach out today to any person bearing the name of Simon or who is a member of the Church of Simon of Cyrene. Also be sure to message or call any nurse who you know.

Wise and Faithful God and Guide, we pray that we will grow stronger in our commitment to our local church. We thank you for nurses who are instruments of your love and healing in every corner of the universe during this global pandemic.

I am, Because we are, Because God is ... Opening Hearts to Heal God’s World. *Take my hand Precious Lord!*