

LOCKDOWN DAY 48 – 13 MAY 2020

Molweni beloved family and friends of False Bay Diocese,

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:4-10 Hymn: *Thou art the way: by thee alone*

In our densely populated Diocese, we have more than 126 000 registered Anglicans as members of our churches. Besides an area like Niassa, we are by far the biggest in ACSA, the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, in terms of Parishioners. Half of our Parishioners are presently without an income and there will be very few of us who don't personally know someone who is affected or infected with the Coronavirus. Our people are struggling to hold body and soul together. It is only by God's grace that we will weather the unpredictable storm of Covid 19.

In the Letter of Peter, we are invited to come to Jesus, to draw near to him. We pray that the love of Christ will be upon us as we place all our hope in him. The death and sacrifice of Jesus has turned us into living stones that make up a spiritual temple with Jesus as the corner stone. We have to accept the reality of the Coronavirus for what it is. The deeper reality is that we have to build our lives on Christ. We have to proclaim the message that the presence of Christ is our cornerstone. We encourage people to allow Jesus to be the cornerstone of our hearts. The person of Christ himself is '**the way**'. We give ourselves completely to God to guide us through the different waves of Covid - 19. Jesus says trust in God and trust also in me.

St Peter tells us that Jesus is the cornerstone of not only the building but of our hearts. I ask all of us this morning, is Jesus the **cornerstone** of our hearts? When the light of Christ is in our hearts, it helps to dispel the darkness in the world. Our secret to life is that Jesus is the cornerstone of our hearts. In times of doubt, we are channels of the light of Christ.

We read further that as living stones, we are **precious** in God's sight and as living stones we are being built into a spiritual house. Being precious means that we are highly **valued** by God. I often remind our young people that they are special, that I believe in them. God does not make junk. As **living stones we are temples of the living God.**

With our church doors being shut due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the doors of our hearts are not shut. Through us the church takes on a new shape. The beauty of the new and living church is that it is made up of people wherever they are. It is imperishable in the beauty of holiness. The new temple of God is under the influence and power of the Holy Spirit.

My dear clergy and people appreciate your status as living stones. Come to Christ the Cornerstone. Keep on coming to Christ to be built up. Come in worship, in prayer and praise. God's dwelling place among his people finds fulfilment in the people of God themselves.

Please reach out to anyone that God's Holy Spirit has placed on your heart who needs you to inspire them with hope. Pray with them over the phone. You are a living stone, chosen by God to do this.

Let us today affirm our faith using the words of any of the Creeds in An Anglican Prayer Book. Pray deeply for all patients who have tested positive to the Corona Virus, their families in their anxiety and all in the medical profession.

I am, Because we Are, Because God Is ... Opening Hearts to heal God's world. May God keep you in God's care.