

LOCKDOWN DAY 49 – 14 MAY 2020

Molweni beautiful friends and family of False Bay Diocese,

Scripture: Acts 1:15-26 Taize chant: *Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray, watch and pray.*

I commend you for patiently enduring alert level 4 of the lockdown. Our State President, in his address to the nation last night, indicated that at the end of May, some areas may go down to level 3 and some will remain at level 4. We are aware that many of the **hotspot** areas of **high infections** are in our Diocese. I receive daily reports of Parishioners testing positive to Covid 19 and being in isolation at home. There is no **stigma** attached to this. We pray for their physical and emotional healing. Even when we do get to a level where our churches can re-open for worship, it will be a **gradual** process, probably a maximum of 50 at any service with all the necessary regulations of registers, masks, sanitizing and social distancing in place. We are about saving lives and therefore willingly comply. Please be aware of fake news doing the rounds about 'Return to Church Guidelines.' It is untrue.

Yesterday, in our lectionary, we remembered **Elizabeth Paul**, who God anointed for the ministry of healing. Let us open ourselves for the ministry of healing in the power of God's Holy Spirit. We can **visualise** for ourselves and for those who we bring before God's throne of Grace and Healing, the **light and love** of God **flowing through** our lives. We pray that God's Healing Presence may fill our body, mind and spirit. We pray that the **loving balm** of healing will relieve the world's pain. In our prayers, we may be prompted to help marginalized people. We pray words of **healing and consolation** for those who have lost loved ones to Covid 19, natural causes, violent deaths, accidents, succumbing to terminal illness. God is **forgiveness**, we pray that we will dare to forgive for God's healing and love to replace fear, resentment and bitterness. We pray that our thoughts may be respectful and that we send forth **kind heartedness** to every **hurting being**. Jesus is not a figure in a book, Jesus is a living, healing presence.

Today, in our lectionary, we remember St Matthias. It was after an extended time of prayer and waiting that Peter took the initiative to replace Judas and restore the number of the disciples. As we find ourselves in lockdown and not knowing the next step, we can enjoy an extended time in prayer and waiting. It is a good thing to do as we ourselves are waiting for God to reveal the next step to us in our Christian life or ministry. Remember always that Jesus says 'You did not choose me, I chose you.' I remind our Confirmation candidates of this fact at every service. Today, be thankful to God that God has **chosen** us, from among the hundreds and thousands in our communities to **share our faith** and to encourage one another to **keep the faith**.

As we celebrate the Feast of St Matthias, the Apostles **share with** us their **Easter** witnessing. Jesus has also **chosen** us to be his friends and has made known to us everything he learnt from the Father. He has **commanded** us to love one another and **commissioned** us to bear fruit. In our Christian work and ministry, we take our **pattern** from Jesus who came not to be served but to serve.

Would you kindly **reach out** today to any Confirmation candidate, past or present. via social media or whatsapp. If you know someone named Elizabeth or Matthias, give them a call.

We pray that the Lord will renew our minds and thinking. We constantly pray for a vaccine to be found to combat the corona virus disease. Father, Mother of us all, teach us patience in prayer and in life so that we learn to see you in our darkness and hear you in the silence of our own emptiness; our light, our salvation, our God in whom we trust. We ask you this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

I am, Because we are, Because God is....Opening Hearts to heal God's world. *Alleluia Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed. Alleluia*