

LOCKDOWN DAY 53 – 18 MAY 2020

Good day family of False Bay and our friends,

Scripture: John 14:15-21 and Rev 21:1-4 Hymn: *Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the Risen Lord*

We thank our young people for an inspiring weekend of sharing hope, joy and love with us through *#SundaysInYellow*. Check out the DYPM Facebook page and our Diocesan website. Young people, we all agree that you are amazing. For the information of all, 'young people' are those between the ages of 18 and 35. Your Diocese loves and appreciates you.

Yesterday was the 6th Sunday of Easter, the Sunday that we would normally admit children to Holy Communion. We remember them in prayer.

Throughout the gospel of John, he bears witness to the love of Jesus. You will recall that I said that love should be the style of life of every Christian. With God's help, we will be looking at some lessons of love for a few days.

As we give a 'shout out' to our young people, I want us to ask ourselves how truly accepting we are of our young people and their friends in our own family circle, in the church, in society? Do we scold them for the way they dress, which causes conflict in our relationship with them? Do we compare them to their cousins, friends and siblings? Covid-19 is teaching us how fragile life is. I want to encourage us all to accept our young people just the way they are without unreasonable expectations. That T-shirt and hairstyle has enormous meaning to them. Stop trying to fix them and just love them the way they are. Give them the gift of loving for who they are and what they like.

Some of you who are listening, have outlived your children. Some couples went through following the death of their child before the child was born. If you did not name your child at the time. It is not too late to do so today. Others have lost young people to violent and tragic deaths. Others lost children and young people through illness. Today we stand with you, grieve with you and pray that you will find that the words of Revelation 21:1-4 will, in time, be true in your lives. Even though your hope was smashed at the time, hope is rising again and their love has forever positively changed you. Your loved ones are at peace and will always be part of the tapestry of your life, weaving their love through every fibre of your being. They have enlarged your heart and your capacity to love others. Light a candle today and say another goodbye. They are inspiring you not to give up. Sing praises to God. All of us join with you in singing 'Glory to God in the highest' on page 104 of An Anglican Prayer Book. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases and his mercies are new every morning. Please receive the big virtual hug that I am sending you. Please call a friend, your deacon or priest should you want someone to pray with you over the phone.

Our young people remind us that God puts up with our naughtiness and yet still loves us. God himself gives is the pattern for parenthood. But it is also the pattern for all our dealings with one another: strengthening, encouraging and forgiving: serving, loving and surrendering.

Today, I ask you to **reach out** to any person between the ages of 18 and 35 and their parents. If you are aware of any parent who lost a loved one in that age bracket, reach out to them too. Our God of Love is walking alongside us. We are precious in God's sight. We are not perfect but we are lovable.

We pray for all parents and educators that they may receive the strength and power of the Holy Spirit as they care for their children. We pray for our young people who are unemployed, we pray for those who are concerned about their school and tertiary education. A new day, a new week has dawned and we stand on the cliff of faith again. We stand on the cliff's solid stone of prayer. We pray for our beloved dead who have been received into the happiness of eternity by our God of Love.

I am, Because we Are, Because God is.....Opening Hearts to heal God's world. *Have a blessed day and week.*