

LOCKDOWN DAY 61 – 26 MAY 2020

Good day dear family of False Bay and our friends,

Scripture: John 17:1-11a Hymn: *Lord, the light of your love is shining.*

In our church's calendar we are asked today to commemorate Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury and Missionary.

At the Ordination **and** Consecration of a Bishop, part of the Charge to him or her is *"In a life of **prayer** you will baptize and confirm; you will preside at the Eucharist; lead your people in worship, and intercede for those committed to your charge. Those who are weak will be your special concern."*

In the Diocese of False Bay our **special concern** is that 65% of confirmed cases of the Corona Virus are in the Western Cape. At 16:00 today there will be a briefing to the nation of what level 3 of the National lockdown will look like. Please continue to set aside a set time each day when we pray for all who are affected, those who are infected and those who have lost their lives during this pandemic. Today, I ask that all of us light a candle at 13:00 and pray for medical staff and patients in ICU wards and those undergoing surgery. We pray for family members who are not permitted to visit loved ones in hospital. Please make a special effort to light a candle and be part of the ripple effects of this **prayer circle**. Read Psalm 46 – God is our refuge and strength.

In this period **between Ascension and Pentecost**, we think of the disciples without the presence of Jesus. He has ascended into heaven, but the gift of the Holy Spirit has not yet been given. Jesus' followers are waiting in Jerusalem in obedience to his instruction. We too are **prayerfully waiting**. We have entered into a **partnership** with God to be **prayer warriors**; to be **keepers** and **tellers of God's love**, presence and truth. There is an **unshakable bond** between God and humankind. Things are rather **chaotic and dangerous** during this time of the **global pandemic**. It makes it even more urgent for us to look into the **eyes of Jesus** and offer our **frailty** and **commitment** to be an example of **steady faith**.

Today's reading is the beginning of *'The prayer of the great High Priest'*. Jesus has **unfolded** to his disciples the **meaning** of his approaching departure. It is the only long, continuous prayer of Jesus recorded in the Gospels. As we remember Augustine today and the charge to a **life of prayer**, we take special note of the relevance and pattern of this prayer as it pertains to our lives today:

Jesus turns his **gaze** from earth to heaven, from his disciples to his Father and **utters** the prayer we are reflecting on today. Let us turn our eyes, **our gaze** upon Jesus. Notice the order of the Prayer: Jesus prays for Himself, for **the welfare** of His disciples after his departure, and for all who will **become believers** through their ministry. As **prayer warriors, keepers and tellers** of the **divine love** of Christ, we have to make sacrifices of not being able to return to church just yet. It is a period of an **ever deepening experience** of our faith. As Jesus has returned to his Father's side, he says he has **glorified** God by completing the work that his Father gave him to do. Augustine finished the work that God gave him to do. Are we **keeping** God's word, **telling** God's word, **accepting** our part in the **ministry** of making disciples, extending the Kingdom of God on earth? Are we **standing out** as a **society of believers, fashioned** under the **influence** of Jesus **teaching** and **Jesus example**. The **morale** in the world is quite low. It is up to us to **contrast** that and be a **shining light** that the **darkness** cannot destroy. We all have shaky moments, but we have not completely disintegrated. It is our **joy** to be **prayer warriors**, to **inspire others**, to be **dedicated** to being keepers and tellers that **God is love**.

Today please **reach out** to those whom God has given you to **protect** in your world. Reach out and encourage any **prayer warrior** that you are aware of.

Please remember the request to **pray** specifically at one o'clock today. We call upon God to meet everyone at the point of their need, to provide for those who lack, heal the sick, look with favour on the orphaned, widowed, the abandoned and the lonely. Amen

I am, Because we Are, Because God is ... Opening hearts to heal God's world. *Shine Jesus Shine.*