

## LOCKDOWN DAY 83 – 17 JUNE 2020

Good day young people and those who have been young for longer,

Scripture: Revelation 21      Song: *Holy Spirit Rain Down*

Please join your thumb and forefinger to make a circle, a zero. A great and wise mathematician once said: “If you **look at zero you see nothing** but when you **look through** it you **see everything**.”

The **young people**, across the length and breadth of our beloved Diocese, helped us to **look through zero** and see the rhythm of new growth and transformation of the season of Covid 19. They expressed the different nuances of young people in their own voice. I sat and listened to the many voice clips, songs and videos received. I also viewed the creative posters. I saw a miracle in each one of these digital messages. Some have gone beyond our Diocese, to be shared with other Provinces and across the world. Chapter members have copies of most of what was posted.

Young people, you not only opened the pathways to our hearts but also conscientized our minds. Thank you to our Diocesan and Archdeaconry Diocesan Young People’s Ministry (DYPM) Chaplains for initiating this remarkable input from our young people to celebrate Youth Day. Please view the various Facebook pages as also our website, where you will find a document compiled by the Western Cape Cluster Chaplains to be used on Sundays between now and The Reign of Christ Sunday. It is made up of a Reflection, Prayer and an activity through which young people are asked to share their activities as they have done since the #SundaysInYellow campaign.

Today, I reflect with thanksgiving, on some of the insights and inspiration our young people gave us, with so much love. They are saying to us not to talk ugly to ourselves or anybody else. We are also not to wish we were someone else but we should be proud of who we are. Young people are saying to us that change starts with us and that we need to create a society that we deserve. Stand up to racism. Call it by its name. There was lamentation about the lack of protection of women and the covering up of gender-based violence. Likewise, we at times dampen the free spirit of young people and fail to protect their dignity.

One of the Parishes in a low income area of our Diocese, had #OurLivesMatter as their theme. Each young person had created a hand written poster, they were wearing a mask and held up their poster in the street or in their house. To share but a few, they are saying to us: My life matters. I was put in this world for a reason. I am special. I have a right to life and right to a bright future. I believe in being strong when things go wrong. I bring happiness. I have a family that loves me. One boy had a poster with an arrow pointing to his little sister next to him and it read: My life matters as I have a little sister and I need to protect her.

In one of our rural Parishes they focused on the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. Caring is sharing. Viva young people! Long live your ambition to feed the hungry. The young people of one of the Archdeaconries challenged us as to whether we really care about them, including the Government? They are tired of being a victim of gender and want to be set free. They ask, what has become of their rights? They speak of being shot down, attacked, kicked and stabbed. They also ask whether Hector Petersen, the school boy who was shot and killed during the 1976 Soweto uprising when the Police opened fire on students protesting the enforcement of teaching in Afrikaans, whether he died in vain.

Another Parish used Revelation Chapter 21 and expressed how a new South Africa after Covid-19 could look like. Their refrain is “That the old has passed away and the new had come.” They help us to see and pray for the possibility of a nation with adequate health care, good education, no violence and corruption, no drug induced crime, communities across the divide embracing each other, that intolerance and oppression would pass away. That a time would come that there would be no need for homeless programmes, food parcels and soup kitchens. That all would have access to running water and that there would be no exploitation of labour. That the value of each person would be recognized.

I have only but touched on the surface of some of what was shared by our young people for Youth Day. There is much more. It is Youth Month so there will be further opportunities to share. We thank our young people who helped us to **see everything** that at first looks **like nothing, like zero**.

Today, I ask you to **reach out** to the children and young people in your immediate and extended family circle to tell them that they matter to you and ask them to tell you why they think their lives matter.

In **our prayers**, we meditate on the reading and song of today, given to us by our young people. We pray for the healing of the wounds of young people and pray that God our Parent will show us the way to help our young people to blossom and flourish.

I am, Because We Are, Because God Is ... Opening Hearts to Heal God’s World. *Thank you, young people for giving us fresh hope and faith.*