

LOCKDOWN DAY 74 – 8 JUNE 2020

Good day all family and friends of False Bay Diocese,

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20 and 2 Cor 13:11-13

Hymn: *Holy, Holy, Holy!*

Today is 'Back to School' for Grade 7 and Grade 12 learners. We thank the Department of Education, teachers, governing bodies and all concerned for trying their best to make our school environment during the Covid-19 pandemic as "normal", pleasant and safe as possible. Do not under-estimate the concerns of our learners who are overwhelmed by the "new normal" protocols of wearing masks for six hours a day, social distancing and hands being sanitized. Even though the smiles of our excited yet nervous learners cannot be seen behind their masks, we thank God for their confident hearts. Parents, Guardians and adults let us support our children and immerse them in the love and protection of our Triune God.

The Feast of the Holy Trinity is the deepest mystery of our faith. Every time we make the sign of the cross we affirm our identity, our belonging to God. We are created by God for God. The celebration of the Holy Trinity is about family life, about community life. All of us varied children of God are not just appendages to the family but are full and true heirs. Being a full member of the family and an heir, means inheriting the **pattern of life** set by Jesus: a life of **loving service** that is costly but that ends in glorious transformation.

When we examine the **pattern of life** in our world, in our country and in our own backyard, we see that we are not only fighting against the scourge of the corona virus. The Covid-19 pandemic is alongside other scourges that we are fighting and facing. Among them we see victims of brutality of law enforcers; we see racism; we see human misery and degradation; we see overcrowding where it is impossible for people to self-isolate or practice social distancing, we see lack of service delivery.

My dear clergy and people, this is a huge challenge for us as believers. When we deny that these challenges exist, we are denying God and that all people are made in the image of God.

We go down on our knees and pray God's forgiveness for our part in denying people their dignity and opportunities to get ahead. We examine our hearts, our attitudes, our history, our language. We are called to live the unity of the Trinity.

Augustine liked to speak of the three persons of the Trinity as "Lover, Beloved and Love." There is no limit to the ways we can speak of the profound mystery of the Three-in-One. The three persons are a communion of love that interweave each other in **endless patterns** of saving activity.

When we were baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Spirit, we were immersed in the life of God who is love. And, as we see in Jesus, that life isn't static, but active, outgoing, self-giving. From his baptism onwards, Jesus' relationship with God was bound up with a mission, the life-giving, renewing, liberating mission of God in the world.

The mystery of the divine love is not something that remains nebulous and intangible. Rather Jesus says to you and to me, my **saving activity** is to be made concrete and visible both in great moments and in the routines of everyday life and interactions. Jesus' promise, "I am with you always" (Matt 28:20), assures all God's Spirit-led children in every race and nation that the divine presence continues to create, save, and vivify whenever we allow it free reign to draw us into the Trinity's ever expanding circles of love.

May we respond with joy and obedience to the call both to share in God's life and to participate in God's mission to the world.

Today, I encourage you to **reach out** to someone to remind them that they are "a beloved daughter/a beloved son" of God.

In our prayers today we talk with Jesus about our relationship with God and how we at times shut others out and treat them as "outsiders", intentionally or unintentionally not seeing them as one of God's beloved children. Read 2 Cor 13:11-13 and pray to God that we too may live responsibly, praying for an end to oppression, prejudice and recklessness towards God's world and people. Let us be open to the Holy Spirit and allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through us.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. Amen

I am, Because We are, Because God is.....Opening hearts to Heal God's World. *Beloved child of God, have a blessed week.*