

LOCKDOWN DAY 123 – 27 JULY 2020

Molweni dear family and friends of False Bay Diocese,

Scripture: Matthew: 13: 31-33, 44-52

Hymn: *Be thou my vision*

Welcome to a new week. We are grateful to be able to celebrate the gift of life. Today marks four months since the announcement of the national shutdown of the country was declared by our State President. In the Western Cape, new infections of the Coronavirus are declining; and the fatality tide is slightly turning. We are monitoring the situation and it is still too dangerous to open our places of worship. Your Bishop, Administrator and Chapter will keep you abreast of developments. Funerals can still take place in Church, however the strict protocols must be observed. Please visit our website where you will find a YouTube with helpful teaching by our Senior Priest, Revd Canon Dr Ronald Phillips. You will find it under the title "Senior Priest of the Diocese outlines pastoral care during this time of Covid 19."

Dear People of God, we ask for prayers for the safety of our people with all the protest action happening across the Cape Metro and largely affecting areas of our Diocese. *God bless Africa, guard our children, guide our leaders and give us peace; for Jesus Christ sake. Amen*

As I usually do on a Monday, I offer a Reflection on the gospel reading of yesterday. This is alongside what was shared by your own clergy.

The gospel message is a very clear message that Jesus gives to his listeners. The pearl of great price, the treasure in the field. The most important thing in life is to discover that wisdom, that pearl of great price, which is our **relationship** with God. That nothing earthly can replace that relationship. Once we have understood that, the joy of belonging to the Kingdom of God is given to us. That treasure is there for us to discover but we must look for it.

Everyone is searching for meaning and purpose in life. The problem in the present age, is that some people seem to avoid religion. People fall for the **illusion** that **religion imprisons** us rather than for what it actually does, it **liberates** us.

Belonging to God and the Kingdom is pure **wisdom**. A **wisdom** that the present age can never and will never understand as long as it fails to accept the **reality** of God.

In yesterday's alternate Old Testament reading (1 Kings 3:5-12), Solomon describes **wisdom** as knowing what is right and what is wrong according to the mind of God. As a Diocese, we pray for this **wisdom** from God, for ourselves and for our Government, that we will be able to discern between good and evil. Let us not give up or grow weary of doing good. May our world be delivered from all the works of darkness.

Let us thank our Lord for accepting us, trusting us, loving us, celebrating us despite our imperfections and sinfulness. Do not panic. Remain positive. We pray for God to heal our land and people. Through every storm we sing that Jesus is here and will provide all we need. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer (Romans 12:12).

Let us be instruments in the hands of God, to sow seeds of wisdom and encouragement, seeds of knowledge and confidence. We believe that God will provide the growth in the hearts and minds of people for these seeds to flourish and be fruitful. Please sow these seeds of encouragement in the minds and hearts of our learners who are becoming despondent regarding the school year and whether they will be able to catch up and pass their examinations. Let's do it today. Part of the protests today are about inequality being perpetuated in the school system.

Jesus words affirm that if we **nurture** a smidgen of faith, it will grow into something big and good. The potential of growth is unlimited. The small seed of faith growing and working in us does indeed make

us part of the Kingdom of God. The people of our world, of Africa, of False Bay Diocese – a great multiracial, multicultural, multi-generational harvest of all sizes, colours and shapes, are all part of God's kingdom.

So let us pray that all people will realise the **liberation** that God gives to the human soul once that soul accepts God as the ultimate reality in life. Souls that seek will find. Souls that find will sell. Souls that sell everything else will buy.

Celebrate the great mystery of Gods **wisdom** which is given to us in ways which we cannot really comprehend. That **wisdom** which is given to us when Christ becomes all things to us.

Today **reach out** to a person who first sowed a **seed of faith** in you. That person may be in heaven interceding for you. **Reach out** to someone who you can share your treasure of faith with, especially in these trying times. Be generous.

Our **hymn** today, *Be thou my vision*, is a **beautiful prayer** which teaches us that Christ **must be our vision** in all things so that our hearts can gain **wisdom**.

My dear Sisters and Brothers, guided by the **wisdom** of the Spirit who comes to our aid, we place **our prayers** and petitions before God, our Heavenly Parent and pray. Lord hear our prayer for all bishops, priests, deacons, religious who exercise authority in the church, that in their ministry they may be blessed with the spirit of wisdom and discernment. We pray for the world, we pray for the scary times we are in, that the leaders may with **wisdom**, guide and govern the people whom they serve. We pray for those who are immersed in the mystery of suffering, those in our hospitals and places of care, those who are marginalised and those on our streets, that God may turn everything to their good. We add our own intentions. Heavenly Parent give us the wisdom we need to discern between good and evil, right and wrong, temporary and permanent so that in all things we may glorify you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

I am, Because We Are, Because God is.....Opening hearts to heal God's world. *Sow bountifully.*