

STATEMENT FROM THE RIGHT REVEREND MARGARET B. VERTUE, BISHOP OF FALSE BAY, ON THE DEATH OF THE MOST REVEREND DESMOND MPIOLO TUTU, EMERITUS ARCHBISHOP OF CAPE TOWN WHO DIED PEACEFULLY ON SUNDAY, 26 DECEMBER 2021, AT THE AGE OF 90.

My dear Clergy, people of False Bay and our extended family across the world,

INkosi mayibe nani The Lord be with you Mag die Here met u wees

We celebrate the memory of our beloved Archbishop Emeritus Desmond who with many other of your family and friends are enjoying the blessedness of beholding the face of God and participate in God's Heavenly banquet. They have laboured and struggled and now enjoy eternal rest. Archbishop Desmond lived humbly, now he is honoured.

Archbishop Tutu was no stranger to controversy. From racism and social injustice, to managing the threat of AIDS and tuberculosis. He and Mama Leah were among the first to receive the protection of the vaccination to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus Covid 19.

The Archbishop expressed his views powerfully and honestly, showing how faith and politics are inextricably linked in these difficult times. Still topical are his thoughts on forgiveness and justice, the importance of community, tolerance and respect, hope and human rights, the challenges of sexuality, gender equality, theology and race.

Archbishop Desmond is regarded as one of the best-loved and most outspoken activists for peace in the world.

The Diocese of False Bay, will host a Requiem Mass in memory of Emeritus Archbishop Tutu on Wednesday, 29 December at 10am in the Parish Church of All Saints, Somerset West. The service will be livestreamed on our Facebook platform. I will preside and Revd Colin Jones will be our Preacher. In person attendance is by invitation only.

What role do you have? We encourage each Anglican family to tie something purple on their fence or a tree until after the Archbishop's funeral at the Cathedral on Saturday. Light a candle, a purple one if you have, as you say Morning and Evening Prayer this week. Archbishop Tutu always lit up any space that he entered. How are you personally going to keep his legacy alive? Where possible, the church bells will be tolled solemnly at noon each day starting today until Saturday (for about 2 minutes). Prayers of Thanksgiving will be sent to each Parish by tomorrow to be included in services on Sunday, 2 January.

On behalf of the people and clergy of the Diocese of False Bay, I offer our deepest sympathies to uMama Leah, their children Trevor, Thandeka, Nontombi, Mpho and all their family and friends. We will still see dad Desmond in the smile and blink of the eyes of his children and grandchildren. We pray for ourselves and all the bereaved that we may know the consolation of God's love.

Lord now you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled.

Ngokuba amehlo am alubonile usindiso lwakho olulungisileyo ebusweni bazo zonke izizwe.

'n lig tot verligting van die nasies en tot eer van u volk Israel.

"I am Because we Are Because God is....Embracing a world shattered by the Covid 19 pandemic."

With my love and God's blessings to you all this holy season of Christ's birth.

BISHOP MARGARET B. VERTUE

Bishop of False Bay