

# ***THE ANGLICAN BISHOP OF THE HIGHVELD***

The Right Reverend Mthetheleli Charles May

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24<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

To all Clergy and Churchwardens,

I would like to thank the clergy for attending the meeting on Tuesday. This was to give a feedback on the Gauteng Anglicans' response to the COVID19. Thank you to Dr Khotso Ncholo, Revd Dr John Rodda, Revd Nandipha Dudula and Refilwe for the presentation. We had a good overview from Drs Ncholo and Rodda on the Corona virus, and also discussed pastoral interventions.

We request that people should adhere to all the directives and measures tabled by the President and Archbishop on Monday evening 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

Just a reminder that there will be no services until further notice from this weekend. For priests and lay ministers the following measures are sufficient to minimize risk while visiting the sick and home bound:

- i. Good hand hygiene before you start;
- ii. Wear a mask, gloves and apron;
- iii. Patient to wear a mask to reduce droplet spread;
- iv. Avoid touching your face, eyes, surfaces as far as possible;
- v. Be efficient in time management while giving the sick person the pastoral care they need;
- vi. Remove protective gear when done. Place in a plastic bag and dispose of it safely. (Can take waste to a GP's rooms or hospital – they will dispose with their medical waste;
- vii. Wash hands again after removing the personal protective equipment

We have elderly members in our congregations and with the lock down, it may be difficult for some of them to get essentials from the shops. Please check with all those who would need help so that, as clergy, you can get for them what they will need i.e. medication, groceries etc. Please wear your clerical shirt and collar all the time when going to do ministry or doing the running for the elderly and vulnerable. Please mask with the officers who have been deployed so that we can prevent the further spread.

We also encourage members to continue to give generously now and more than ever so that we may be able to minister especially at this time. We, as the church, should contribute towards the solidarity fund set up by the President. This is our calling and ministry.

We will update you as information comes in from the Archbishop and President.

Funerals may be held, but strictly following the instructions of no more than 100 people and with all proper hygiene and social distancing practices obeyed.

Clergy will communicate with you via social media – i.e. WhatsApp and Facebook. Please stay in touch with your clergy as well and continue to pray.

“Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”  
Romans 5 : 1.

Finally, we need to continue to pray and keep on the hope we have in God. Let us also refrain from sending messages of doom and judgement and messages that are not tested.

+Charles Higweld