



Ad Clerum

December 2020

Number 07/20

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord

NECESSARY CHANGES DUE TO COVID-19 SPIKE AND GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE SAFETY OF ALL OUR PEOPLE

The address by the State President on 28th December and the subsequent Government Gazette dated 29th December 2020 outlining safety protocols and changes to the Level of Lockdown status to Level 3, means that we, as a church, need to make adjustments to our own behaviour.

Last night (29th December 2020) the Diocesan Standing Committee and all the Regional Deans met to discuss our response to the President's announcement.

The following decisions were taken, which are to apply with immediate effect:

1. PUBLIC GATHERINGS FOR WORSHIP, MEETINGS AND OTHER CHURCH RELATED GATHERINGS:
 - i. With the exception of funerals (mentioned below) all public gatherings or meetings in the church and related to the church are suspended until end January 2021. Although the President will make a further announcement on 15th January, in the interests of the safety and health of our people and our clergy, we felt that end January would be a better date to reconsider our position.
 - ii. Any Liturgies with a congregation are not permitted, and Priests will need to conduct Holy Communion privately. Priests may use the altar in their parish church for such services.
 - iii. We encourage those parishes that have the resources to live stream Holy Communion to their people. These services must include the correct health protocols being observed by the Celebrant.
 - iv. The Diocese will continue to supply all parishes with the Service of Spiritual Communion. This has been regularly done since Maundy Thursday 2020, and we will send these to your clergy for distribution to all their people by WhatsApp. Different clergy from across the Diocese will give the Homily on each Sunday and all people are urged to join together every Sunday for worship in their homes and with their families, using the prayers, readings and homily from the Service of Spiritual Communion. This will allow people to continue to grow in their spiritual life, and the church community can become an even stronger force in times of such global uncertainty.

2. FUNERALS: The State has permitted funerals to continue, with the number of persons present being 50 (fifty). The following rules apply:
 - i. Please ensure that all protocols are rigorously followed at any funeral in your parish. Sanitizing, social distancing and a capacity of only 30% of the church building are to be applied. A register of all present at a funeral must be taken and be placed in safe-keeping in your parish.
 - ii. No Requiem Masses are permitted. The funeral liturgy is to be kept to the Burial of the Dead from the Book of Common Prayer, and speeches and non-liturgical items are to be avoided. Any homily must be brief. Cassock, surplice and purple stole are to be worn.
 - iii. There should be no gatherings after funerals, and clergy are to leave the funeral once the burial has been completed.
3. MARRIAGES AND BAPTISMS:

Marriages and Baptisms are not to take place, as all gatherings apart from funerals have been prohibited. Please do not make any promises to people or allow your parish to be put under pressure in this area. We will review this after end January 2021.
4. GENERAL:
 - i. Questions on any of the above decisions may be made to your Regional Dean:

- Western Cape	Fr Stephen Smuts	081 404 7114
- Eastern Cape	Fr Augustine Koluti	079 693 5797
- Northern Cape/Free State	Fr Angelo Ericksen	079 887 7598
- Limpopo	Fr John Selolo	079 044 3447
- Gauteng	Canon Martin Magoleng	079 882 4827

Should you not be able to get your Regional Dean, The Vicar General, Fr Augustine Koluti is your next point of contact.
 - ii. Please adhere stringently to these regulations. The health of our people and our clergy is paramount to us, and any carelessness will needlessly endanger the lives of others.
 - iii. All church members are encouraged to use the Collects in their Book of Common Prayer, #24, 25, 26 and 29 (*the prayers for sick and suffering, hospitals, etc*) as part of their daily devotions.

Lastly, and on a more cheerful note, The Bishops, The Vicar General, The Diocesan Standing Committee, The Regional Deans and the Clergy of the Diocese would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a blessed and Happy New Year.

Our prayer is that 2021 will see great progress in the church we love and serve, and the return to the wonderful worship we are all missing so much. Our prayer is also that we will see an end to Covid-19's devastation of our communities.

Yours in the service of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Archbishop Michael
Metropolitan - TAC Province of Africa
Bishop Ordinary - Pretoria and Southern Africa