



# DIOCESAN NEWS

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**20 September 2021**

Dear Saints,

Following the move to Alert level 2 adjusted lockdown regulations we have been asked how that affects church services.

The following should be noted:

## **Attendance of funerals and cremations**

- (1) Attendance of a funeral and cremation is limited to 50 persons or less and if the venue is too small to hold the prescribed number of persons observing a distance of at least one and a half metres from each other, then not more than 50 percent of the capacity of the venue may be used, subject to strict adherence, as above, to all health protocols with all persons maintaining a distance of one and a half metres from each other.
- (2) Night vigils are not allowed.
- (3) After-funeral and cremation gatherings, including "after-tears" gatherings, are not allowed.
- (4) During a funeral and cremation, a person must wear a face mask and adhere to all health protocols and social distancing measures.
- (5) The duration of a funeral and cremation is restricted to a maximum of two hours.

## **Faith-based or religious gatherings**

The numbers have been increased but limited to 250 persons or less for indoor venues and 500 persons or less for outdoor venues. If the venue is too small to hold the prescribed number of persons observing a distance of at least one and a half metres from each other, then not more than 50 percent of the capacity of the venue may be used, subject to strict adherence to all health protocols, maintaining a register of attendees, sanitisation and the wearing of masks, and social distancing measures.

## **Diocesan & Provincial Events**

The above relates to our numerous Confirmation Services which are underway, to catch up with 2020 and 2021 candidates. Please pray for the faith walk of our young people – and thank you to all who have prepared them.

1. Ordinations: We are planning on having two Ordination services this year. Ordination to the Priesthood on 13 November 2021 and Ordination to the Diaconate on 11 December 2021. Please pray for the planning of these two services. We will advise you of those affected nearer the time.
2. Diocesan Synod: As you know, our Sixty Sixth Session of Diocesan Synod takes place from Thursday 26 – 28 November 2021. To limit the number of people spending long hours together, each Archdeaconry will meet in a HUB. Please liaise with your Archdeacons where this HUB will meet. This will also affect members of Organisations and Schools who should familiarise themselves with their nearest HUB.
3. You have received the revised First Agenda book. Clergy and synod representatives - I hope you have read it and taken note of the contents. If necessary meet with your priest or Archdeacon to clarify any points. Any additional motions for debate must be submitted by this Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

### **Prayer for our Diocesan Synod**

*Gracious and loving God  
Pour your Spirit upon our Diocese,  
And grant us a new vision of Your glory,  
A new experience of Your power,  
A new faithfulness to Your word,  
And a new consecration to Your service,  
So that Your love may grow among us,  
And Your kingdom come:  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen***

4. The Electoral College of Bishops met virtually yesterday to elect new bishops for the vacant Dioceses of Kimberley & Kuruman and Lesotho:

The bishops elected to translate **the Right Revd Brian Marajh** of George to become the Bishop of Kimberley & Kuruman.

They also elected **the Revd Canon Dr Vicentia Kgabe**, Rector of the College of the Transfiguration, as Bishop of Lesotho.

Please pray for Bishop Marajh and Dr Kgabe, their families and their Dioceses as they prepare for their installation and consecration respectively.

5. Please pray for our Provincial Anglican Community and our Provincial Bishops, together with our Metropolitan his Grace, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, for great wisdom as Provincial Synod meets virtually this week from Tuesday to Friday. Bishop Steve is part of this group so any urgent matters should be referred to the Bishop's Office for Tumi to attend to on his behalf.
6. Thank you to all who have demonstrated a generosity of spirit and financial sacrifice in response to the Appeal Team presentation, as it gains momentum around the Diocese. We have received a million rand in pledges or actual deposits to date.

May you have a blessed and fruitful week  
*Note: Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> September is Heritage Day  
and the Diocesan Office will be closed.  
Enjoy time out and, if you are travelling, – be safe!*

*Lynda + Diocesan Admin Office*



*Jesus calls us to each other,  
vastly different though we are;  
creed and colour, class and gender  
neither limit nor debar.  
Join the hand of friend and stranger;  
join the hands of age and youth;  
join the faithful and the doubter  
in their common search for truth.*