



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ANGLICAN BISHOP DIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG



Our Vision is: To Achieve the Practice of the Ministry of All Believers

20 October 2021

POSTPONEMENT OF SYNOD

My dearly beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,

After much prayerful reflection, I have decided to postpone *sine die* (without a fixed date) the Diocesan Synod, which had been convened from 25th to 27th November this year.

There are a number of different factors which, cumulatively, have informed the reasons for this decision. Among them are:

- The state of affairs in respect of our finances, which requires serious investigation, examination, planning and re-organisation, including the making of proposals which will deserve consideration and debate at Synod and may require decision-making thereat.
- A review of our organisational structure, including the composition of the Board of Trustees and Diocesan Finance Board, is pending and any proposed changes will, similarly, deserve consideration and debate at Synod and may also require decision-making there.
- There have been serious logistical and technical challenges with regard to the holding of the Synod virtually in November this year.
- There is considerable uncertainty as to whether the state of affairs in our land, arising from the covid-19 pandemic, will worsen or alleviate within the next few weeks.

- A number of significant stakeholders in the Diocese, including clergy, have suggested to me that the postponement of the Synod, scheduled for November this year, will be in the best interests of the Diocese.

This decision has been made after taking legal advice and after confirmation by the Chancellor, the Dean, Chapter, the Synod Advisory Committee (SAC) and the working committee of the Diocesan Finance Board.

My decision has not been made with easily. I expect, however, that early in the New Year we shall all be in a better position to hold a truly blessed, fruitful and productive Synod, in the service of our Lord. We may even be able to do so 'in person,' rather than virtually.

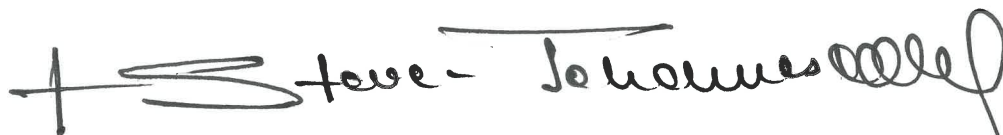
In consultation with the SAC, I have decided that the preparations and formal procedures already undertaken for the planned synod in November this year need not be repeated, but will be carried over.

In lieu of the Synod being held from 25th to 27th November, a special sitting of the Diocesan Council will be held for the day on Saturday 27th November 2021. It is intended that the invitations will be extended more widely than is usual for a meeting of that body and the extensive participation by interested stakeholders thereat will be encouraged.

Many of you will be disappointed that this decision has had to be taken but I am comforted by the knowledge of your prayers in this matter.

We have been through an exceptionally difficult time, which has been experienced on several different fronts. With our continued prayers and the dedicated, disciplined application of our talents, this postponement of Synod will enable us to build a stronger Diocese. We shall be better focused on the accomplishment of our mission as a result.

Yours in the service of our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Moreo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

The Rt Revd Dr Steve Moreo
Bishop of Johannesburg