

CHRIST CHURCH
CONSTANTIA



Tuesday 24 March 2020

Dear Parishioners

Further to our letter to you dated 21 March, we have had to introduce further measures to adhere to new government regulations announced on 23 March and guidelines and a message from Archbishop Makgoba on 24 March 2020.

The national “stay-at-home” lockdown that the Government will impose in South Africa from midnight on Thursday will test as never before our capacity as a church to innovate and share with one another.

But it will not prevent us from ministering to one another, and since our churches are now effectively closed and we have a simple request if at all possible:

At midday, every day, we will ring our church bell for 10 or 15 seconds as a signal to those, in every Province of our country, who are ill or live in fear, despair and perhaps anger, assuring them that God is here, that He loves us, that we are not alone and that this too shall pass.

It will also be a wonderful way of demonstrating our presence, our solidarity with our community, and the fact that we are praying and worshipping at home.

Church Services and activities– The Wednesday 10:00 service on 25 March will be the last service before the nationwide lockdown. All church services thereafter, including all Easter services are cancelled. From midnight on Thursday 26, the church premises will be closed.

Fathers Terry and Chesnay will be in the church every morning at 08:00 to hold morning prayers. They will celebrate the mass at noon, when the church bell will be rung. At 18:00 they will hold evening prayers.

If you are at home, pause whatever you are doing, and clink a glass or cup to ring the same message out to yourselves and your loved ones, resurrecting the use of the Angelus and saying this prayer:

God bless the world,

Give it wisdom at this time,

Grant us relief and release,

Be with those who are ill,

And bless the carers fighting this pandemic,

For Jesus Christ's sake,

Amen

The weekly pew leaflet containing the week's daily readings will be published on our Facebook and website pages.

The morning Lenten course on Wednesday 25th will be the last. There will be no evening class that day.

Clothes sorting on Tuesday 7th April is also cancelled. The church shop remains closed until the lockdown is lifted.

Develop a spirituality of caring for yourself and those around you. Regard what health officials are calling "self-isolation" as a form of retreat in which you can pursue a ministry of prayer. Meditation and prayer are also a way of feeding the people of God.

We will continue to monitor announcements by the government and Archbishop Makgoba and communicate any that affect the church to you by email and our social media platforms. Should you need to contact the church for any urgent matter, please phone the church office and leave a message and someone will respond to your message.

Regards

Parish Council