



Diocese of Johannesburg

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ANGLICAN BISHOP DIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG



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

Pastoral Letter Vol 3 05 February 2021 Re-opening of Churches

Dear Saints

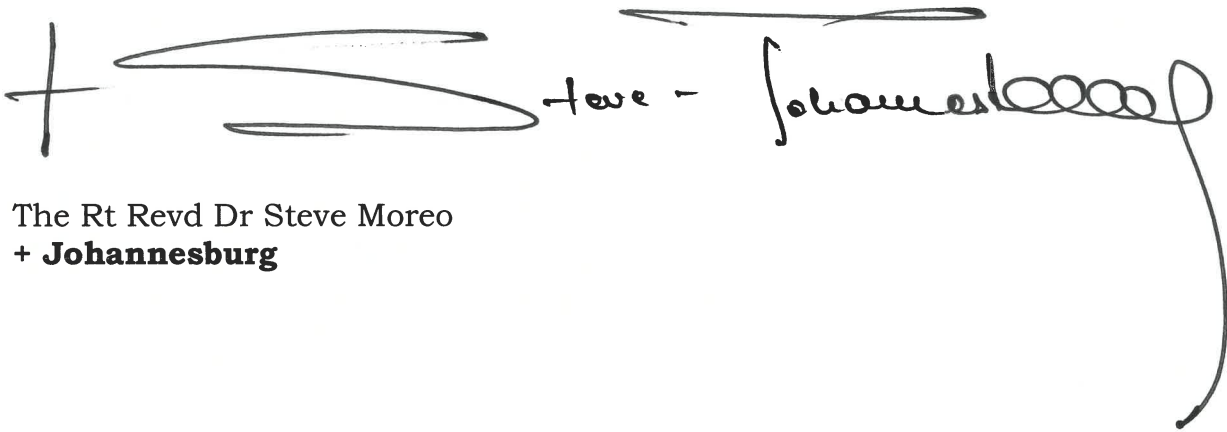
The spirit of mutual help and co-operation among our people in the Diocese since the first cases of Covid-19 in South Africa has been most pleasing. I have been moved by the positive way in which we have all caught the vision of doing Church differently in these demanding times. As a people that have been brought up in a very particular way of conducting worship and running our Church affairs, it has not been easy to adapt – but you have done so with great determination.

It is against this background that I express my sincere thanks and encourage you to continue working together as one great Church Body called to take Christ to the people even in the harshest reality. You will have received, or heard of from your parish leadership, the guidelines of how we should proceed following the latest announcement by the President. These involve deeply revered practices such as the Holy Remembrance of Ash Wednesday and new ways of doing Vestry. My thanks go to Archbishop Thabo and his team for preparing these guidelines for our use. In the spirit of doing Church differently, I know that we will all ensure that our Church life goes forward as we continue to act as one Body.

Some parishes are already prepared to resume in-person services this coming Sunday, 7th February. But, in the interests of ensuring that we celebrate as though together as one, we are asking that all parishes start in-person services a week later, on Sunday 14th February. This will give time for every parish to be ready in practice and in spirit to restart in-person worship services on the same day. We have come a long way in the past year, and my prayer is that we can start as one Body on Sunday 14th to prepare for what lies ahead: the reflective period of Lent, followed by our commemoration of the death and rising of Christ at the great Easter celebration. I will be speaking to you about this in more detail as Lent progresses.

I am sure you will join me in prayer that the programme of vaccination against Covid-19 will proceed smoothly, and that those appointed to handle all aspects of its roll out will do so with utmost integrity and respect for the dignity of all. Please remember to continue practising all the protocols to limit the impact of any possible further wave of the disease.

Liziwe joins me in prayer for you, your families and your parishes for good health and God's blessing. As we go forward, let us remember Paul's great words in Romans 12:5: "So in Christ we, though many, form one Body, and each member belongs to all the others."

A handwritten signature in black ink. It begins with a large, stylized cross symbol. To the right of the cross is a long, horizontal, wavy line. Below this line, the word "Steve" is written in a cursive script. To the right of "Steve" is a horizontal line, followed by the word "Johannesburg" written in a cursive script. A long, vertical, curved line extends downwards from the end of "Johannesburg".

The Rt Revd Dr Steve Moreo
+ **Johannesburg**