



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 6 23 June 2021

Dear People of God

As a church we are called to be leaders, and those who show compassionate concern for the well being of all. Jesus called us to be our brothers and sisters keeper, when he reminded us in Matthew 25:40 that whatever we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do to him.

We find ourselves in Gauteng in a situation where our government at national and provincial level has failed and is continuing to fail to respond adequately to the Third Wave of COVID. There is a rise in COVID infections which is only expected to peak in around two weeks. All of us are personally affected by this wave and know of people who are seriously ill or have died.

There is a triage system in place in both private and government hospitals, and many COVID patients are being sent home to be home nursed and to try and source oxygen which is in very short supply. Our hospitals, both government and private are overwhelmed. There are no beds to be had, and are reports of queues of people in wheelchairs at government hospitals who need oxygen who cannot be helped because there is none to be had. Added to this there is a shortage of doctors and nurses to treat the sick.

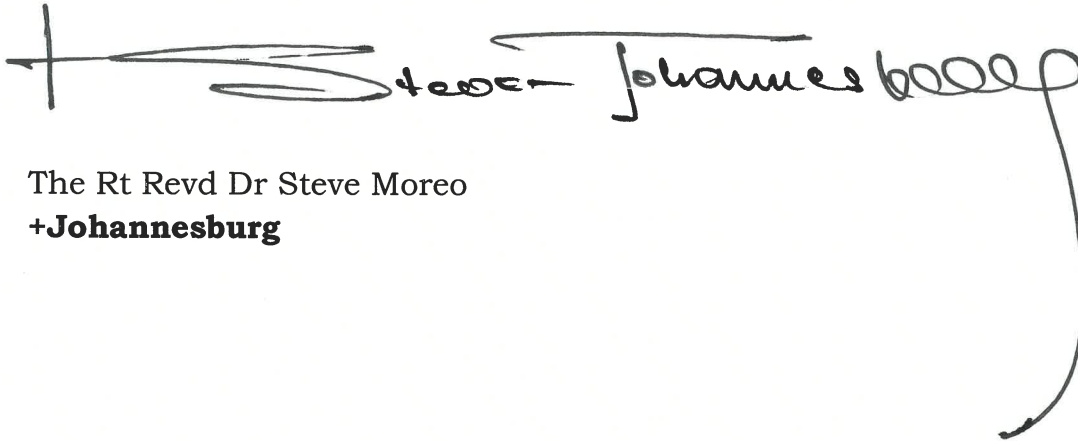
It is in the light of this that we must act on Jesus' challenge given to us. We would be irresponsible if as church we hold services that will expose our people to any risk of contracting the new strain of COVID. As your bishop together with the leadership of Chapter we are therefore suspending all in person services from Sunday 27 June until and including Sunday 11 July, after which we will reassess the situation. The only exception is for funerals providing all the relevant protocols and regulations are observed. No in person meetings of any parish groups are to take place. Creative ways will need to be found to keep parish offices functioning. Where possible people should work from home.

Please vaccinate if you are able to, otherwise sanitise, mask and treat the situation as though you were in severe lockdown. Please remember to pray for your clergy who are on the frontline and are mostly unable to access the vaccine.

We love you and pray for you and look forward to welcoming you back when it is safe to do so.

Remember you are all the beloved children of God, and our beloved co-workers in Christ.

Yours in Christ's love and service

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Johannes 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
+Johannesburg