



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 5 15 June 2021

Dear People of God

Following our Chapter meeting today I have been asked to clarify the Diocesan position regarding numbers of people who can attend services and funerals, bearing in mind input from both Government and Province.

In spite of the third wave, pastorally there is a need in several parishes to allow for the maximum number of attendees at an indoor service to accommodate 100 people, or 50% of what the venue can safely accommodate, with the ongoing social distancing criteria. Permission is given then to allow for this.

This does mean that if the local church leadership are still happy to continue to work with the reduced +/- 50 number that is also permitted. The issue of singing is also one in which flexibility was invested in local congregations. However, following our discussion, I feel that we should all agree to **no congregational singing** in church until this third wave is more under control – for all the reasons that the Provincial guidelines brought to our attention in their previous communication, which was distributed to all parishes.

I know this may disappoint some but let us adhere to this for the greater good of all for the time being.

Some churches have suspended meeting in person if members, or their priest, have been directly exposed to the virus. Please use your common sense in this matter and review your position regularly and inform your Archdeacon should you feel the need to close in-person services for a while. We do have clergy and laity hospitalized because of the virus so please continue to be careful and cautious in your interactions and continue to pray for them and for us all.

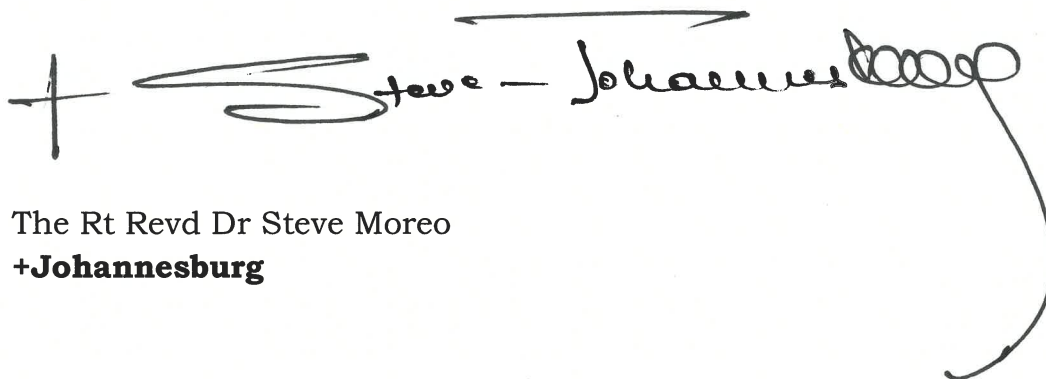
With tomorrow being **Youth Day** please pray too for our young people, the youngest of whom have not been able to meet for 'Sunday School' classes for a long while now. We are aware that some of our church schools have pupils who have contracted the virus and the schools, quite rightly, have

had to close and move back to online learning. These disruptions are frustrating but necessary and look to be part of our future for a while yet. Those of you who are not so young but young at heart – I trust most of you have been able to register, or have had your vaccine, by now. Please assist anyone who is struggling with the process. There are Clinics that are taking ‘walk-ins’ so long as the person has registered beforehand. Check out your area.

We are thankful that the weather is a little warmer and that load- shedding has eased a little but we still have big challenges before us in the Diocese. Please pray for me as I pray for you.

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Eph 3:20-21*

Yours in the love of Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink. It begins with a cross symbol on the left. To the right of the cross is a large, stylized 'S' that loops back to the left. Following the 'S' is the name 'Steve - Johannesburg' written in a cursive script. A long, thin line extends from the end of the signature, curving downwards and to the right.

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