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## CIRCULAR TO THE CLERGY

March 17, 2020.

Brothers and Sisters,

The Lord be with you! Grace and peace from Our Lord Jesus Christ to you and your families and your spiritual families!

Keep in mind that Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are staples of Anglican Spirituality and parishioners should be encouraged to make full use of the Book of Common Prayer, (BCP) during these days of restricted gatherings. It is also the season of Lent and the Ash Wednesday service and the Litany may be utilized. Besides, fasting, abstinence, self-denial and prayer are in high season. Perhaps this is an opportunity to do deep and soul-searching Lenten spiritual exercises. I commend the above accordingly.

Further to a meeting of the Cathedral Chapter yesterday (by technology), the following advisory is issued for your guidance and that of your parishioners, with whom you have by now found creative and safe ways to communicate and minister to them.

1. The **outdoor** Lenten Caravan has been postponed to the season of Advent, when there would be an Advent focus.
2. Lenten Caravan would now be done by a minimum of persons and accessed through streaming on Facebook from certain locations. **The services will begin at 5:30pm.**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March from South Trinidad.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March from North West Trinidad.

Wednesday April 1 and Friday April 3 from North East Trinidad.

Tobago had their caravan experience before the new restrictions.

You are asked to mobilize your parishioners to join the live stream of the service but observing the social distancing condition required at this time. 6ft apart, avoid gatherings, observe sanitizing procedures, give directions to assist persons to navigate their devices to access the stream.

3. Churches are to be left open for Prayer and Reflection. Regular sanitization of churches according to use, should be undertaken. Sanitizing fluids should be available, as should running water, soap and paper towels in bathrooms for cleansing of hands. No more than 20 persons should be in the churches at the same time on Wednesdays and Fridays. Parish offices will advise of the times. Regional Coordinators will collect the data and advertise the times.
4. The deadline of March 31 for the conduct of Annual Meetings of the Parishes has been extended to accommodate those who have not yet held their meeting.
5. Managers and Vestries are to liaise with Principals and Senior Teachers to assist with sanitization of our schools and facilitating readiness for the reopening of schools on April 20<sup>th</sup>.
6. Care of the faithful – Prayer and ministry by phone are suggested. Respond to family requests. Address emergency situations. Be mindful that the elderly and persons with pre-conditions are especially vulnerable to Covid-19. When visiting take all necessary precautions to protect everyone.
7. Funerals will be done, and family members should be encouraged to limit gatherings in accordance with the established protocols. The principle will apply to weddings and baptisms where postponement is difficult.
8. Please join the parishes that are streaming live services. So far Holy Trinity, St Michael and All Angels, St Patrick, St David in Tobago have begun this work. Please be encouraged to set up similar opportunities for your context.
9. Clergy Council meeting is set for Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020 at 8.00am **with the following changes –i) The venue will be St Mary's Parish Hall, Tacarigua. ii) Only Clergy in charge of parishes should attend. In this way, we can limit the numbers of the meeting.** (There should be at most 32 persons present. 31 parishes and the Bishop. Social distancing would be in effect.)
10. Regional Clergy meetings will follow on a date to be advised by the Archdeacons and the Chairperson of the NW Region. Again, this is an attempt to manage the numbers.
11. Let us continue to pray fervently for the adequate management and eventual control and elimination of this disease. With God all things are possible!

Your brother and friend in Christ,

+ Claude Trinidad & Tobago