



FROM THE ANGLICAN ARCHBISHOP OF CAPE TOWN
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POSTPONEMENT OF ANGLICANS ABLAZE 2020

Dear Parishioners, Clergy and Bishops

Lenten greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

I am communicating with you during this time of lockdown from Bishopscourt where I am trying to do my bit by giving guidance, direction and encouragement to ACSA as we seek to navigate one of the greatest challenges since the Spanish Flu.

Times like these force us to become much more reflective. I would like to remind you of Romans 8:28 – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose”. So let’s look for God’s purposes in this pandemic.

Anglicans Ablaze 2020

Last week I consulted with Bishop Martin Breytenbach and Fr Trevor Pearce regarding the Anglicans Ablaze International Conference. They are concerned that they are currently unable to continue fully with preparations for it, and that nobody is sure that we will even be able to hold it.

From our discussion it was clear that even if we return to normal life in a few months’ time, continuing with the Conference on the scheduled dates would happen at great risk, especially around factors such as the level of attendance, financial viability, speakers being unable to travel etc.

As a result, **I strongly encouraged them to postpone the conference** to a time when we can more confidently assume that there will be enough preparation time. We considered dates and realised that the earliest dates that might work are 6 to 9 October 2021 – school holidays a year later than we had planned. (The Lambeth Conference of Bishops has also been postponed for a full year to July 2021, as is the case with many events).

Bishop Martin and Fr Trevor have since reported back to me that Bishop Tsietsi and the GtC Board have given their unanimous approval to a postponement. They also asked me to convey this to you:

1. We encourage Anglicans to keep booking for the conference. Many are currently still booking.
2. If anyone desires a refund however, we are happy to refund your money.
3. Keep praying. God allows things to change for our benefit and for His glory.
4. During a recent Skype meeting, GtC's Board was brimming with ideas for the next few months. Bishop Tsietsi will soon say more in this regard.

Dear People of God, as your Archbishop, I would like to bless you with these words from Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit".

Hang onto these words during this challenging time. I send you my love with this greeting.

+ Wabso Cape Town