



Dioceses of Lebombo, Nampula and Niassa

Anglican Church in Mozambique

UPDATE OF THE PASTORAL GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN MOZAMBIQUE ON COVID- 19

27th March 2020

In addition to the 20th March guidelines, we call your attention to the recommendations listed below. As mentioned earlier, these guidelines will be updated as a result of the evolution of the Pandemic in the country and in the region. Some of the previous pastoral provisions are maintained except those that are directly replaced by the present update. It should be noted that the fundamental guidelines of this update could not be done unilaterally without the approval of the Archbishop of Cape Town and the Synod of Bishops, because the Covid-19 challenge is local as well as it is global. The guidelines are to be observed by all parishes, Pastoral Areas and Congregations of Dioceses of IAM. Therefore:

Services

1. We announce the suspension of services and events in the precincts and interiors of our church buildings until stated otherwise. This decision takes effect from 28th March 2020.
2. The Church doors will continue to remain open so that at any time anyone who wishes can enter and offer individual prayers. Clerics, catechists and sub-deacons must organize themselves to ensure the observance of this decision.
3. The priest and catechists must prepare, guide and support families so that they may have moments of prayer in families they must include the reading of the word of God, we commend that they pray the Sunday Morning Office using the readings of the day.

4. The priest must develop a more comprehensive way of communicating with the people under his pastoral responsibility via cell phone for virtual visit, communication of announcements, readings, listening to pastoral needs, counselling and maintaining unity through these services and prayer.
5. During family Sunday services and other moments of your preference, members of each family will make their collection, tithe offering, dedicated offering and thanksgiving. They will keep in envelopes and during the week they will take this envelope to the leader of the Prayer Group or deposit in the indicated parish account and then give the proof to who is entitled in the parish.
6. The leaders of the Prayer Groups, where they exist, must continue to care for the families that are members of their group and support them.
7. The parish council or pastoral zone must ensure that its priests have sufficient airtime for intensive telephone communication with all members of their pastoral responsibility. The parish council must be in constant communication with the priest to support his ministry.
8. Maintain hygiene and cleanliness of the church and its compound.
9. Every day we must include *the prayer for the world* already shared on WhatsApp:
God bless the world,
Giving us wisdom at this time,
Grant us relief and liberation,
Be with those who are sick,
And bless all who struggle to provide care in this pandemic,
Through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

Funerals

10. Funeral services in the church building are suspended until further instruction.
11. Preferably the funeral service should be held at home or at the burial site, using only the essential parts of the funeral liturgy so as not to keep those attending the funeral for a long time.
12. The maximum number of participants at a funeral should be 20 or less. It is necessary to explain the people to be accompanied with only the closest members of the family.

13. The culture of accompanying the bereaved family for prayers at home after the burial must be reviewed in order to leave this part to the closest family.
14. Usual habits at funerals should be suspended.

Sacraments

15. The collective sacraments of baptism and confirmation are suspended until further notice.
16. For baptism of extreme urgency it can be done as long as the minister takes preventive measures.
17. Emergency confirmation can also take place at the Bishop's discretion.
18. The solemnization of marriages is also suspended until further notice, but in cases of justified urgency, the Bishop may give specific guidance on the matter.

Holy week

19. We will update the procedures, but we will not have the usual agglomerations.

UPDATE OF THE CHURCH'S GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON COVID- 19

19th and 20th March 2020

In addition to the Diocesan pastoral guidelines of the Anglican Church in Mozambique of 13th March 2020 on the prevention of contamination by COVID-19 and updated guidelines of 17th and 18th March 2020 from His Grace the Archbishop of Cape Town, Thabo Makgoba to the Diocese of Lebombo instructs, all members of the church, lay and clergy, are to take immediate and mandatory adoption of the following measures depending on the circumstances:

I. Public worship

1. Intensify education of the people and families about COVID-19 prevention measures.
2. Immediately implement the liturgical guidelines for pandemic prevention by consolidating or adopting the announced measures, mainly in the acquisition of

buckets with a tap for washing hands with bingo soap, ash or other disinfectant (preferably alcohol gel or simple alcohol) at the entrance and exit of the church;

- Instruct the people to always carry a bottle of water for hand washing in congregations where there is no water.
- Lemon and papaya leaves can also be used for hand washing instead of soap, ash or disinfectant.

3. New measures to be observed

- 3.1 The maximum number of participants in the services must not exceed 50 (fifty) people including the celebrant;
- 3.2 The distance to be observed between people on the church pews must be of at least 1 meter;
- 3.3 The priests must guarantee the celebration of the necessary number of masses in order to guarantee the observance of the measures indicated above;
- 3.4 During the blessing of children and prayer for the sick there will be no laying of hands;
- 3.5 When reading the gospel, the minister reading it will take the Bible with him, dispensing the acolyte;
- 3.6 The use of the thurible is temporarily suspended;
- 3.7 The use of tickets for communion is temporarily suspended. As a result, ministers of the Eucharist and members of the parish council must find methods to quantify or estimate the number of communicants or simply count the communicants at the time of communion;
- 3.8 Sunday school and catechesis classes are temporarily suspended;
- 3.9 Treasurers should always wash their hands or disinfect before and after counting the offertory.
- 3.10 Each Parish, Pastoral Zone and Congregations with bank accounts must provide the members with the account number so that, in case they are not present at the service, they can give their Sunday offertory, tithe or dedicated offering through the deposit in the account and then send the proof to treasury.
- 3.11 Churches can also open M-pesa accounts and give the number to parishioners in order to facilitate contributions.

- 3.12 The Most Reverend Bishop calls upon all believers to keep their contributions up to date and to bring them to church so that the Church can remain standing precisely in this moment of trial when more pastoral support will be needed. Doing this we will show our strength and spiritual unity in the midst of tribulations.
- 3.13 With immediate effect, the experienced clergy and catechists must call on the leaders of the prayer groups and worship leaders elected in each family for a refresh course on how to conduct the Morning and Evening Offices with psalms and lessons from the Lectionary, observance of the Saints' days as it is done in the church so that they can conduct home services. Do not forget the young people and women in this training.

II. **Holy Week**

4. ***Palm Sunday***

- a) On Palm Sunday there will be no procession this year. Where an ecumenical procession normally takes place, the leadership of the congregation must communicate the measure to the local ecumenical commission, in which case the possibility of joint prayer between the representatives of the churches may be agreed before Palm Sunday.
- b) The branches for use on that occasion should be available in the church until the Saturday before Holy Week, in this case on 28th March to allow them the necessary immunization of the virus through room temperature or adequate sun exposure to eliminate the virus.
- c) Members are encouraged to bring their own palm branches.

5. ***Maundy Thursday***

- a) The Chrism Mass (commonly known as the Blessing of Oils) will be restricted to the clergy only and will be held at St. Cyprians at 10 am.
- b) There will be no foot washing at the Eucharist of the Lord's Supper at the time established by the parish priest and his Parish Council.
- c) In order to avoid the vigil at Gethsemane, a large candle or lamp should be purchased to be kept lit safely next to the Most Holy place.

III. Good Friday

- a) The Service of the Lord's Passion should be done in multiple sessions in order to accommodate the number of members of each congregation, with no more than 50 people in each service, start earlier than usual, thus allowing the participation of all parishioners;
- b) The veneration of the crucified Christ will be by bowing or genuflecting, without touching the cross.

The march for this purpose must be orderly in order that it allows a distance of at least 1 meter per person.

To make the service more flexible, the 7 words will not be said. But there will be a homily.

IV. Holy Saturday

- a) There will be no baptisms or confirmations;
- b) The readings will be reduced to two from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament;
- c) Each member will bring his candle to seek the light of Christ, and the renewal of baptismal promises will be made or a prayer led by the minister if there is a need to shorten the time of the Easter Vigil.

V. ***Easter Sunday:*** will be celebrated in the manner announced for normal Sunday services.

VI. Baptisms and Confirmations

- a) Emergency Baptism of adults or children can be done whenever necessary at the discretion of the Parish Priest.
- b) Baptisms in groups can be done with the participation of candidates, sponsors and parents as long as the number does not exceed 50 people, subject to hygiene rules. For this purpose, the minister must use the baptism shell to avoid physical contact.
- c) Confirmations can also be made along the same lines at the Bishop's discretion as long as physical contact and the laying on of hands are avoided.
- d) In normal situation these sacraments can be postponed to a more convenient time.

UPDATE OF MARCH 13, 2020

**DIOCESAN PASTORAL GUIDELINES ON THE PREVENTION OF
CONTAMINATION BY COVID-19**

To be observed by the clergy, lay ministers, all Anglicans and other citizens who find them useful, in addition to the recommendations of Health and appropriate Entities.

The Anglican Church in Mozambique (IAM) must:

1. **Intensify teaching** about washing hands often with soap (bingo or liquid hand soap) and applying hand disinfectants whenever possible.
 - 1.1. The existing health personnel in the parishes, the Mothers Union, the S. B. Mizeki Guild, JAZA, JA and SAR must assume greater responsibility for this teaching and practice. In each Parish or Pastoral Zone and Congregation, coordinators of this activity should be immediately elected.
2. In each building of worship where there is running water, conditions must be created to assemble at least two washbasins for washing hands by believers before and after entering the church.
 - 2.1. Where there is no tap water, other ways of ensuring that hands are washed according to existing conditions are to be created. The councils and the parish priest are responsible for creating these conditions.
3. Teach the congregation the habit of coughing at the elbow of one arm and wiping the nose, mouth and face with a disposable tissue. Each Church should have rubbish bins in which to leave these tissues. The bucket should carry a plastic bag whenever possible.
4. Shaking hands in a gesture of greeting other members of the Church or family including the hands of religious and political leaders is temporarily suspended. On this path, the greeting of Peace, with handshakes, hugs and kisses, is temporarily suspended.
 - 4.1. The greeting of peace is announced by the minister from the front of the altar and is received with a bow and a position of praying hands close to the chest or waving with the right hand.
 - 4.2. The same gestures apply to the greeting at the entrance and exit of the Church and general greeting in other circumstances.

4.3. In the presentation of condolences it is recommended to bow with praying hands.

4.4. The kiss after reading the Gospel is replaced with the bow.

HYGIENE OF THE MINISTERS WHO LEAD THE SERVICES:

5. All sacristies/vestry must have a basin, a jug of water and soap for hand washing. All ministers must wash their hands thoroughly before and after the service.
 - 5.1. An acolyte whose task is to serve hand washing should be indicated.
6. The celebrant must wash his hands or apply hand sanitizer before beginning the Consecration of the Eucharist (the Great Thanksgiving).
 - 6.1. Auxiliary presbyters, deacons and sub deacons must also wash their hands before preparing the elements or administering communion.
7. If the priest or minister has an acute flu and sneezes, he/she should not celebrate, conduct worship or administer the Holy Eucharist.
8. As long as the threat of the COVID -19 pandemic persists, we recommend communion of a single species (placing the consecrated Body / Host in the palm of the congregant).
9. 9. In pastoral home and hospital visits, the presbyter, deacon and sub-deacon, must take a disinfectant with him or use soap and water before and after prayers and liturgical acts.
10. In prayer for the sick and the children's blessing, the presbyter will wash his hands after the laying on of hands.
11. In the Worship of the Passion of Our Lord, the worship of Christ the Crucified will be made to Solemn Bowing only

OTHER ASPECTS:

12. Husbands and wives, sons / daughters cultivate and practice within and outside the family the best prevention habits in addition to those listed above and others recommended by the competent entities regarding COVID-19 contamination.
13. Avoid traveling to countries that already have confirmed cases of contamination before taking the appropriate precautions recommended by the competent authorities.

*D. Carlos S. Matsinhe - President of the Anglican Council of Mozambique
Maputo, 13th March 2020
Maputo, 20th March 2020
Maputo, 27th March 2020*