



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
Parish of Formosa

Rector: Revd. Edwin Pockpass
PO Box 18 – Plettenberg Bay – 6600
Tel/Fax: 044 533 5558 – Rectory: 044 533 1220
E-mail: formosap@telkomsa.net



Diocese of George

STATEMENT ON OPENING OF CHURCHES FOR WORSHIP – 04 June 2020

Parishioners of the Parish of Formosa

Dear Friends

Following our meeting of Friday 29 May 2020 to establish a parish based task team, assess our readiness, develop a plan, consider procurement of the necessary tools, equipment and human resources and sharing information with volunteers to assist the process, we met again today, Thursday 04 June 2020, to consider the presentations made and Bishop Brian's, Diocesan Statement.

We, after serious discussion and much prayer wish to communicate the following resolutions.

1. That the Parish of Formosa will not open churches for worship between now and the 02nd of August for in-person worship. We will however continue with fortnightly meetings to assess our readiness and to inform Task Team members on developments and disseminate information obtained from medical professionals and leaders of the church and state that may enable us to constructively revisit our decision.
2. That we will continue to minister to our parishioners through the live streaming of services, daily reflections and other platforms at our disposal to meaningfully share the good news of Christ with you in a responsible fashion.
3. That we will consult parishioners on innovative and creative ways of being the church that may include moving in-person worship outdoors, whilst enforcing the wearing of masks and maintaining social distancing regulations. We hope to tap into the rich pool of resourcefulness and creativity within the Parish in our efforts to offer relief to those in grief.
4. That we concomitantly to this decision and measures, cancel all sacramental meetings like confirmation, baptisms and weddings for the period under discussion. We note the inescapability of funerals and will continue to minister to the bereaved and conduct funerals under the strict guidelines provided by both ecclesia and the government.
5. That we do not encourage one-on-one counselling meetings, but will endeavour to reach out to parishioners in a manner that will not be a threat to their safety and health, using WhatsApp messages, phone calls, video calls, and in-person meetings in line with health regulations.

The Parish of Formosa will continue to respect the sacredness of life and will in no way compromise the hard work and sacrifices made by medical specialists, public health personnel, secular and sacred leaders; other designated essential services personnel and you parishioners to protect yourselves and others against this virus with impetuous and reckless decisions.

We care about your spiritual and physical health and will do everything within our power to keep you safe from the virus, but need your support and co-operation in doing so.

Please be assured of our prayers for all of you

Faithfully yours in Christ.

Fr. Edwin. D. Pockpass and the Pastoral and Administrative Teams

Churchwardens: Mr. P G Gaylard & Ms H Sulanii; Alternate: Mr R N Christoffels

