

THE ARCHBISHOP OF THE WEST INDIES, PRIMATE AND METROPOLITAN,
AND THE BISHOP OF JAMAICA

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TO: ALL CHURCH WORKERS HOLDING THE BISHOP'S LICENCE

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As you are all aware, the onset of the coronavirus pandemic has impacted to a significant degree the way in which mission and ministry have been exercised at the diocesan and congregational levels. As we seek to function within the limits of the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health and the fears which some members have for congregational gatherings, even where permissible, we have had to find new ways to reach all our members. Many congregations have ventured into the use of technology and the social media platforms which these provide. At the same time, we have been aware of the inequities which exist within the society in terms of access to these various technologies and the consequent exclusion of many elderly, the housebound, and persons with multiple co-morbidities from our best efforts in utilizing social media.

In recognition of the limitations of these initiatives, a decision was taken at the diocesan level to have a service recorded and broadcasted by Love Radio FM 101.1 to reach members across the island who are not able to be present for congregational worship and, in addition, to provide an Anglican presence in a context in which many Jamaicans in a similar situation are being exposed to a very limited range of worship expressions. The service is currently recorded at the St. Andrew Parish Church, where various technical improvements have taken place to allow for a quality of reproduction suitable for radio transmission. While this service is not intended to be a replacement for what the various congregations currently offer, we are urging all congregations to include in their weekly announcements the broadcast of **Think on These Things** each Sunday afternoon at 4:45 p.m. and **the diocesan sponsored service** at 6:00 p.m. each Sunday on Love Radio FM 101.1. It is most important that in this time of the pandemic we make available to members and the wider society avenues for developing or deepening their faith commitment. This is both a diocesan challenge and an imperative at this time.

We know that most of what is offered through social media platforms at the moment is geared toward an adult audience but, our Education and Youth Department has been at work preparing resources specifically for our children and youth as explained below in this note from the Department.

Diocesan Online Sunday School

You are invited to share the online Sunday School lessons that are prepared by the Department of Education and Youth with members of your congregations.

The Department has collaborated with our Deanery Sunday Schools to minister to our children and their families through this medium.

Join us for prayer, singing, and video stories as the Bible lesson is brought to life in a fun and engaging way each week.

The lessons can be accessed from the Diocesan YouTube Channel.

Please feel free to make contact with the department for additional information.

We are urging your assistance in publicizing these diocesan offerings which are available as we use the opportunities provided by the pandemic to continue and improve on the various expressions of mission and ministry which we offer to the people of this nation. At the same time, please continue to do the creative things which have been undertaken in terms of the streaming of services, online Bible Study, and telephone ministry which have been making a difference to the life of the church. For those congregations not blessed with the resources to make use of these technologies, we urge you to make use of what the diocese is offering and those that are shared by colleagues in different congregations.

With every blessings and kind regards

Sincerely yours,

Howard Jamaica & Cayman Islands
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The Most Rev. Dr. Howard K. A. Gregory
Archbishop of the West Indies, Primate and Metropolitan
And Bishop of Jamaica