

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**  
**RE: NEW GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS - COVID-19**

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I write to draw your attention to the recent announcement by the Prime Minister, The Most Hon. Andrew Holness, regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the adjustments under the Disaster Risk Management Act: February 28, 2021.

These regulations have serious implications for us as a Diocese and take us back to a time when physical church was not allowed. The current provisions only allow for on-line worship and for those who facilitate its delivery. In this light, I have been informed that there should be no congregational gathering regardless of the numerical membership of the congregation. Additionally, it means that services scheduled for the period March 7 to March 21, 2021, for the Rite of Confirmation to be administered, will be cancelled. The likelihood of further cancellation depends on the decisions made by the Government on the expiration of the current restrictions.

The decision by the Government is regrettable in light of the fact that we have as a Diocese, been intentional in observing the protocols, as is true of our sister denominations. I will be addressing this issue in another forum in due course.

In the meanwhile, we ask for your cooperation with the regulations, continuing pastoral sensitivity to those who have lost loved ones, and who will grieve in a context in which they are unable to bury their loved ones within the current constraints, even as we are aware of the flaunting of the regulations that have been taking place around funerals.

We have demonstrated that we can rise in the face of such challenges and that we can support each other in ministry during these difficult times.

Please continue to observe the protocols and keep safe while ministering to the spiritual needs of our congregants.

With kind regards and every blessings!

Sincerely yours,

++.....*Howard Jamaica & Cayman Iles.*.....

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