

## DIOCESE OF MORAY, ROSS & CAITHNESS



### MOST REVEREND MARK STRANGE BISHOP OF MORAY, ROSS & CAITHNESS: PRIMUS OF THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Dear Friends

I have just watched the rolling out of the five tier system in Scotland. Almost all of the diocese is now in Tier 1 and that gives a greater flexibility to our lives. Please keep in your thoughts the congregations at Aberchirder and Huntly which lie in Aberdeenshire and are therefore in Tier 2.

What does all of this mean, well you may also have noticed that of all the institutions in the country the one which will remain open right up to and including tier 4 are Places of Worship. The only restriction in tier 4 would be a reduction of maximum attendance in our buildings. This is good news, but it is also a hard won position. The instinct of many involved in deciding on this was to close some of us down again, thankfully we are being trusted to keep to the rules.

I am aware that a number of churches have not either opened up or been able to meet yet and I thank those who are providing spiritual support for them and for all the work going on to support those who are still unable to return even if their church is open.

To those churches that are open can I please remind you all to keep to the rules, if we begin to relax our attention to the detail of how we run our worship, then our credibility will disappear and our doors will be closed. Please believe me when I say I will close individual churches if I believe that any of us are being less than diligent. I know this sounds harsh, but I would rather deal with one church closure than being told to close them all. So "keep alert", keep to the rules and keep us open for worship. This isn't easy, but it is important.

#### Notices

I sadly inform you that the Rev Peter Mosley, former Priest in Charge at St Paul's, Strathnairn has died, We pray for his widow Sheila and the family. RIP

I would also like to offer you some good news;

I am very happy to tell you that we have a new Diocesan Secretary, Mr Iain Foyers who worships at St Mary's, Culloden and at St Columba's, Grantown on Spey has agreed to take this task on and we will all wish him well in this new task.

I am also delighted to announce that Rev James Currall has accepted my invitation to join the Cathedral Chapter and will become Rev Canon when we have arranged to seat him in the Cathedral.

Can I ask that you all pray for them in this new ministry.

Blessings

+Mark Moray: Primus