

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN QATAR
The Church of the Epiphany and The Anglican Centre
الكنيسة الانجليكانية في قطر



Rev. Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler
Rector (Senior Priest)

**SIX WEEK TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ALL PUBLIC WORSHIP SERVICES
IN THE RELIGIOUS COMPLEX THROUGH THE END OF APRIL 2020**

Dear Leaders of Guest Churches in the Anglican Centre,

13 March 2020

I am writing in follow up to from my earlier letter yesterday morning to each of you. Last evening, the Qatar Ministry of Foreign Affairs has asked all the Churches in the Religious Complex to suspend all public church services for six weeks, through the end of April 2020.

This of course is not easy to hear, but this same thing has and is happening around the world toward preventing the spread of the coronavirus. While we are so very sorry that all worship services will be suspended, we as Anglican Church leadership wholeheartedly support the Qatari government and the rest of the world's decisions to curtail this pandemic. I can all perhaps attempt to see it as practicing a Lenten fast of public worship as a sign of love for one's neighbor, especially for the most vulnerable. Obedience to Christ's commandment to love our neighbor directs us to care for each other in the best and most effective ways.

For now, for the next six weeks, all church services and programs within the Religious Complex will be suspended. We encourage each of you to develop, wherever possible, a means to encourage and support your church communities virtually...via social media, etc. During this six-week period, the Religious Complex will be closed to all non-essential visitors.

As you can imagine, there are new developments every day, and will approach each decision with the health of the community as our foremost priority.

Again, if you have any questions, please contact Surendar Mariraj, the Administrative Manager at The Anglican Centre.

I close this note, I offer you that wonderful promise from Psalm 46:1-2: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change..."

Warmly in Christ,

Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler

P.O. Box 3210, Doha, Qatar
Tel. - Church: (974) 4416 5728 / Anglican Centre: (974) 4416 5726
Email: info@anglicanchurchinqatar.org

www.anglicanchurchinqatar.org & www.anglicancentre.org