

The Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist

(The Anglican Church in Limpopo Province)

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**Statement by the Clerical Leaders
of the Diocese of St. Mark the Evangelist
Anglican Church of Southern Africa
June 01, 2020**

We, the people of the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist, in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, wish to state our absolute abhorrence and disdain at the latest incident of police brutality against George Floyd in the USA.

In similar vein we deplore the brutal and unnecessary killing of our own Collins Khosa, and the ten others killed during the South African Lockdown.

The resulting public violence in the USA of burning and looting shows the disgust people have for this lack of respect of fellow human beings by those tasked with law enforcement.

Nevertheless, having experienced the brutality of the Apartheid Regime, and now the current disrespect of people by law enforcement in South Africa, we continue with the belief that anarchy as a response is not a desirable and helpful solution as it opens the door for those with other motives to exploit the pain and suffering of those abused by the state.

We appeal that those in positions of power who perpetrate such acts of brutality be brought to account for their actions.

We appeal for common sense and calm to prevail amongst those who have been wronged. Whilst peaceful protest in search of justice is our right and duty, destruction of property and acts of rage do not solve problems, only lowering the behaviour of the victims to that of the perpetrators.

However, the burden for the beginning of reparation must fall on those who first perpetrated these assaults on the victims.

We offer to you the words of St Paul in Ephesians 4:31-32

"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

May peace and calm return to your and our streets.

Ends.

Yours in our Lord Jesus Christ,

+ Luke St. Mark the Evangelist

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