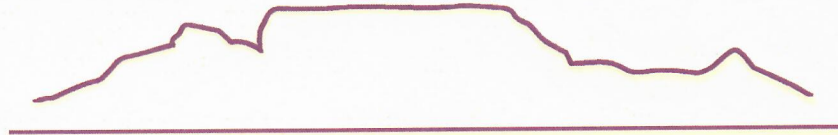




# Archdiocese of Cape Town



10 April 2019

Dear Bishop, Monsignor, Father, Deacon

As you know, South Africa will be holding elections on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The period prior to the elections is always one of intense electioneering. Frequently, political candidates or canvassers take the opportunity to visit churches and to attend Services. Of course, any person is welcome to attend Mass or other liturgies. However, I wish to remind you of the policy of the Archdiocese that has been in place over many years. As a matter of some urgency, the following should be observed:

1. On no condition may Church premises be hired to, or used by, any political party. Please be vigilant when you or your staff are approached for use of Church premises. It has come to my attention that full disclosure is not always made when there is application for use of our premises.
2. While political candidates and canvassers are welcome to attend Church Services, they should not be given a platform to make a speech or address congregants, whether in the Church or on our premises. Furthermore, nobody should be permitted to distribute flyers, pamphlets etc, while on Church premises.

Please be aware of the need to protect the Church from being misused for political purposes by any group or party. Please also be sensitive to the fact that the people we serve belong to or support many different parties and we cannot be seen to be partisan in any way.

I wish you every blessing for a grace-filled Holy Week.

Sincerely in Christ

+Stephen Brislin  
Archbishop of Cape Town

