



The Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung
The Bishop of Singapore

The Diocese of Singapore
St Andrew's Village
1 Francis Thomas Drive #01-01
Singapore 359340
Tel: (65) 6288 8944
Email: bpoffice@anglican.org.sg

22 August 2022

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace and Peace to you in the Name of our Risen Saviour Jesus Christ.

In yesterday's National Day Rally Speech 2022, the Prime Minister announced that the government will be moving to repeal s377A from the Penal Code. He indicated that this was done because it was felt that the law would likely not withstand too many more constitutional challenges, as well as the changing societal attitudes towards homosexuals. At the same time, the PM also made it clear that the government has no intention of changing the long-held traditional definition of marriage as between one man and one woman, nor the social norms and policies (e.g. housing, adoption, education) surrounding this long-held definition. He further announced that the Constitution of Singapore will be amended to protect the aforementioned definition of marriage. We are heartened that the government has indicated that they will be taking steps to protect the prevailing norms and values of the Singaporean society on the issue of marriage.

Some of us may be comforted by the government's stated affirmation of heterosexual marriage, but others may feel disappointed by the repeal of s377A. Yet others feel that more can and needs to be done to safeguard our society, in whom our children will grow up in, particularly the cultural values and practices that run against clear biblical teaching. It is in times such as these that we need to be reminded to turn our eyes towards God as our helper and protector. We will continue to work with the government and other allies in order to secure the best possible outcomes, and we appreciate that the government has been engaging the Church. We will also pray and look to God for unless the Lord builds, our labour will be in vain.

The Anglican Church's position on human sexuality remains unchanged and as stated in Lambeth 1.10, we hold to the biblical view that marriage is between a man and a woman in lifelong union, and that while we value all persons, including those having homosexual orientations, our belief remains that homosexual practice is incompatible with Scripture. With the repeal of s377A, our socio-political landscape may change as a consequence of political compromise, but our obedience to Holy Scripture must not.

Following the announcement, I would like us to be assured that as a Church, we are not being restricted as to what we teach our parishioners, based on biblical truths, nor are we being forced to take any actions that are against Holy Scripture.

Going forward, we will need to better equip and prepare ourselves, and our youth in particular, as to how we can deal with the downstream effects of the repeal. This would range from education and teaching of our parishioners, making resources available including counselling support, to stronger engagement with younger believers and getting a conversation going on how we can remain faithful to God and be effective witnesses of the Gospel. We will need to learn new ways of navigating cultural complexities as well as engaging society more effectively with a view of fulfilling the Great Commission. To that end, we will need to pray for wisdom and courage, especially for our leaders.

There is much to do, and as a Diocese we will work through various issues in unity and with conviction. I would like to leave you with these words from our Lord which I believe is relevant for us today:

"fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41: 10

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Titus Chung Singapore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

The Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung
The Bishop of Singapore