



The Scots' Church Melbourne

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN VICTORIA, FOUNDED 1838

Interim Moderator : Rev Philip Court

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23 March 2020

Dear friends

COVID-19, Scots' Church and you: Update No. 2

This supersedes the letter of 21 March, which some of you may have received

The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic continues to bring upheaval and change to what were the normal patterns of our lives. As a church community, we also have had to make changes to safeguard lives, protect public health and slow the transmission rate of this dangerous disease.

In this rapidly changing environment, the Kirk Session has established a special commission – its COVID-19 Commission – to act promptly and take all necessary decisions during this health crisis.

Public worship and special music events

All worship services at Scots' have been suspended until further notice.

All scheduled music events up to 21 June, including the Holy Week program, the Cantata Sunday and Big Hymn Sing are now cancelled. Scheduled music and other events beyond June are unlikely to proceed.

The Scots' Church sanctuary is now closed to private devotion and visitors until further notice.

On-line sermons and music at www.scotschurch.com

While public worship services are suspended, the Scots' Church website remains active. Our preachers, including our guest preachers, will be providing pre-recorded sermons for uploading, week by week, so you can continue to be nourished with the Word of God. Ways of providing choral and other forms of sacred music via the website are being explored. Regularly visit the website to see what's available.

Maintaining your free-will offerings

Please continue to provide your normal free-will offerings. They are more important than ever at this critical time. There are three ways you can do this:

- By electronic transfer to BSB **083 004**, Account number **630 327 585**
- By cheque made out to The Scots' Church Melbourne and posted to 1/156 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000
- By credit card over the phone. Telephone the Church Office on 9650 9903

For public health reasons, **do not** send cash in to the Church Office.

The Church Office

Most of our office staff are now working from home. For all practical purposes, the Church Office, Werner Brodbeck Hall and Robert White Hall are closed until further notice.

Despite this, you can still contact the Church Office:

- by email: admin@scotschurch.com , or
- by telephone: 9650 9903

Staying in contact

If you have not already done so, please provide your email details to the Church Office so you can be kept abreast of developments and news. Email your details to admin@scotschurch.com

The Scots' Weekly will be emailed out each week to keep you connected. It will also be available on our website.

If you are a communicant member, please maintain regular contact (with appropriate social distancing) with the Elder assigned to attend to your spiritual welfare. If you do not know who your assigned Elder is, please let the Church Office know.

To help you stay in contact, *The Leaflet* is now being mailed to all communicant members for which we have postal addresses. This is in addition to those who already receive *The Leaflet* by mail. An electronic version can also be downloaded from our website.

And finally

In these challenging times for our world, our nation, and our church family, let us all heed the words of the Apostle Paul and *"be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."* (Ephesians 4:32-5:2)

The Lord bless you and keep you



REV PHILIP COURT
Interim Moderator



PETER ARMSTRONG
Session Clerk