

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Melbourne Church of Christ

The events that have taken place recently have not been seen in Australia (perhaps even globally) in our lifetimes. To say that there are some troubled times ahead would be an understatement.

As we are aware, the scriptures teach that the disciples faced trouble as individuals and also as a collective. Jesus warned the disciples that these troubles would come in various forms. In Luke 21 there are forms of what we are seeing at present ( i.e. pestilence, disease etc).

As a leadership we take these things very seriously and we want to do our part to protect each other and also those around us. God is in control however, and He does not want us to worry and give way to fear and panic (Mat 6:25-34).

With these things in mind we decided at the last minute to cancel last Sunday's service. We are sorry for the inconvenience this caused. Going forward we have decided to cancel this week's Regional Midweeks, Sunday Services, as well as the Teen, Campus, and Professional meetings. For next Sunday, we want to encourage you to meet in your family groups for Church.

As for future services after this week we will keep you posted. Please keep referring to Facebook and the Church Website to stay updated.

We want to encourage everyone to stay faithful and not be anxious (Phil 4:6ff.) We also want everyone to look after each other and those around us. We have seen how people can become selfish in these times and it's not a pretty sight. By all means make sure you are ok, but in the process, let's reach out as well to those in need, exercising common sense along the way.

We believe God can be glorified in these times and that his people can shine.

At last Thursday's staff meeting Mike did a lesson called "The Cries of the Righteous". He looked at Matt 9:27 where two blind men who wanted their sight back cried out to Jesus. In Luke 18 Jesus talks about the Persistent Widow and in that text he says: *"And Will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones who cry out to him day and night?"*.

To finish off in Heb 5:7 it says: *"During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission."*

We think that if there was ever a time for God to hear our cries, now would be that time. Let's pray for each other and let's pray for our Government Leaders to have wisdom and to make right decisions. Let's also pray for the wellbeing of our health care workers and for them to have strength as they serve us.

Let's use this time to bond and deepen our relationship with God and each other. There are always people around us who want to seek God and we can be faithfully creative about how we do this.

Your Elders

Mike Vassallo and Peter Boardman