

Public worship stopped in seven Greek Orthodox Churches in Melbourne hotspots



His Eminence Archbishop Makarios has called for public worship to be halted in seven Greek Orthodox churches in Melbourne due to the rise in coronavirus cases.

Here is the complete statement in English:

The unpleasant developments of the last few days regarding the increase of coronavirus cases in Melbourne, made it necessary to take strict measures to ensure public health. In this context, with a sense of pastoral responsibility, His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia announces the cessation of public worship in seven Orthodox Churches, which are in danger areas. These are, in particular, the Churches:

1. Αγία Τριάδα, Footscray
2. Αγία Παρασκευή, St Albans
3. Άγιος Δημήτριος, Ascot Vale

4. Παναγία Σουμελά, East Keilor
5. Άγιος Βασίλειος, Brunswick
6. Άγιος Ελευθέριος, Brunswick
7. Άγιος Νεκτάριος, Fawkner

In a circular sent and addressed to Αρχιεπισκοπικό Επίτροπο Μελβούρνης, Θεοφιλέστατο Επίσκοπο Δέρβης κ. Ιεζεκιήλ, και στον Αρχιεπισκοπικό Επίτροπο Νορθ-Κόουτ, Πανοσιολογιώτατο Αρχιμανδρίτη κ. Ευμένιο, His Eminence clarified that the specific churches will remain closed to the faithful, but all the Sequences, the namedays of the Saints and the Divine Liturgies will be performed normally by the priest and the chanter. As for the sacraments and funerals, it is suggested that, if possible, they be held in other temples – otherwise, in a strictly close family environment.

“I urge you to comply with the specific guidelines by properly guiding our priests and the Boards of Directors of the above Holy Temples, and at the same time I warmly ask you to intensify your prayers to God the Giver, whose intervention awaits all humanity,” Archbishop Makarios said.

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