



*Remain in my love
Jn 15:9*

23 March 2020 11.30am

Statement from Bishop McGuckin, Bishop of Toowoomba

Last night Prime Minister Morrison announced Stage 1 restrictions on social gathering (attached – scroll down to text; or visit <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-220320>).

These restrictions include “religious gatherings, places of worship or funerals”, the latter with some accommodations.

These restrictions “also apply to outdoor spaces associated with the above venues”.

Today there has been confusion around the correct interpretation of the Stage 1 restrictions as announced, with private advice that indicates a somewhat open interpretation of “The following facilities will be restricted from opening from midday local time 23 March 2020.”

We are advised that further information will be provided on the website of the Department of Health 12noon AEDT.

The ACBC’s Public Policy Director Jeremy Stuparich has asked for written clarification from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and when received this will be distributed to you.

Until such advice has been received, it would seem prudent to close all Catholic churches so that we are not seen to be disregarding the measures as announced or exposing the Church to legal intervention.

Most Reverend Robert M McGuckin

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