

SERBIAN ORTHODOX METROPOLITANATE OF  
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND



СРПСКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА МИТРОПОЛИЈА  
АУСТРАЛИЈСКО - НОВОЗЕЛАНДСКА

THE HOLY TRINITY PARISH AND CHURCH  
COMMUNITY MELBOURNE

ПАРОХИЈА И ЦРКВЕНА ОПШТИНА  
СВЕТА ТРОЈИЦА МЕЛБУРН

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P. No. 43/20  
2 September 2020

The Honourable Martin Pakula MP  
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events  
Minister for the Coordination of Jobs, Precincts and  
Regions: COVID-19

Dear Honourable Minister Martin Pakula,

we understand that you are meeting with business and community organisations in developing a safety plan for the easing of Stage 4 restrictions and for the coming months in returning to a COVID normal state.

We are part of the Serbian Orthodox Community. You would be familiar with the largest Serbian Orthodox Church Community in Australia which is located in your electorate, on 115 Church Road in Keysborough and which caters to many Serbian families. Another large Serbian Orthodox community is attached to the Brunswick Holy Trinity Church - <https://svtrojica.melbourne/>. Both churches as well as all other Serbian Church Communities in Victoria have adhered to strict COVID guidelines and regularly post updates to their web-sites and Facebook pages on the COVID situation in Melbourne for their parishioners.

As you may be aware, Churches play an important pastoral, spiritual and psychological role for their community, and this is especially the case for the Serbian community.

We regard the Serbian Orthodox Church's role as providing an essential service to our Serbian Community in Victoria. In particular during this time of heightened anxiety and concern around parishioners' health, family and work situations. Therefore clergy members of the Serbian Orthodox Community would like to be involved in the consultation process that is occurring at the moment in order to assist in the development of a road map back to a COVID safe church community which would enable churches to re-open as soon as safely possible in order to provide the much needed pastoral and support service to its community.

Please advise whether members of the Serbian Orthodox Community can participate in these consultation sessions. If so, how many clergy members would be permitted to attend these government consultations?

Your prompt response to this matter would be appreciated.

For and on behalf of the Serbian Orthodox Church Community of Victoria

Sincerely,

Fr. Milorad Loncar  
Dean of the Brunswick East Holy Trinity Church  
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