

Dear LJBC

The announcement of the State Government last night (4<sup>th</sup> Feb) has indicated that there will be a gradual release of the lock down. This means that lock down has been lifted but with set conditions still imposed. Those conditions include a maximum of 150 persons at a church service and a need to adhere to the 4m<sup>2</sup> rule. These restrictions mean that LJ can only have 35 people in the church hall and 140 people in the auditorium and are more restrictive than when we shut down during last year. Last Sunday we had over 300 people attend on Sunday morning (60+ in the hall).

**As disappointing as it is, it leaves us with no real option other than to cancel our church services for this Sunday.** That is, there will be no church services on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>. We are recording a sermon, communion and a brief worship item as an online alternative. We anticipate that, as long as there are no new Covid cases in the state, we will be able to resume normal services again on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

I understand that this does not always feel equitable with other churches around us making different decisions. Each church is making decisions based on their number of attendees and the square meterage of their facilities. This does appear to produce some anomalous outcomes, but we are all working to the same directions we have been given by the government.

The Church Office will be re-open on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb and you can reach myself or any of the staff via phone if you need anything or want to chat. Please wear a mask if you come to the office this week.

The pastoral team and board are devastated that, having begun the year with good heart and momentum, we need to close services this weekend but we will continue to comply with the Government directives aimed at keeping us all safe.

Steve Ingram

The Online Service for Sunday will be accessible on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL6xs6rL5S83qBwfr4jiURA>