



The Australasian-Middle East Christian Apostolic Churches Conference (AMEC)

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A Press Release

From: The Australasian-Middle East Christian Apostolic Churches Conference of Bishops. (AMEC)
Subject: The Horrific attacks at the two Mosques in Christchurch, 15 March 2019

"Weep with those who weep", exhorts us St. Paul in his letter to the Romans (12:15)

This past Friday afternoon, at a time when Muslims were gathering in their Mosques to pray, Jews were getting ready to welcome their Shabbat, and Christians were preparing themselves to flock to their churches for the Lenten evening prayers, the hands of evil chose once again to disturb these peaceful assemblies by striking once again, bringing chaos and sadness; this time to the heart of the Muslim community in Christchurch, New Zealand.


We, the Bishops and members of the Australasian-Middle East Christian Apostolic Churches Conference Bishops (AMEC) were saddened by the tragic incident and its atrocities, which occurred on the soil of a neighbouring country dear to our hearts and the hearts of our faithful, a country that is renowned for its love for peace and harmony amongst its diverse citizens.

We renew our total rejection of violence and we express our deep concern at the spread of the dark malicious forces, which are brutally desecrating the holiness of places of worship and terrorizing innocent believers all over the world, whose wish is simply to pray to their merciful Creator invoking Him to grant peace unto their hearts and the hearts of all humankind. These attacks by human beings who have lost their moral compass are sadly recurring at an unprecedented pace unknown to our modern world. We condemn these horrific actions as crimes against humanity and sins against God. These actions stand against all what the monotheistic religions preach, as well as that for which human decency cries out.

We join our faithful, both in Australia and New Zealand, in praying our God to grant repose for the souls of the departed. We offer our sincere condolences to all the families of the deceased. We pray to God the Almighty to grant a speedy recovery to all those who were injured. We have full confidence that Divine Providence will guide the civil and religious leaders of New Zealand to help heal the recent wounds that were caused by evil, reminding them unceasingly of the lyrics of their National Anthem: "Men of every creed and race, gather here before thy [God's] face, asking thee to bless this place; Peace, not war, shall be our Boast...", thus rendering them more determined to safeguard the freedom of expression and the freedom to worship, as well as the cohesion and harmony that has been the hallmark and pride of New Zealand for the past century.

May the message of love and peace, which is at the core of the Abrahamic Faiths, prevail and remain to be proclaimed despite what seems to be a deliberate attempt to disrupt our fundamental spiritual fraternity.

We invite all our Faithful, especially during this Holy Lenten Season, to pray unceasingly that our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, will bestow His everlasting peace upon all humanity, especially the bereaved and the suffering innocents.



Bishop Robert Rabbat
President of AMEC
16 March 2019