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Church of Crete: “May peace and prudence prevail in our hearts, our lives, and our society.”



An appeal for peace and reconciliation, along with a call for “a re-evaluation of attitudes, choices, and judgments in accordance with the Orthodox Faith and Tradition,” has been issued by the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Church of Crete, in the wake of a tragic and violent incident in the village of Vorizia, Heraklion, which resulted in two deaths.

The appeal, which will be read in all churches next Sunday, 9 November, states in full:

“The Holy Eparchial Synod of the Church of Crete expresses its deep sorrow and wonders, in the midst of a social climate marked by violence, aggression, and hatred: Where are we heading? What is the reason for the presence of such a situation on our island, which has always been known for its nobility, integrity,

honesty, industriousness, and sense of honour?

What we see today is not the Crete of the centuries past, nor is it the Crete we deserve. We share with everyone our concern and anguish, and we invite all to face with prudence and responsibility the issues of criminality and brutal violence in our island.

The Local Church calls for peace and reconciliation, and earnestly pleads for a reconsideration of attitudes, choices, and evaluations of reality according to the Orthodox Faith and Tradition, rather than resorting to violent and criminal acts that cultivate an atmosphere which leads to even greater familial and social problems.

We urge all to pray together, so that peace and prudence may prevail in our hearts, our lives, and our society, through the intercessions of the Saints of Crete and of Saint Nektarios, whose feast we celebrate today, for our spiritual progress and growth.

With these thoughts, which express our pastoral responsibility, we call everyone to unity and mutual understanding, to self-examination, self-restraint, and repentance, and we bless you paternally, wishing you to continue your journey through life peacefully, with patience and unwavering faith in our Triune God.”

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