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Greek Orthodox Church calls on the faithful to pray for end of drought, wildfires



The Archbishop of Australia, His Eminence Makarios, this week issued an encyclical to all Greek Orthodox parishes on the island continent, calling on the clergy and faithful to a joint prayer service on Sunday in order to pray for an end to a punishing draught and the end of wildfires in southeast Australia.

His Eminence also sent Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison a letter, which read, in part:

“...Because of this situation I urge you, firstly, not to lose your faith and hope in God. We do not see God through our successes, but in our weaknesses. It is most likely that tribulation and sorrow will lead us to a place where those who are successful in life have never reached, that being to a place where the fragrance of the splendour of the Resurrection is emitted. Secondly, I entreat you all to pray fervently from within your hearts...I beseech you with all my love to unite our prayers so that all together we can ask for God’s mercy. Immediately after the Divine Liturgy, there will be a petition by the Archbishop, our Bishops and all the Priests in all our Churches around Australia. We will read the prayer for the extinguishing of fire and simultaneously the prayers during times of drought.”