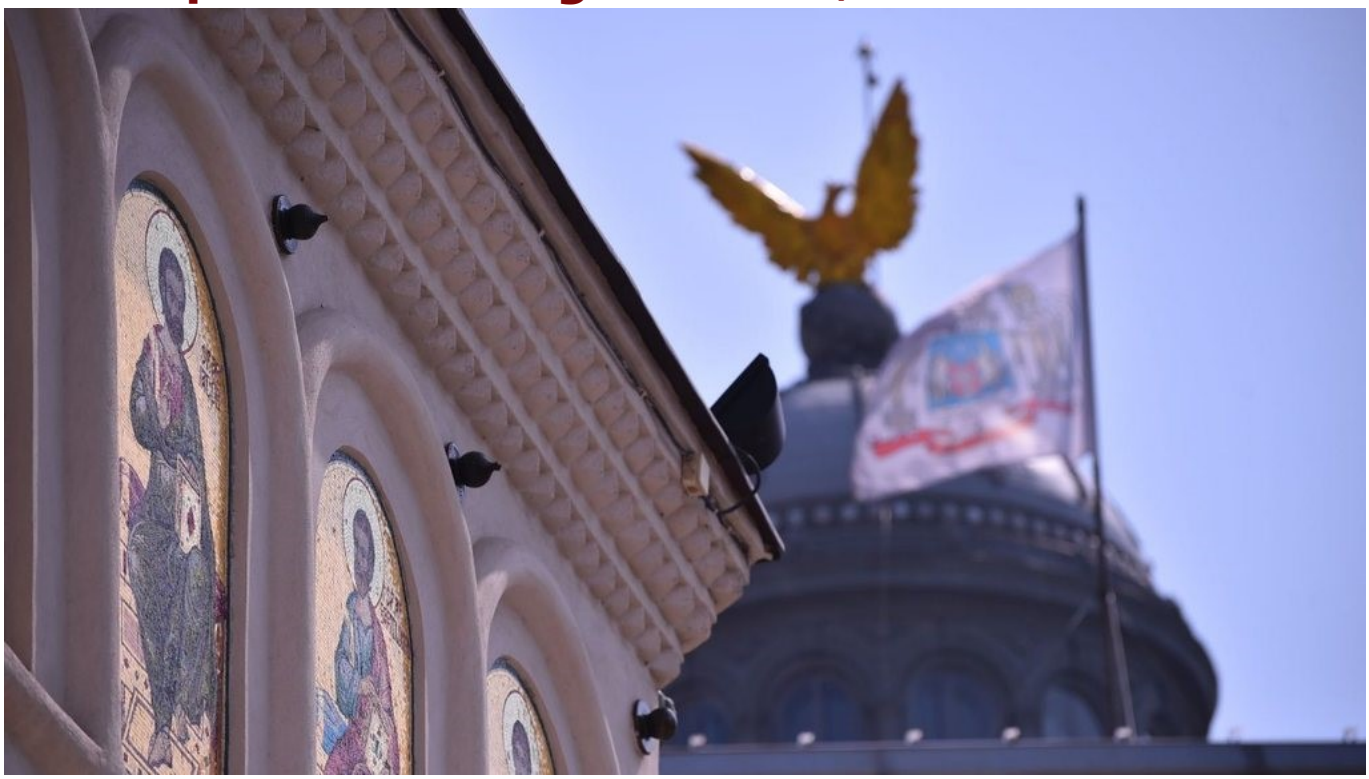
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Albania, Romanian Churches call on faithful to follow public health guidelines, recommendations



The Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Albania this week joined other Orthodox Churches around the world in announcing preventative measures against the coronavirus, calling on the faithful to follow guidelines issued by the World Health Organization and the country's public health authorities.
On its part, the Patriarchate of Romania issued an encyclical with public health recommendations to Metropolises, parishes and monasteries around the country.

The encyclical notes that churches and chapels will remain open, although health ministry guidelines should be posted in places of worship. Additionally, a special area for hand washing should be created or designated, with disinfectant to be made available, along with soap and water. Loud speakers are to be placed outside churches, while ecclesiastical services, including the Divine Liturgy, can be conducted outdoors.