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Church of Greece: Cathedrals to remain open for personal worship; only very basic Divine Liturgy to be celebrated



The Church of Greece's permanent Holy Synod on Monday evening announced that cathedrals and chapels in the overwhelmingly Christian Orthodox country will remain open for "personal worship", while at the same time requesting that all of the faithful, particularly those in high-risk groups, remain in their residence in order to significantly reduce possible exposure to the Covid-19 virus.

Hierarchs of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Greece convened for more than five hours, under the chairmanship of the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos, to deliberate over more measures to limit any further coronavirus outbreak. The wide-ranging session was attended by hiearchs who are not Holy Synod members, namely, by Metropolitans in the greater Athens area, all of whom were briefed by the government's coordinator for the Covid-19

crisis: infectious diseases Prof. Sotiris Tsiodras.

The Holy Synod also announced that a very “basic” Divine Liturgy will be celebrated as of Sunday, March 22, until the Saturday of Lazarus, on April 11, for one hour per service, namely, from 7 a.m. until 8 a.m.

The Holy Synod called on the faithful to feel and act as if they are carriers of the coronavirus, in bid to emphasize that exposure to others in public places must be avoided at all costs.

Daily Church services, including the sacraments, are cancelled.