24/03/2020

# Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Zealand issues announcement regarding religious services during the COVID-19 outbreak

**The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Zealand has issued an announcement regarding religious services during the COVID-19**

**outbreak. Read the full text below:**

ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΝ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ
ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΖΗΛΑΝΔΙΑΣ
† Ο ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΤΗΣ

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW ZEALAND
† THE METROPOLITAN

ANNOUNCEMENT

Wellington 20th of March 2020

To

the Clergy, the Monastic Brotherhoods and Sisterhoods and the reverent plentitude of the Holy Metropolis of New Zealand (Fiji, Tonga, Samoa)

Beloved siblings and children in the Lord,

We are all witnesses to the never seen before events occurring worldwide, as a result of the coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak. We are living through an unprecedented situation, and extraordinary emergency response measures are being implemented by all governments and international organisations (UN, WHO, etc.)

With a sense of pastoral responsibility, and love in Christ, our Ecumenical Patriarchate, the mother of all Orthodox Churches, decided and authorized the **suspension** of all religious services, functions and ceremonies, until March 31, 2020 in all the Churches under its jurisdiction.

Therefore, in all our Churches of the Holy Metropolis of New Zealand, the above decision will be absolutely respected and adhered to.

The churches will remain open for the personal prayer of Christians.

In the Monasteries of the Holy Metropolis of New Zealand, Divine Services will be conducted by the Brotherhoods as per normal, however without the participation of pilgrims.

I ask everyone to adhere to the above decision, and to the measures and instructions of the relevant health authorities of the country (New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa) for the common good, the protection of our health and that of our brothers and sisters.

In these moments I urge all of us to intensify our prayer to our Lord, so that He may make us aware of our weakness and the weakness of our civilization, given that we are being threatened by the smallest lifeform, on our planet, as well as so that we can be made aware Christ's presence in our life, and a more intense desire to live a life in Christ.

With prayers and the love of Christ

The Metropolitan

+Myron of New Zealand

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