24/03/2020

Suspension of all general prayer services in churches in Syria and in Lebanon



The Christian Churches in Syria and Lebanon have issued a statement regarding the suspension of all general prayer services in all churches during COVID-19 outbreak. Read the full text below:

A Statement Issued by the Christian Churches in Syria and Lebanon

Based on the recent developments of the spread of the COVID-19 (Corona) virus, and the new measures taken by local governments to prevent the spread of this epidemic, we pray God to have mercy on us and guide everyone to rationality and appropriate actions, strengthening all healthcare teams that are serving, and healing all infected people in the world. Also, we call on our children to abide by the following:

1- The necessity to comply fully with the official health guidelines.

2- The suspension of all general prayer services, including liturgies, in all churches from today’s date and until further notice.

3- All funerals must be held in the cemetery churches exclusively (in case there is one other than the parish church) in the presence of the parish priest and the family of the deceased, without accepting condolences.

4- All meetings and activities are suspended such as vigils, excursions, ceremonies, celebrations, exhibitions, competitions and others.

5- The avoidance of all kinds of mass gatherings and the commitment to the stay-at-home policy, in order to prevent the threat of the epidemic, while expecting the believers to intensify their prayers for their safety and for their families.

Again, we reiterate our petition for your protection, and for the peace of the world.

Issued by Their Beatitudes and Holinesses, the Patriarchs and Primates of the Christian Churches

March 21, 2020