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Archbishop Ieronymos wishes the faithful courage, patience amid coronavirus lockdown



Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos, wished the faithful courage and patience, speaking during Friday's emotional Salutations to the Most Holy Theotokos service at the Athens Metropolitan Cathedral, where the sublime Akathyst (Akathistos) Hymn was chanted.

The 5th Friday of Lent service was conducted without worshipers due to the strict restrictions in place because of the **Covid-19 pandemic**, an unprecedented occurrence for the **Orthodox Church** and its flock in Greece.

The service was televised nationwide.

In a particularly comforting and pastoral voice amid a three-week-old “lockdown” in the east Mediterranean country, His Beatitude referred to the very unfortunate closing of churches and chapels, “saying they (state) closed them with difficultly and pain, but this was unavoidable. We closed them so things would not worsen”.



















