04/04/2020

# Orthodox Metropolis of Korea: ‘Prayer, whether it is done in the Church or in our home or in any other place, must be done with due reverence and care’

**The Orthodox Metropolis of Korea (Ecumenical Patriarchate) has issued the following Encyclical urging the faithful to pray with due reverence and care during the Covid-19 outbreak. Read the full text down below:**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

Due to the coronavirus pandemic which, unfortunately, prevents you from coming to our Churches at this time, we have decided, with the help of new technology, to transmit the holy Services that are performed daily, so that you may watch them in prayer from your homes. The link you can see the Services is: http://www.youtube.com/user/KoreaOrthodox

By this encyclical, we wish to draw everyone’s attention to the following point: As we have previously noted, the only reason for the transmission of the Holy Services is nothing else but prayer. And prayer, whether it is done in the Church or in our home or in any other place, must be done with due reverence and care. In other words, the time of our

communication with God should be solely devoted to Him and not to “be worried and troubled about many things” (Lk. 10:41) at prayer time, like Martha did on the relevant Gospel passage.

While observing the Holy Services and, even more so, the Divine Liturgy, we systematically avoid engaging in other acts. In order to create a proper atmosphere of prayer, it is good for us to be in front of the Holy Icons in our family’s prayer corner, to light an oil candle or a candle, to burn incense, and to observe with devotion the chanting and readings of the Service being transmitted from the particular Church.

The same goes for the night home prayer (10-10: 15 pm), which we have established as part of our Prayer Campaign to the most Merciful Lord to protect humanity from the great danger of the coronavirus.

We, therefore, urge you to strictly adhere to the guidelines issued by the Government for the protection of your health, which will also benefit our society as a whole. We hope and pray that we will soon be able to see one another person to person, so that we may continue together the Worship at our Churches.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.