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Russian President thanks Patriarch amid coronavirus restrictions



Russian President Vladimir Putin this week thanked the Orthodox faithful in the vast country for complying with coronavirus-related public health restrictions during Easter Week.

In a letter to the **Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, His Holiness Kirill**, the Russian president expressed his deep gratitude for the former's responsible and tireless work, as he said, in maintaining peace and harmony in the country.

In a related development, guidelines and restrictions for churches and places of worship in Russia have been extended to April 28, according to an announcement by the Moscow Patriarchate, which cited a directive by public health authorities. The decision means that services and the Divine Liturgy will be conducted without the presence of worshippers.