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Church of Greece demands end to restriction mandating closed cathedrals



Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos, has sent a letter to the country's relevant education and religious affairs minister demanding that cathedrals and chapels be allowed to reopen, using unequivocal language to press home the Church of Greece's position.

The letter sent to Minister Niki Karameos was first approved by members of the Church of Greece's Permanent Holy Synod, as reports collected by the Orthodoxia news agency cited the fact that Ieronymos called each Holy Synod hierarch and read out the letter for their approval.

The influential Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Greece wants a prohibition on worshippers in places of worship to be lifted before next week Holy Synod meeting.

The same sources referred to an uncharacteristically terse epistle by the Primate of the Church of Greece, in the wake of increasing pressure by the faithful around the

east Mediterranean country for a relaxing of restrictions on personal worship and church attendance that follows “social distancing”.

The reaction also comes, according to reports, in an effort to prevent any extension of the restrictions through mid to late May.

The Church of Greece has already announced that the Holy and Great Easter Resurrection service will be celebrated during the Apodosis of Pascha, over the event of May 26 to May 27.