

Restoration works on historic Monastery of St. John the Forefunner in Pontus stop, as Turkish ministry says it ran out of funding



Restoration works at the historic Monastery of St. John, also known as Vazelon Monastery, the oldest Orthodox monastery in the Pontus region of the southeast Black Sea, have ceased, with the cited reason being the exhaustion of funding by Turkey's culture and tourism ministry.

The Turkish ministry claimed that all available funding was used to restore the iconic Panaghia Soumela monastery.

Dedicated to the memory of Saint John the Forerunner, the Vazelon Monastery was abandoned in 1922, and has for decades been plagued by vandals, treasure hunters and the indifference of the Turkish state.