

Church of Greece awaiting decisions by govt regarding crucial issue of Church-going during Christmas



Decisions on when the retail sector will be reopened in Greece, as well as the framework by which Churches will again hold services in the presence of worshipers, especially ahead of Christmas, are expected from the Greek government by Saturday.

Hierarchs of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Greece have repeatedly called for an end to the prohibition against Church-going by the faithful, while pledging to strictly follow all public health measures and precautions to prevent exposure to the Covid-19 virus – such as the mandatory wearing of face masks and social distancing.

In a related issue, the relevant health minister this week reiterated that

the future vaccination campaign against the virus is neither a government nor a petty partisan undertaking, but rather a national responsibility that affects all citizens.

Minister Vassilis Kikilias added that all institutions have a role to play in this undertaking, including the Church, with meetings to take place in the coming period.

Meanwhile, in a letter addressed to Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, the Holy Association of Clerics of Greece calls for a reopening of churches ahead of Christmas, reminding that the Church of Greece has strictly implemented all state-imposed measures since the pandemic's outbreak, including public health precautions during Church services.

A similar letter and plea was conveyed by the National Union of Theologians, with the group reminding that beyond the material needs of the body, man must also fulfill his mental and spiritual needs, adding "... which for a Christian are primarily met collectively, by participation in the worship and the sacramental life of our Orthodox Church."