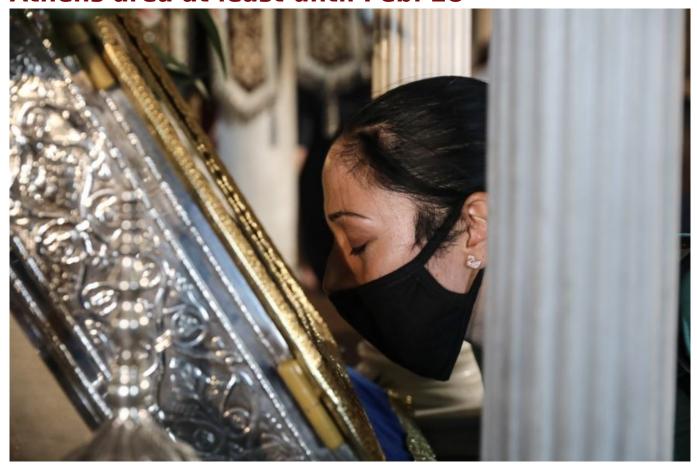
Church services without worshipers in greater Athens area at least until Feb. 28



Church services in Greece will be held without the presence of worshippers in the greater Athens area at least until Feb. 28, following the imposition of even stricter measures this week in the east Mediterranean nation to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

A surge in the number of new confirmed single-day instances of Covid-19 over the past two weeks, especially in the greater Athens area, led to the imposition of stricter measures on public assembly and non-essential movement outdoors, with much of the retail sector and schools now closed in Greece's largest urban area.

A maximum of nine people are allowed for the holding of weddings, funerals and memorial services, while personal worship is still allowed within cathedrals and chapels, but with all public health precautions in place.