14/03/2021

Jerusalem Patriarchate: The Prayer of Forgiveness before the Great Lent



1. At the Patriarchate
On Cheese fare Sunday afternoon, 1/14 March 2021, at 5.30 pm, at the Monastic Church of Saints Constantine and Helen, the Service of the Small Compline was read, and before dismissal, H.H.B. the Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos read the Prayer of forgiveness to the Fathers, Archbishops, Hieromonks, Deacons and Monks, as they were down on their knees. This is done as an act of forgiveness before the beginning of the Great Lent, which is ordained by the Church as a period of intense prayer for our preparation for Easter.

After the reading of the prayer, Hierodeacon Simeon was chanting “the rivers of Babylon” while the Hagiotaphite Fathers kissed His Beatitude’s hand and exchanged forgiveness wishes with each other. There were no pilgrims at the service due to the continuing covid-19 plague.

Having received forgiveness, the Fathers retreated to their cells in the Central Monastery, which will remain closed until Wednesday of the first week of Great Lent.

2. At Saint James' Cathedral

At 2.30 on Cheese fare Sunday, 1/14 March 2021, the Contrite Vespers was officiated at Saint James' Cathedral, by His Eminence Archbishop Aristarchos of Constantina.

Before Vespers dismissal, His Eminence read the Prayer of forgiveness for Priest Haralambos Bandour, the Stewards and the Byzantine singers of the Holy Church with their helpers, as well as for the Arab-speaking faithful from Jerusalem, the Nuns of the Patriarchate, members of the Greek Consulate and of the Greek Community. Not many faithful were present, due to the covid-19 restrictions.

The prayer of forgiveness concluded with the kissing of His Eminence hand and exchanging forgiveness wishes among the faithful.

— From Secretariat-General / en.jerusalem-patriarchate.info

