

Orthodox Greece observes Clean Monday, first day of Great Lent, much differently from all previous years



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Clean Monday is annually an occasion for picnics and family dinners with seafood and other traditional dishes that are allowed during the Lenten season, culminating on Holy Saturday, which this year falls on May 1. A national custom of kite-flying on the day is also widely observed.

Sadly, this year witnessed most churches and chapels without worshippers in areas where Covid-19 concentration is highest. In such regions, the Holy Services are conducted only in the presence of a few clerics, chanters and a sextant.

Where concentration of the virus is lowest, a limited number of worshipers were allowed, in tandem with the mandatory wearing of face masks and social distancing protocol in place.

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