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Archbishop of Australia Makarios: We urge our people to be vaccinated, without compelling anyone



The Archbishop of Australia, His Eminence Makarios, this week issued an important encyclical addressed to the bishops, clergy and the monastic communities of the Archdiocese of Australia, which addresses issues related to the coronavirus pandemic and its immense consequences.

The encyclical also draws attention to the appropriate and responsible manner in which the Church and its clergy can face these consequences.

Among others, His Eminence clarifies that vaccination against COVID-19, and all vaccinations, in fact, is primarily a medical and scientific issue, noting that the Church listens to the experts, before underlining "...we urge our people to be vaccinated, without compelling anyone, respecting the freedom of every person."

Regarding the prospect of banning the entry of faithful, who have not been vaccinated, into places of worship in Australia, Archbishop Makarios emphasized

that “…personally, I will never agree with a measure that divides the faithful between vaccinated and non-vaccinated. The doors of our churches will be open for all.”