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Strict public health precautions for Theophany due to pandemic



A record number of Covid-19 infections in Greece, on an almost daily basis, and especially amid the now rapid spread of the Omicron variant, means that the great feast of the Theophany on Thursday, along with the accompanying blessing of the waters ceremonies around the country, will be held under the strict observance of public health precautions and social distancing protocol.

In a related development, but halfway around the world, the Archbishop of Australia, His Eminence Makarios, this week tested positive for the Covid-19 virus.

The Archbishop, who is fully vaccinated, showed mild symptoms of the coronavirus and was immediately placed in self-isolation.

In a message to the faithful, His Eminence Makarios reiterated his paternal request and appeal to the pious members of the Greek Orthodox Church of Australia and to all people in general, to faithfully follow the instructions of the expert scientists, especially during the current period when the coronavirus is spreading and evolving rapidly.

In the statement, Archbishop Makarios stated that: "…I fully understand the adverse effects and especially the psychological fatigue that the evolving ordeal of the pandemic has brought. However … I urge you all to do your utmost to protect yourself and the people around you, by minimizing the risk of getting infected and catching the disease, or transmitting the virus to someone else."