

# ΔΗΛΩΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΜΑΚΑΡΙΩΤΑΤΟΥ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΟΥ ΙΕΡΟΣΟΛΥΜΩΝ ΔΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΝ ΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΣΟΦΙΑΣ

Τήν Τετάρτην, 25ην Ἰουνίου/ 8<sup>ν</sup> Ἰουλίου 2020, ἡ Α.Θ.Μ. ὁ Πατήρ ἡμῶν καί Πατριάρχης Ἱεροσολύμων κ.κ. Θεόφιλος προέβη εἰς τήν κάτωθι δήλωσιν ὑπέρ διατηρήσεως τοῦ Καθεστώτος τῆς Ἐκκλησίας τῆς Ἁγίας Σοφίας ἀγγλιστί:

## ***Statement of His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III***

### ***on the Status of the Hagia Sophia Shrine***

*It is with utmost seriousness that We express Our concern over recent calls from members of the Turkish government to alter the current status of the Hagia Sophia from a museum to a mosque.*

*This magnificent Byzantine Church structure, which captivates the world until today, has a history stretching even farther back into Christendom than the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Over the course of generations, the region and its people have passed through challenging times that have left painful memories. However, it has been to Turkey's credit that for nearly 100 years it has administered the Hagia Sophia as a museum in order to maintain an extent of neutrality over the site. Subsequently, people from all over the world and from every background are able to enjoy its spiritual, architectural, and historical splendor.*

*Furthermore, museum status, i.e. indiscriminate accessibility, to Hagia Sophia has bore fruit where there otherwise could have been further contention. Hagia Sophia today remains a symbol of tolerance. Some may find spiritual refreshment within its boundaries, others may be inspired by its testament to human accomplishment, and others may view it through individual prisms of meaning. However, this array of outcomes does the best possible justice to the site, which without question was always intended to inspire awe and to glorify Almighty God.*

*As stewards of sacred heritage in Jerusalem and the Holy Land, for nearly 2,000 uninterrupted years, in a land over which three Abrahamic faiths lay equal claim, We strongly attest to the fact that accessibility promotes peace and mutual respect, whereas attitudes of exclusivity promote conflict and bitterness. We hope and pray, for the benefit of all people of good will, and for Turkey as a nation with the potential to influence our entire region down a path of growth and mutual co-existence, that the present status of the Hagia Sophia is respected and preserved.*

**THEOPHILOS III**

**PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM**

Ἡ δήλωσις αὕτη ὑπογραμμίζει ἰδιαιτέρως ἑλληνιστί ὅτι “Ἡμεῖς ὡς ἐμπειστευμένοι κληρονομίαν ἐπὶ δύο χιλιάδας ἔτη ἀδιακόπτως εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ καὶ τὴν Ἁγίαν Γῆν, εἰς τὴν ὁποίαν αἱ τρεῖς Μονοθεϊστικαὶ θρησκείαι ἀνάγουν τὴν ἀρχὴν αὐτῶν εἰς τὸν Πατριάρχην Ἀβραάμ καὶ ἔχουν ἴσας ἀξιώσεις, ἐπιμαρτυροῦμεν τὸ γεγονός ὅτι ἡ προσβασιμότης προάγει τὴν εἰρήνην καὶ τὸν ἀμοιβαῖον σεβασμόν, ἐν ᾧ ἡ ἀποκλειστικότης προάγει τὴν ἔριδα καὶ τὴν πικρίαν.

Προσευχόμεθα διὰ τὸ ὄφελος ὅλων τῶν ἀνθρώπων καλῆς θελήσεως καὶ διὰ τὴν Τουρκίαν ὡς ἔθνος μέ τὴν δυνατότητα νὰ ἐπηρεάσῃ ὀλόκληρον τὴν περιφέρειαν ἡμῶν πρὸς τὴν ὁδὸν τῆς ἀυξήσεως καὶ τῆς ἀμοιβαίας συνυπάρξεως διὰ τοῦ σεβασμοῦ καὶ τῆς διατηρήσεως τοῦ ἐπικρατοῦντος καθεστῶτος τῆς Ἁγίας Σοφίας.

Ἐκ τῆς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς

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## Ἡ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ ΤΩΝ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΩΝ ΙΕΡΟΣΟΛΥΜΩΝ ΔΙΑ ΤΑ ΞΕΝΟΔΟΧΕΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΠΥΛΗΣ ΤΟΥ ΔΑΥΪΔ

Τὴν Δευτέραν, 23<sup>ον</sup> Ἰουνίου / 6<sup>ον</sup> Ἰουλίου 2020, αἱ Ἐκκλησίαι Ἱεροσολύμων ὑπὸ τὴν αἰγίδα τοῦ Μακαριωτάτου Πατριάρχου Ἱεροσολύμων κ.κ. Θεοφίλου προέβησαν εἰς τὴν κάτωθι ἀγγλιστί δήλωσιν διὰ τὴν ἀπόδοσιν δικαιοσύνης καὶ ἐπιστροφῆν τῶν ἐν τῇ Πύλῃ τοῦ Δαυὶδ ξενοδοχείων Imperial καὶ Petra εἰς τὸν νόμιμον ἰδιοκτήτην αὐτῶν, Ἑλληνορθόδοξον Πατριαρχεῖον Ἱεροσολύμων:

### ***Joint Statement from the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem***

*We, the Heads of the various Churches and Christian Communities in Jerusalem, stand united in our commitment to the Status Quo which governs the status of the Holy Sites and the protections of the Churches. This is recognised by all the religious and political authorities in this Holy Land, and has always been upheld by the governments of our region.*

*The case of Jaffa Gate threatens this Status Quo. We are concerned by the recent judgment of the District Court of Jerusalem, which dismissed evidence demonstrating the Greek Orthodox Church's case, without even examining it. We strongly support the efforts of the Greek Orthodox Church to secure justice.*

*We view the attempts by radical groups to secure property at Jaffa Gate as a systematic attempt to undermine the integrity of the Holy City of Jerusalem and the Holy Land, to obstruct the Christian pilgrim route and to weaken the Christian presence. They do not only affect the Greek Orthodox Church, whose properties are at the centre of the case. This case is just part of a concerted effort by a group opposed to the Christian presence in Jerusalem to increase tensions between communities, and to harm the harmonious diversity for which Jerusalem should be known.*

*We ask the Israeli government to act to secure the integrity of the Christian*

*holy sites, the Christian heritage and patrimony, and the rights of the residents of the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem.*

*These are places to which over two billion Christians around the world look to as the geographical heart of their faith; they are places which millions of Christian pilgrims visit each year; and they are the places in which the Christians of this shared Holy Land live out their faith. We do not see this case as a mere property dispute, but one over the entrance, heart and continued function of the Christian Quarter as a place of living worship and pilgrimage.*

*Together with the Prophet Amos, we cry: "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."*

**Ἐκ τῆς Ἀρχιγραμματείας**

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## **Ο Π. ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΣ ΜΑΤΑΡ ΔΕΝ ΑΝΗΚΕΙ ΕΙΣ ΤΟ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΙΕΡΟΣΟΛΥΜΩΝ**

Ὁ π. Νικόλαος Μάταρ, Προϊστάμενος τοῦ Ἱεροῦ Ναοῦ Γενεθλίου τῆς Θεοτόκου εἰς τὴν πόλιν Corona τῆς πολιτείας Καλιφορνίας τῶν Ἠνωμένων Πολιτειῶν Ἀμερικῆς, ἐξακολουθεῖ ψευδῶς νά ἰσχυρίζηται ὅτι ἐνεργεῖ ὑπό τὴν εὐλογίαν καί καθοδήγησιν τοῦ Πατριαρχείου Ἱεροσολύμων παρά τὰ ἀναρτώμενα ἐνταῦθα, Ἀπολυτήριο Γράμμα, Release Letter, τό ὁποῖον ἐχορηγήθη αὐτῷ ἀπό τοῦ ἔτους 2018 καί ἀπεστάλη εἰς τὴν κανονικὴν Ἐκκλησιαστικὴν αὐτοῦ Ἀρχήν, ἥτοι τὸν Θεοφιλέστατον Ἐπίσκοπον Φασιανῆς κ. Ἀντώνιον εἰς Νέαν Ὑόρκην:

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**Ἀριθμ. Πρωτ.**

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Τῷ Θεοφιλεστάτῳ

Ἐπισκόπῳ Φασιανῆς

**Κ. Ἀντωνίῳ**

Πρωτοσυγκελλεύοντι Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς

Εἰς Νέαν Ὑόρκην

Θεοφιλέστατε,

Μετά πολλῆς ἀδελφικῆς ἀγάπης ἐκομισάμην τὴν ὑπ' Ἀριθμ. Πρωτ. 210/17 καί ἀπό 28<sup>ης</sup> Νοεμβρίου 2017 ἐπιστολὴν τῆς ὑμετέρας λίαν ἀγαπητῆς Θεοφιλίας,

ἀναφορικῶς μέ τήν ὑπόθεσιν τοῦ ἐν Corona Καλιφορνίας πρεσβυτέρου Νικολάου Μάταρ καί τῆς Κοινότητος τοῦ Γενεθλίου τῆς Ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου, ἣτις ἠρνήθη νά ὑπαχθῆ εἰς τήν πνευματικήν ἐποπτεῖαν τοῦ Σεβασμιωτάτου Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Ἀμερικῆς.

Διαμελετήσαντες ὅθεν ταύτην εἰς τήν Συνεδρίαν τῆς Ἀγίας καί Ἱερᾶς ἡμῶν Συνόδου, καθηκόντως φέρω εἰς γνῶσιν τῆς ὑμετέρας Θεοφιλίας, ὅτι τό ἡμέτερον Πατριαρχεῖον ἀπό τῆς ἰδρύσεως τοῦ ἐν Ἀμερικῇ Βικαριάτου καί ἐντεῦθεν οὐδεμίαν ὀργανικήν σχέσιν ἔχει μετά τοῦ ὡς ἄνω ἱερέως, ἐχορηγήσαμεν δέ εἰς αὐτόν Ἀπολυτήριον Γράμμα, καθότι οὗτος ἐτύγχανε κανονική χειροτονία τῆς Ἐκκλησίας Ἱεροσολύμων.

Ἐφ' οἷς, συναποστέλλων ἀντίγραφον τοῦ Ἀπολυτηρίου Γράμματος αὐτοῦ, διαβιβάζω αὐτῇ τάς εὐχάς καί τήν ἀγάπην τοῦ Μακαριωτάτου καί ἀποδίδων αὐτῇ τόν ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀσπασμόν ἀπό τοῦ Παναγίου καί Ζωοδόχου Αὐτοῦ Τάφου, διατελῶ.

Ἐν τῇ Ἀγίᾳ Πόλει Ἱερουσαλήμ ,βιη΄ Φεβρουαρίου θ΄.

Μετά τῆς ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀγάπης,

**ΑΡΙΣΤΑΡΧΟΣ**

Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Κωνσταντίνης

Γέρων Ἀρχιγραμματεὺς

**RELEASE LETTER**

By this Patriarchal letter, We verify that the Reverend Father Nikolaos Matar, a priest of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, following a resolution of the Holy and Sacred Synod that was duly convened on 22 FEBRUARY 2018, has been canonically released from the roll of the clergy of the Patriarchate. This release was granted without prejudice or as a consequence of any ecclesiastical discipline, and Father Nikolaos Matar is free to be received into any canonical Orthodox jurisdiction without impediment.

In witness thereof, We have caused Our seal to be affixed to this Letter in the Holy City of Jerusalem, on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of MARCH in the year of Our Lord 2018.

**THEOPHILOS III**

**PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM**

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Τό Πατριαρχεῖον Ἱεροσολύμων καταγγέλλει τήν ἐκμετάλλευσιν τοῦ ὀνόματος αὐτοῦ καί τῶν ἱστοσελίδων αὐτοῦ καί προσεπιδηλοῖ ὅτι οὐδεμίαν σχέσιν, συνεργασίαν ἢ ἐπικοινωνίαν ἔχει μετά τοῦ Πατρός Νικολάου Μάταρ πρός γνῶσιν καί ὠφέλειαν τοῦ Ὁρθοδόξου ποιμνίου ἐν Ἀμερικῇ καί ἀλλαχοῦ καί ὅτι ὑπ' οὐδενός ἐκπροσωπεῖται εἰς τήν Ἀμερικῇ .

Ἐκ τῆς Ἀρχιγραμματείας

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# Η ΠΡΟΣ ΚΥΡΙΟΝ ΕΚΔΗΜΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΤΑΦΙΤΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΜΑΝΔΡΙΤΟΥ ΜΑΡΤΥΡΙΟΥ

Ἡ Ἀγιοταφίτικὴ Ἀδελφότης ἀναγγέλλει μετὰ λύπης, οὐχ ἥττον λύπης Κυρίου, σαρκί Σταυρωθέντος καί ἐκ νεκρῶν Ἀναστάντος τὴν ἐκ τοῦ κόσμου τούτου ἐκδημίαν τοῦ μέλους αὐτῆς Ἀρχιμανδρίτου Μαρτυρίου Ντίκευ.

Ὁ Ἀρχιμανδρίτης Μαρτύριος, κατὰ κόσμον Μαρῖνος Ντίκευ, εἰδικευμένος ἄριστα εἰς τὴν Πληροφορικὴν, ἐνετάχθη εἰς τὴν Ἀγιοταφίτικὴν Ἀδελφότητα ὡς μοναχὸς τὸν Σεπτέμβριον τοῦ ἔτους 2009 καί ἐχειροτονήθη διάκονος τὸν Νοέμβριον τοῦ 2009, ἱερεύς δέ τό ἔτος 2014 καί ἔλαβε τό ὄφθικιον τοῦ Ἀρχιμανδρίτου τό ἔτος 2019.

Ὑπηρετήσεν εὐσυνειδήτως εἰς τὰς ἀνατεθείσας αὐτῷ διακονίας, ἥτοι εἰς τὸν Ναόν τῆς Ἀναστάσεως, τὴν Ἀρχιγραμματείαν, τὴν Πατριαρχικὴν Σχολὴν Σιών, τὴν Οἰκονομικὴν Ἐπιτροπὴν, τὴν εἰς Κύπρον Ἐξαρχίαν τοῦ Παναγίου Τάφου καί κατὰ τὰ τελευταῖα ἔτη εἰς τό προσκύνημα τῆς Μαδηβᾶς.

Τὴν πρωίαν τῆς Δευτέρας, 19<sup>ης</sup> Μαΐου / 1<sup>ης</sup> Ἰουνίου 2020, εὐρέθη νεκρὸς εἰς τό δωμάτιον αὐτοῦ ὑπὸ τοῦ ἡγουμένου τῆς Μονῆς Μαδηβᾶ Ἀρχιμανδρίτου Ραφαήλ καί μετηνέχθη εἰς νοσοκομεῖον τῆς πόλεως αὐτῆς, ἔνθα καί ἐπεβεβαιώθη ὁ θάνατος αὐτοῦ, ὡς προκληθεὶς ἐκ καρδιακοῦ ἐπεισοδίου.

Τὴν πρωίαν τῆς Τρίτης, 20<sup>ης</sup> Μαΐου/ 2<sup>ας</sup> Ἰουνίου 2020, ἡ Α.Θ.Μ. ὁ Πατὴρ ἡμῶν καί Πατριάρχης Ἱεροσολύμων κ.κ. Θεόφιλος ἐτέλεσε Τρισάγιον ὑπὲρ ἀναπαύσεως τῆς ψυχῆς αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν μοναστηριακὸν Ναὸν τῶν Ἁγίων Κωνσταντίνου καί Ἑλένης.

Τὴν μεσημβρίαν τῆς ἡμέρας αὐτῆς ἐψάλη ἡ νεκρώσιμος ἀκολουθία αὐτοῦ ἐν Μαδηβᾶ, προεξάρχοντος τοῦ Σεβασμιωτάτου Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Κυριακουπόλεως κ. Χριστοφόρου καί συμμετεχόντων τῶν Ἀρχιμανδριτῶν Ἰννοκεντίου καί Ἱερωνύμου καί ἱερέων καί μελῶν τοῦ ποιμνίου τῆς Μαδηβᾶ.

Αἰωνία αὐτοῦ ἡ μνήμη.

Ἐκ τῆς Ἀρχιγραμματείας

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## ΝΕΑ ΜΕΤΡΑ ΔΙΕΥΚΟΛΥΝΣΕΩΝ ΔΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΕΙΣΟΔΟΝ ΕΙΣ ΤΟΝ ΝΑΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΕΩΣ

Αἱ τρεῖς Μείζονες Κοινότητες, ἥτοι τό Ἑλληνορθόδοξον Πατριαρχεῖον Ἱεροσολύμων, ἡ Κουστωδία τῆς Ἁγίας Γῆς τῶν Φραγκισκανῶν καί τό Πατριαρχεῖον

τῶν Ἀρμενίων εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα, ἐξέδωσαν τήν κάτωθι Ἀνακοίνωσιν:

Following the situation development in the Holy Land, we the Heads of the Three Communities, custodians of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre and Resurrection, wish to inform that starting on Sunday 24th this most Holy Place will be accessible again to the faithful for visits and prayers.

For safety reasons and in order to avoid the risk of a new spread of the COVID-19 infection, at the beginning the number will be limited (to 50 persons) and the Basilica will be accessible only to those who have no fever or symptoms of infection and are wearing suitable face coverings.

It will also be necessary to keep a minimal distance of 2 meters between each person and to avoid any act of devotion that might include physical contact such as touching and kissing the stones, icons, vestments and the personnel in the Basilica; as well as abide always by the given instructions.

From this Holy Place, in this Easter time, we continue our prayers, asking for the end of this pandemic.

**THEOPHILOS III – GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM**

**FRANCESCO PATTON- CUSTOS OF THE HOLY LAND**

**ABP. NOURHAN MANOUGIAN- ARMENIAN PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM**

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## **ΔΗΛΩΣΙΣ ΔΙΑ ΤΟΝ ΠΑΝΙΕΡΟΝ ΝΑΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΕΩΣ**

Τήν Πέμπτην, 13<sup>ην</sup> / 26<sup>ην</sup> Μαρτίου 2020, αἱ τρεῖς Μείζονες Κοινότητες, ἥτοι τό Ἑλληνορθόδοξον Πατριαρχεῖον Ἱεροσολύμων, ἡ Κουστωδία τῆς Ἁγίας Γῆς τῶν Φραγκισκανῶν καί τό Πατριαρχεῖον τῶν Ἀρμενίων εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα, αἱ ἔχουσαι τήν εὐθύνην διά τό Προσκυνηματικόν Καθεστῶς, ἐξέδωσαν τήν κάτωθι Ἀνακοίνωσιν, δηλοῦσαν ὅτι αἱ ἀκολουθίαι εἰς τον Πανίερον Ναόν τῆς Ἀναστάσεως θά συνεχίσουν νά τελῶνται συμφώνως πρός τό Τυπικόν καί Προσκυνηματικόν Καθεστῶς ὑπό τῶν διακονητῶν ἐκάστης Κοινότητος, μέ μειωμένην συμμετοχήν πιστῶν πρός ἀποφυγήν τῶν συνεπειῶν τοῦ ἰοῦ COVID- 19:

Following the evolvement of the situation in the Holy Land, we the Heads of the Three Communities to whom the Providence granted the grace and honour of proclaiming the lodes of the Lord in the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre and Resurrection, wish to inform that the celebrations of the Communities, the Greek Orthodox, the Latin and the Armenian will continue regularly, even though for safety reasons and in order to avoid the risk of the diffusion of the COVID-19 infection, the number of participants in the celebrations will be limited to few persons and the Basilica will be accessible during the liturgies only.

We wish to assure that inside the Basilica, the prayers of the Three Communities will continue, rather intensify, asking the Heavenly Father the end of the pandemic, the recovery of the sick, the protection of the medical personnel, the wisdom for the Pastors and the Governors and the eternal salvation to those who lost their lives. We raise this prayer from the very place where, through the sacrifice of His own life on the Calvary and through His Resurrection from the Sepulchre on the third day, the only begotten and beloved Son Jesus Christ, defeated evil, sin and death.

**THEOPHILOS III – GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM**

**FRANCESCO PATTON- CUSTOS OF THE HOLY LAND**

**ABP. NOURHAN MANOUGIAN- ARMENIAN PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM**

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## **Η ΔΗΛΩΣΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΤΡΙΩΝ ΜΕΙΖΟΝΩΝ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΩΝ ΔΙΑ ΤΟΝ ΝΑΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΕΩΣ ΕΝ ΟΨΕΙ ΤΟΥ ΙΟΥ COVID-19**

Τήν Παρασκευήν, 7ην/20ήν Μαρτίου 2020, αἱ τρεῖς Μείζονες Κοινότητες, αἱ ἔχουσαι τήν προσκυνηματικὴν εὐθύνην διὰ τὰ Πανάγια Προσκυνήματα, ἥτοι τὸ Ἑλληνορθόδοξον Πατριαρχεῖον Ἱερουσαλήμ, ἡ Κουστωδία τῆς Ἁγίας Γῆς τῶν Φραγκισκανῶν καί τὸ Πατριαρχεῖον τῶν Ἀρμενίων εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα προέβησαν εἰς Δήλωσιν, διευκρινίζουσαν εἰς τοὺς πιστοὺς ὅτι ὁ Ναός τῆς Ἀναστάσεως, ἐν ᾧ ὁ Φρικτός Γολγοθᾶς καί ὁ Πανάγιος Τάφος θά παραμείνη ἀνοικτός διὰ τὰς ἀκολουθίας συμφώνως πρὸς τὸ ἰσχύον προσκυνηματικόν καθεστῶς καί ὅτι δύνανται οὗτοι νά προσέρχονται διὰ προσευχὴν συμμορφούμενοι πρὸς τὰς ὁδηγίας τῶν Τοπικῶν Ἀρχῶν, προστατευουσῶν τήν ὑγιείαν αὐτῶν. Ἡ Δήλωσις αὕτη ἔχει ἀγγλιστί ὡς ἔπεται:

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Our world is currently experiencing a time of crisis and emergency, whereas many countries and nations are combatting the spread of COVID-19. In many places around the globe, the infection is spreading rapidly and the victims are consistently increasing. The World Health Organization has declared the situation as a global pandemic.

In front of this dangerous situation, governments worldwide mobilized to resist and restrain the spread of this virus. In many places severe measures were adopted which resulted in restrictions of movement of persons maintaining operative only crucial facilities.

This dangerous situation has not passed over the Holy Land and the Holy City of Jerusalem in which all Sons of Abraham Jews, Christians and Muslims are raising their prayers to God Almighty. We are called to live this time in

faith and confidence in the Lord's mercy and His care for all His creatures.

At the same time, we are called to adhere to the instructions of the competent civil authorities enacted to ensure the safety and well-being of the entire population.

Therefore, we the Heads of the Churches in charge of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem urge everyone to abide fully by the provisions for the public health, as they are published from time to time.

The communities living within the Church of the Holy Sepulchre will continue the ordinary life of the Church in conformity with the instructions for the public health. We will be united spiritually in our aim to preserve the centuries' long tradition of ongoing prayers in the Church even in these sad times when pilgrims cannot reach Jerusalem and local faithful are compelled to remain at their homes.

Accordingly, while maintaining the Church open we urge the worshipers to:

1. Refrain from any gatherings of more than 10 people in the same place and at the same time in the Basilica.
2. Keep a minimal distance of 2 meters between each person.
3. Avoid any act of devotion that might include physical contact such as touching and kissing the stones, touching icons, vestments and the personnel in the Basilica.
4. To abide always by the instructions of the authorities.

The Holy Sepulchre is the ultimate place of hope. Hope that faith will defeat doubt, light will defeat darkness and life will triumph over death. From this Holy Place and in this time of spiritual preparation for Easter and of global crisis we join our prayers to those of faithful of all religions, asking for the end of this pandemic. We pray for all those afflicted by the virus around the world and express our sympathy and gratitude to those who assist and take care of the victims.

**THEOPHILOS III  
MANOUGIAN**

**FRANCESCO PATTON**

**ARCH. NOURHAN**

**Greek Orthodox  
Armenian Patriarch**

**Custos of the Holy Land**

**Patriarch**

**of Jerusalem**

**of Jerusalem**

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# ΔΗΛΩΣΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΙΕΡΟΥΣΑΛΗΜ ΔΙΑ ΤΟΝ ΙΟΝ COVID-19

Πρό ἡμερῶν αἱ τρεῖς Μείζονες Κοινότητες, Πατριαρχεῖον Ἱεροσολύμων, Κουστωδία τῆς Ἁγίας Γῆς καί Πατριαρχεῖον τῶν Ἀρμενίων εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα, πρὸς μείωσιν τῆς μεταδόσεως τοῦ ἰοῦ COVID-19 ἐξέδωσαν Ἀνακοίνωσιν ἀφορῶσαν εἰς τὴν Βασιλικὴν τῆς Γεννήσεως τῆς Βηθλεέμ, τὴν χθές δέ, 1<sup>η</sup> /14<sup>η</sup> Μαρτίου 2020, ὅλαι αἱ Ἐκκλησίαι τῆς Ἱερουσαλήμ ὑπὸ τὴν αἰγίδα τῆς Α.Θ.Μ. τοῦ Πατρὸς ἡμῶν καί Πατριάρχου Ἱεροσολύμων κ.κ. Θεοφίλου ἐξέδωσαν τὴν κάτωθι Δήλωσιν ἀγγλιστί, προτρέπουσαν τὰ πληρώματα αὐτῶν, ὅπουδῆποτε τῆς δικαιοδοσίας αὐτῶν, νά ἀκολουθοῦν τὰς ὁδηγίας τῶν ἑκασταχοῦ Πολιτικῶν Ἀρχῶν καί νά ἀυξάνουν εἰς ἔργα προσευχῆς, ἐλεημοσύνης καί ἀγάπης, εὐαρεστοῦντα τόν Θεόν.

Ἐκ τῆς Ἀρχιγραμματείας

## A STATEMENT OF THE PATRIARCHS AND HEADS OF CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM CONCERNING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

March 14, 2020

Our planet earth, at this difficult and challenging time, suffers from the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected so many people and reaped thousands of lives. To face this health and life-threatening pandemic, it is essential for our people and communities to adhere by the provisions and instructions of the civil authorities within the countries we live.

At the same time, we, the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem, call upon Almighty God to look on our situation and be gracious to our suffering world. We are all called to live this time continuing to trust in our heavenly Father who takes care of all His creatures. It is therefore good that we intensify personal prayer, fasting and alms-giving and to walk in the light of God's love.

### **The Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem**

- + Greek Orthodox Patriarchate
- + Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Patriarchate
- + Apostolic Administrator, Latin Patriarchate
- + Custody of the Holy Land
- + Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate, Jerusalem
- + Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate
- + Ethiopian Orthodox Patriarchate

- + Greek-Melkite-Catholic Patriarchate
  - + Maronite Patriarchal Exarchate
  - + Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East
  - + Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
  - + Syrian Catholic Patriarchal Exarchate
  - + Armenian Catholic Patriarchal Exarchate
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## **ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΤΡΙΩΝ ΜΕΙΖΟΝΩΝ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΩΝ ΤΩΝ ΙΕΡΟΣΟΛΥΜΩΝ ΔΙΑ ΤΟΝ ΙΟΝ COVID-19**

Τὴν Δευτέραν, 25<sup>ῃ</sup> Φεβρουαρίου/ 9<sup>ῃ</sup> Μαρτίου 2020, αἱ τρεῖς Μείζονες Κοινότητες ἐπὶ προσκυνηματικῶν θεμάτων, ἤτοι τὸ Ἑλληνορθόδοξον Πατριαρχεῖον Ἱεροσολύμων, ἡ Κουστωδία τῆς Ἁγίας Γῆς τῶν Φραγκισκανῶν καὶ τὸ Πατριαρχεῖον τῶν Ἀρμενίων εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ, ἐξέδωσαν Ἀνακοίνωσιν, προτρέπουσαν τὴν συμμόρφωσιν πρὸς τὰς προφυλάξεις καὶ τὰς ὁδηγίας, περιλαμβανομένας εἰς τὰς ἀποφάσεις τῶν Πολιτικῶν Ἀρχῶν καὶ ἀφορώσας εἰς τὴν Βασιλικὴν τῆς Γεννήσεως εἰς Βηθλεέμ, ἡ ὁποία ἔχει ὡς ἔπεται:

Dear Brothers,

also in the Holy Land, we are experiencing a time of trial and emergency because of the virus COVID-19 that is now spreading all over the world. We are called to live this time continuing to trust in our Heavenly Father who takes care of all His creatures.

However, the ongoing emergency also makes us attentive to accomplish the provisions that the competent civil authorities enact to protect public health and the common good.

Therefore, in conformity with the recent decree of the Palestinian Ministry of Health, issued on March 5th 2020, with the present we the Heads of Churches in charge of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem urge everyone to adhere by the provisions and instruction of the civil authorities as they are detailed in the decree.

**THEOPHILOS III  
MANOUGIAN**

**FRANCESCO PATTON**

**ARCH. NOURHAN**

Greek Orthodox  
Armenian Patriarch

Custos of the Holy Land

Patriarch

of Jerusalem

of Jerusalem

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## «ΣΠΟΥΔΑΖΟΝΤΕΣ ΤΗΡΕΙΝ ΤΗΝ ΕΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΠΝΕΥΜΑΤΟΣ ΕΝ ΤΩ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΩ ΤΗΣ ΕΙΡΗΝΗΣ» (ΕΦΕΣ. 4,3) Η ΕΝ ΑΜΜΑΝ ΑΔΕΛΦΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΑΝΤΗΣΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΩΝ ΠΡΟΚΑΘΗΜΕΝΩΝ & ΑΠΕΣΤΑΛΜΕΝΩΝ

Ἐν συνεχείᾳ τῆς πρωτοβουλίας τοῦ Πατριαρχείου Ἱεροσολύμων καί τῆς Α.Θ.Μ. τοῦ Πατριάρχου Ἱεροσολύμων κ.κ. Θεοφίλου τοῦ Γ', ἡ ὁποία ἀνεκοινώθη τόν Νοέμβριον τοῦ 2019, ἐφιλοξενήθη σήμερον ἡ Ἀδελφική Οἰκογενειακή Συνάντησις εἰς Ἀμμάν, Πρωτεύουσαν τῆς Ἰορδανίας, τῇ παρουσίᾳ Προκαθημένων καί Ἀποστολῶν διαφόρων Ὀρθοδόξων Ἐκκλησιῶν.

Ὁ σκοπός τῆς συναντήσεως αὐτῆς ἦτο ἡ ἀνανέωσις τοῦ διαλόγου καί ἡ προώθησις τῆς ἐνότητος μεταξύ ἀδελφῶν ἐντός τῆς Ὀρθοδόξου Κοινωνίας.

Ἐπί τῇ λήξει τῆς Συναντήσεως οἱ Προκαθήμενοι καί οἱ Ἀπεσταλμένοι ἐξέδωσαν τήν ἐπομένην Δήλωσιν:

**The Amman Fraternal Familial Gathering of the Orthodox Primates and Delegates.**

**Dialogue and Unity**

**February 25-27/2020 – Amman-Jordan**

**Press Release**

On FEBRUARY 26, 2020, a meeting of Primates and representatives of Local Orthodox Churches was held in Amman, Jordan, with the primary view of unity and reconciliation within Holy Orthodoxy. The participants noted their understanding of the anguish of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem for the imminent danger of schism within our Orthodox Communion.

Participating in the meeting were delegations of: the Orthodox Church of Jerusalem led by His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem, the Russian Orthodox Church led by His Holiness Patriarch Cyril of Moscow and All Russia, the Serbian Orthodox Church led by His Holiness Patriarch Irinej of Serbia, the Romanian Orthodox Church led by His Eminence Metropolitan Nifon of Targoviste, the Polish Orthodox Church led by His Eminence Archbishop Abel of Lublin and Chełm, and the Orthodox Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia led by His Beatitude Metropolitan Rastislav of the Czech Lands and Slovakia.

The participants expressed their gratitude to His Majesty King Abdullah II, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Hashemite Custodian of the Christian and Muslim Holy Places in the Holy Land and to the people of Jordan for facilitating the hosting of this gathering in their capital city, Amman, noting His Majesty's outstanding work in promoting interfaith dialogue internationally.

The participants also thanked the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos for all the relentless efforts aimed at paving the way for dialogue and bringing brothers together in the precious spirit of unity, noting that the light that emanates from Jerusalem stands as a witness to that Holy City which continuously proclaims its multi-faith and multicultural tapestry rejoicing in its existence as the warm home for the three Abrahamic faiths, Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

The delegations declared that this gathering was to strengthen the fraternal bonds between brothers and their churches, to promote the bonds of peace in Christ among them, to advocate for the unity of the Orthodox churches, and to renew dialogue in the prayerful hope of bringing reconciliation where there has been discord.

In the atmosphere of fraternal love, those gathered for the meeting agreed that decisions concerning issues of Orthodox-wide importance, including the granting of autocephaly to particular Churches, should be finalised in a spirit of pan-Orthodox dialogue and unity, and with pan-Orthodox consensus.

Concerning the current ecclesiastical situation in the Ukraine the participants also recognised that a pan-Orthodox dialogue is necessary for healing and reconciliation.

In the matter concerning North Macedonia, the delegations stated that this matter is to be solved through dialogue within the Serbian Orthodox Church and with pan-Orthodox support.

Regarding Montenegro, the participating delegations urged the relevant authorities to respect and uphold the fundamental right of ownership of property including that of the Church.

The delegations agreed that they should gather as brothers, preferably before the end of this year, to strengthen the bonds of fellowship through prayer and dialogue. The participants hope that His Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with his known seniority of honour (πρεσβεία τιμής) will join this dialogue along with his brother Primates.

The delegations embraced the call of their brother Patriarch Theophilos III to hold a prayer for the world, for an end to war, sickness and suffering, and for all the Christians as well as for the unity of the Orthodox Church. This prayer is to be held in the Mother Church, the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulchre) in Jerusalem, before the Holy Tomb of Christ, from which He rose and proclaims peace to the world.