



RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
Patriarchal Exarchate of South-East Asia

**ADDRESS
of the Metropolitan of Singapore and South-East Asia
SERGIY,
to the clergy and flock of the Patriarchal Exarchate of South-East Asia**

Dear fathers, brothers and sisters!

CHRIST IS RISEN!

I cordially greet you, beloved ones. For a long time now, we have been forced to remain in separation due to restrictive quarantine measures. As you know, air traffic between most countries has been interrupted for the period of epidemiological danger.

Although I cannot be with you in these difficult days physically, I am inseparable in spirit and thought. All of you are in my heart and in my everyday prayers. I ask God that He will keep you in good health, reinforce your spiritual strength and not leave you in need or in care.

I feel your sorrows and pain. I understand well, my dear ones, how hard it is for you now. I am deeply worried about how you deal with the hardships of quarantine, without Communion, without the opportunity to attend the services. I want to thank you for the courage, patience and perseverance with which you are enduring this difficult test. I thank you for showing obedience, to the Church and the Hierarchy, with humility and meekness.

I am sure: that the Lord has not allowed us to go through the current crisis without reason. The past weeks have helped us understand and realize a lot. Having gone deep into prayers and meditations, we feel very well how valuable the services are for us, how much we need each other, how much mutual communication is dear to us.

And yet - the trials have become for us a very useful and important lesson in trusting God. We now have every opportunity to realize the prayer call: “*let us commit ourselves and one another, and all our life unto Christ our God*”. We have heard these words at every Liturgy, but experience of hardships has helped us to learn how to entrust ourselves and our neighbors to the Lord, to entrust all of our hope to Him alone.

My dear ones, whenever these trials are over - and it will end, the mercy of God is endless - we will celebrate the Holy Resurrection of Christ all together, celebrate the services with the Paschal order, embrace, take Communion from the One Chalice and glorify the Lord together.

In the meantime, let the wonderful words of the Holy Apostle Paul be consolation for us: “*neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Romans 8: 38–39). We will overcome any sorrow and will be *more than conquerors through Him that loved us* (Romans 8: 37).

I miss all of you extremely. I look forward to the opportunity to finally return home. After all, the house of the shepherd is where his flock is. I count the days until our meeting and I earnestly pray to God that it will take place as soon as possible.

Please take care of yourselves, my dear and beloved! We will definitely meet soon.

May the peace and blessings of Christ be with you.

+ *Cerom* +

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