



## СУРОЖСКАЯ ЕПАРХИЯ DIOCESE of SOUROZH

МОСКОВСКИЙ ПАТРИАРХАТ  
MOSCOW PATRIARCHATE



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*Beloved in Christ Fathers, brothers and sisters!*

In the Sourozh diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as throughout the world, the continued spread of the disease associated with coronavirus infection is a cause of deep concern. In the UK and Ireland the clergy and faithful of the diocese are praying for the healing of the sick and for a speedy end to the epidemic.

Due to the spread of the disease, I urge you to comply with all recommendations and orders of the authorities and strictly implement the relevant directives aimed at preventing the spread of coronavirus.

Taking into account the current situation, it is blessed to use in the churches of the Diocese of Sourozh disposable paper towels, and disposable cups and tableware for drinking after Holy Communion and at meals after Divine Services.

It is not obligatory to kiss the priest's hand when receiving a blessing.

It is recommended for the time being to make use of general confession in the parishes of the diocese, except in cases of special need and by prior arrangement with the priest.

I urge all the faithful of the Diocese of Sourozh to intensify prayer for the cessation of the disease.

*+ Matthew*

**Bishop of Sourozh**