

Πατριαρχης Πρωτοδικος



**COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE**  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO**  
ASSEMBLY OF ARCHDIOCESE PRIESTS

Toronto, March 21, 2020

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.

Dear Members of the Churches of the Coptic Orthodox Archdiocese of Toronto,

In the context of the exceptional global situation, citing the declarations by the WHO which brings to light the rapid spreading of the Covid-19 throughout the whole world, the permanent committee of the Holy Synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church convened and decided the following:

- + Close all churches and suspend all liturgical services, Liturgies and activities.
- + Close condolence halls and limit any funeral to the family of the deceased.
- + Prevent all visits to monasteries and convents.
- + This resolution is effective today Saturday, March 21st for at least two weeks or until further notice.

The declaration quotes our Lord Jesus Christ: 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.' (Matthew 4:7), appealing to the Copts in Egypt and abroad not to ignore the current crisis and to commit to the measures announced by responsible authorities, to avoid being a cause of harm to others.

The declaration goes on to call on all to raise their prayers and supplications in all places, that God may hear us, have mercy on us and lift away this tribulation, granting us healing, peace, and blessing.

In the love and care of Christ,  
The Priests of the Toronto Archdiocese