

THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND DIOCESE OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA

20 CHELMSFORD AVENUE, P.O. BOX 38, CROYDON N.S.W. 2132

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STATEMENT

As a result of certain communications to the Hierarchy regarding the canonical status of Archimandrite Alexis (Rosentool), we hereby declare to the clergy and flock that the Diocesan Administration has undertaken the following measures:

- In connection with complaints received by the Diocesan Chancery, Archimandrite Alexis is suspended from priestly services and removed as abbot of Holy Transfiguration Men's Monastery in Bombala, NSW, for the duration of the investigation and subsequent actions necessary for clarifying the situation and the adoption of a final decision on his matter. These actions are taken for the good of all involved and are not indicative of any misconduct on the part of Archimandrite Alexis.
- By ukase of His Grace Bishop George of Canberra, an Ecclesiastical Court is appointed comprised of Archpriest Gabriel Makarov, Chairman; Archpriest Nicholas Dalinkiewicz, Secretary, and Archpriest Vladimir Deduhin.
- Henceforth, until the completion of the investigation and tribunal, Archimandrite Alexis and also any other persons or groups of individuals who make intercession for or against him, are to address the Ruling Bishop or his Vicar, Bishop George of Canberra, Administrator of the Diocese, or the Ecclesiastical Court at the following email address: ANZECourt@gmail.com. All faithful members of the Diocese of Australia and New Zealand are given blessing to cooperate with the Ecclesiastical Court. Any person or group of individuals violating this directive may be subjected to ecclesiastical censure for disobedience to the Church authorities.
- The Hierarchy forbids any church assemblies or actions either directed towards hindering the investigation of the complaints against Archimandrite Alexis or towards support for him. Any persons or groups of individuals violating this directive may be subjected to ecclesiastical censure for disobedience to the Church authorities.
- Henceforth for the duration of the investigation and subsequent actions required for clarifying the case of Archimandrite Alexis and the adoption of necessary decisions, any assembly of the Spiritual Council of Holy Transfiguration Monastery and its benefactors intended for any election or important decision is forbidden.

As clarification to the clergy and flock:

The appointment of an Ecclesiastical Court does not suggest, and must not be taken as suggesting, that Archimandrite Alexis has acted improperly or that there is any substance in the complaints which have been made. The Ecclesiastical Court is appointed to, and will,

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conduct an impartial investigation, collect relevant materials and present its conclusions to the Hierarchy.

Although this ongoing situation includes certain extraordinary characteristics, nothing that is taking place can be permitted to distract any one of us from the primary care of our lives – seeing to our salvation and striving to attain the Heavenly Kingdom!

We call upon our clergy, monastics and our entire flock to preserve within themselves spiritual centeredness, to maintain peace of the soul, and to show mercy and compassion to one another.

+ Metropolitan Hilarion

**Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York,
Archbishop of Sydney and Australia-New Zealand,
First Hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.**

22 September / 5 October 2019