

***From a communication sent by the Charge d'Affaires of the
Moscow Patriarchate, His Eminence Metropolitan Varsonofy of
St Petersburg and Ladoga (6 March 2015):***

“On 11 April 2015, Holy Saturday, the Russian Orthodox Church will be participating in the yearly pan-Orthodox prayer for peace in the Holy Land.

With regard to this, I ask that you send a directive to all churches of your diocese to offer up the prayer (see below) after the Divine Liturgy on Holy Saturday.”

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND

O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, Who didst bear the cross and death for the salvation of the human race, and Who, receiving burial for three days, didst descend into Hades, trampling down death, vanquishing the devil and destroying the wall of enmity, accept the prayer of Thy humble servants, who with David the Psalmist entreat Thee for the peace of Holy Sion, the Throne of the Great King, the Mother of Churches, most glorious Jerusalem.

Thou Who didst grant peace to mankind, extinguish all strife and divisions in the Holy Land, pacify the hatred of those who are enemies, bless those who now come to Thy Life-giving Tomb, and us who reverence it in our minds, shedding forth the light of Thy Face which streams from the Tomb.

Kindle our hearts with the flame of love for Thee, O Christ God, that, being ignited, we may come to love Thee and our neighbour in our hearts, thoughts and souls, and with all our might.

For Thou are our peace, and to Thee we send up glory with Thine Unoriginate Father and Thine All-holy and Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

I give my blessing for the reading of this prayer on Holy Saturday in all our churches.

+ Metropolitan Hilarion
Archbishop of Sydney, Australia & New Zealand