



Архієрейський Синод Русской Православной Церкви Заграницей
Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

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August 26/September 8, 2025

**Statement of the Synod of Bishops in the matter of the former
Archimandrite Alexis (Rosentool)**

Having reviewed the materials of the Spiritual Court of the Australian and New Zealand Diocese and the recently published statement of Archbishop George of Sydney, Australia and New Zealand regarding the criminal trial and sentence handed down to the former Archimandrite Alexis (Rosentool), who has now been defrocked, we express our unconditional support to His Eminence and confirm everything contained in his statement.

With a heavy heart, we especially acknowledge the pain and anxiety endured by the victims who have directly suffered the perpetrated abuse. As well, we recognise the plight of their families who, together with them, have endured over the course of many years the anguish and distress resulting from this heinous abuse.

We call upon all of the clergy and loyal parishioners of the Australian and New Zealand Diocese to join us in continued and earnest prayer, as His Eminence Archbishop George has stated, for the restoration of faith of the victims, witnesses and all others who suffered in the diocese from the actions of Monk Alexis.

Bowing before the will of God and trusting in His saving Providence, we sincerely pray that the clergy and flock can now work together and fruitfully to restore peace and trust in the Australian and New Zealand Diocese under the omophorion of Archbishop George.

**Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York
First-Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia**

**Archbishop of San Francisco and Western America
Secretary of the Synod of Bishops**