

THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND DIOCESE

OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA

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COLLECTION

Beloved fathers, brothers, and sisters in the Lord!

It is with deep sorrow that I share this sad news: our dear brother and fellow priest, Archpriest Alexander Skorik, departed this life on Saturday, October 25, after a long and courageous battle with a serious illness. For fourteen years, he faithfully served in the New Zealand deanery of our diocese, devoting all his energy, warmth of heart, and love to his flock. He worked tirelessly, humbly, and selflessly, receiving a salary barely sufficient to support his family.

Father Alexander leaves behind his beloved wife and young son, who will have to endure this grievous loss, these will be days of trial and sorrow for them. Not long ago, their home was filled with joy and warmth, and now they are left without a husband, father, and sole breadwinner. They may soon have to look for new housing, as their current rent will become unaffordable.

We are all called to demonstrate Christian love and mercy. As Holy Scripture says: "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble ..." (James 1:27). May our hearts respond to the needs of Father Alexander's family, for this is an opportunity to perform a kind and virtuous act of love.

On Sunday, November 2, I direct all rectors to announce from the amvon a collection in aid of the Skorik family, to take place on Sunday, November 9. Parishes are also encouraged, if possible, to supplement this general collection with donations from parish charitable funds.

All funds raised should be sent as soon as possible, but no later than Sunday, November 16.

We pray for the repose of the soul of our dear brother and co-celebrant Father Alexander, and that the Lord will strengthen, comfort, and support his family during these difficult times. May the Lord grant Matushka and Tikhon comfort and strength, and grant us all the opportunity to show them our love and care.

“With the saints, O Lord, grant rest to the newly-departed Archpriest Alexander, where there is neither sickness nor sorrow nor sighing, but life everlasting.”



+ Archbishop George

**Archbishop George of Sydney, Australia and New Zealand
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia**