



## **Statement of the Moscow Patriarchate Office for the Affairs of the Diaspora on the state of affairs in the Latvian Orthodox Church**



**DECR Communication Service, 15.08.2023.**

On August 15, the Moscow Patriarchate Office for the Affairs of the Diaspora issued a statement on the state of affairs in the Latvian Orthodox Church.

It is known that on August 13, in defiance of the statute of the Russian Orthodox Church, a hierarchal consecration of Archimandrite John (Lipsans) as Bishop of Valmiera. We understand the complex political situation of the Latvian Orthodox Church, but it is not a cause for violating church unity.

The Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church, which will take place timely, will have to make a canonical assessment of all that is happening in the Latvian Orthodox Church today.

We call upon all the faithful of the Russian Orthodox Church to intensify their holy prayers, to preserve

meticulously the unity of Holy Orthodoxy and, under the omophorion of our First Hierarch - His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and Russia - to continue your life journey defying pressure and temptations of external destructive forces.

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