

through fasting and prayer.

“Therefore, I bless all those who feel strong enough to observe a one-day strict fast on 23rd April. And I ask parish priests to celebrate a moleben at 6 p.m. that day (the text is to be sent later),” Metropolitan Eugene also wrote in his message.

For a long time, the Estonian Orthodox Church has been under pressure from the Estonian authorities.

On 11th April, Lauri Läänemets, Minister of the Interior, when speaking on national television, called on the Parliament to “declare the Russian Orthodox Church a terrorist organization” and ban its activities.

On 18th April, the Tallinn authorities informed of the termination of the lease contract for the premises of the administrative office of the Estonian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate. On the same day, a draft declaration condemning the Moscow Patriarchate was submitted to the Estonian Parliament.

On 23rd April, Minister Läänemets said that the Orthodox monasteries in the county that will refuse to withdraw from the jurisdiction of the Russian Orthodox Church may face coercive termination of their activities based on the authorities’ decision.

According to a number of observers, the Estonian Ministry of the Interior intends to force parishes of the Estonian Orthodox Church to sever their canonical unity with the Russian Orthodox Church.

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