

FEAST OF PROPHET ELIJAH THE THESBITE AT THE PATRIARCHATE

The feast of Prophet Elijah the Thesbite, celebrated on the 20th of July each year, was honoured by the Patriarchate of Jerusalem on Saturday the 21st of July/3rd of August 2013, due to pastoral reasons. The celebration took place at the Prophet's Holy Monastery which lies next to the main road leading from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, in the proximity of the ruins of the ancient Monastery of the Seat of Theotokos.

On this site stands the Monastery since very ancient times, set on the tradition that, having escaped the anger of kings Ahab and Jezebel, the Prophet Elijah sought refuge in this area. First he brought down fire from God and heaven and burnt the altar on Mount Carmel and then he slept under a juniper tree until awoken by an angel of the Lord, telling him: *"Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you"*. So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. (1 Kings 19 4-9)

In the church of this Monastery, renovated by the late Arkadios, Metropolitan of Askalon, who hailed from Cyprus, a vespers was held in the evening, the Most Reverend Theophylaktos, Archbishop of Jordan and Patriarchal Commissioner in Bethlehem, officiating.

In the morning of the aforementioned day a panegyric divine Liturgy was held, led by His Beatitude Theophilos, Our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem, in the presence of co-officiating Prelates. The Liturgy was attended by a pious Greek-speaking, Arab-speaking and Russian-speaking congregation.

During the *Koinonikon* of the mass, His Beatitude Theophilos, Our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem proclaimed God's Word,

which in Arab may be found here:
<https://en.jerusalem-patriarchate.info/ar/2013/08/02/2609>

At the end of the Liturgy, a reception was held at the Hegoumen's quarters, followed by lunch offered by Hieromonk Paisios, head of renovation works at the Monastery.

From the Secretariat-General

<httpv://youtu.be/yAkGMRDEYMI>

