

THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS AT THE MONASTERY OF THE HOLY CROSS

On Sunday, September 19/October 2, 2022, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross was celebrated in the Holy Cross Monastery, located in West Jerusalem near the Jewish Parliament.

This holiday was celebrated there in memory and honour of the tradition that in the area of this Monastery, under Lot, the three-composite wood of cedar, pine and cypress was planted, from which the Cross was made, on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified for our salvation.

Great Vespers on Saturday afternoon and the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning were officiated by the Exarch of the Holy Sepulchre in Constantinople, His Eminence Archbishop Nektarios of Anthidona, along with Archimandrite Claudius, the Hierodeacons Simeon and Eulogios, the Priests Nectaros and Elias, the Russian-speaking Fr Nikolai Kulinski and the Romanian-speaking Fr Ioannis. The chanting was delivered by Byzantine singer Angelos Ahtinoudis, visiting from London, assisted by Mr Gabriel and Fanti and the students of the Patriarchal School of Sion, in the presence of the Consul General of Greece Mr Evangelos Vlioras, the Consul Mrs Christina Zacharioudakis, the Ambassador of Georgia Mr Lasias and members of the Greek Consulate General and many monks, nuns, locals and pilgrims.

During the Divine Liturgy, the Monastery was visited by H.H.B. our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos and Holy Sepulchre Fathers.

The famous Theological School of the Patriarchate operated in this Monastery from 1845 to 1909. In order to revive the work

of this School, intensive work on the establishment of a centre for Postgraduate Studies and conservation of icons and manuscripts was recently undertaken at the initiative of H.H.B. with the cooperation of the Hegoumen Elder Dragoman Archimandrite Matthaïos and the conservator of icons and manuscripts from Cyprus, Mr Stavros Andreou. The Inauguration of this work was performed by His Beatitude.

A sample of the work of conservation of icons and books was presented in the prepared space of the Monastery, in the presence of H.H.B. our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos of the Consul General of Greece Mr Evangelos Vlioras and his staff, and of the Holy Sepulchre Fathers and the staff of the Monastery.

From Secretariat-General