THE ICON OF OUR LADY IN THE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

The Patriarchate of Jerusalem, a devoted guardian of the Holy Shrines and of the Orthodox faith in them, wishes to inform the followers of its website and any person in search of the liberating truth – "Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free" (Jn 8,32) – that the icon of Panaghia that is kept in the shrine behind the chapel known as the Prison of Christ in the All-holy Church of the Resurrection does not "blink" as some faithful have recently suggested. Such false impression may be due to the reflection of light.

Our infallible Orthodox faith and tradition guides us in the manner in which to honour the devout figure of Our Lady Theotokos and receive her consolation and assistance.

From the Secretariat-General

HAGIOTAPHITE, HAGIOSABBITE MONK PHOTIOS PASSES AWAY

On Tuesday, the 23th of July/5th of August 2014, the Principal of the Patriarchal School, Professor of Physics, Hagiotaphite, Hagiosabbite Monk Photios Kiousis passed away.

The dearly departed and respected Monk Photios, originally from Kalamos, Attica, joined the Monastery of St Sabbas the Consecrated around 1973, after having completed his undergraduate studies in Greece and graduate studies in England. At the Monastery he remained until 1982, up to his appointment by the Patriarchate to the Patriarchal Hieratical School in Sion, where he was to teach his specialty conscientiously and with erudition. During the last fifteen years he served as Principal, always a model teacher but also a paragon of a monk observing the monastic virtues which he had received from the Holy Monastery of his repentance.

About a year ago he fell ill and had to be hospitalized at the Hadassah Israeli Medical Center on the Mount of Olives. There he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, which required his transfer to St Sabbas Hospital in Greece, on the support of the Holy Sepulcher Exarchy in Greece. While in treatment, he was vanquished by the disease and delivered his soul to the Lord.

The Church of St Sion, mourning in Christ, prays for the repose of his soul. His funeral, as per his wishes, is scheduled to take place at the Holy Monastery of his repentance.

From the Secretariat-General

httpv://youtu.be/b8R5uHSSdck?list=UUUJ0Grl082n5ebQS0hXtc7g

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THE PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM CONDEMNS PROCLAMATIONS AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN IRAQ

On Saturday, the $6^{th}/19^{th}$ of July 2014, H.B. Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem issued the following statement in

English on the proclamations against Christians in Iraq, according to which Christians are faced with crucifixion unless they either pay taxes or convert to Islam. See link: https://en.jerusalem-patriarchate.info/2014/07/19/8173

From the Secretariat-General

THE PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM CONDEMNS THE PROCLAMATIONS AGAINST THE CHRISTIANS IN IRAQ.

The Patriarchate of Jerusalem is alarmed upon hearing the horrifying statement issued by the Islamic State group, telling Christian communities in the Iraqi city of Mosul that they must convert to Islam, pay a jiziya tax, or give up all their possessions and leave the city, otherwise face imminent execution.

The inhumane statement is contrary to the peaceful symbiosis of Christians and Muslims in Iraq and in the entire Middle East region throughout the centuries and completely goes against the principles and values of these monotheistic religions.

The "Mother Church" of Jerusalem strongly and unequivocally condemns the appalling statement of the Islamic State group and appeals with utmost urgency to the international community to immediately intervene in order to avoid such actions and to protect the Christian population of Iraq, which has been living for many centuries in peace with their Muslim His Beatitude

THEOPHILOS III

Patriarch of Jerusalem

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST COUNCIL OF CHURCHES- JORDAN.

Amman - Jordan, 19 June 2014.

The General Secretary of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), Fr. Michel Jalakh, called the Presidents of the Council to an extraordinary meeting in Amman, Jordan, on June 19th, 2014, which was hosted by His Beatitude Theophilos III.

The Presidents were mindful of the commitment of His Majesty King Abdullah II to advocating for the Christian presence in the Kingdom, and were grateful for his continued support. In attendance were His Beatitude Theophilos III, Patriarch of Jerusalem, President of the Eastern Orthodox family, His Beatitude Ignatius Youssef III Younan, Patriarch of Antioch for Syriac Catholic Church, President of the Catholic family, His Grace Munib Younan, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, President of the Evangelical family, and His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia of the Armenian Apostolic Church, President of the Oriental Orthodox family, represented by the co-Presidents. Pastor Dr. Habib Badr, President of the National Evangelical Church of Beirut and Honorary Treasurer of MECC attended also the meeting. The Presidents released the results of their meeting in the following statement:

The current unexpected events taking place in Iraq join a further deterioration within countries in the region, and the Presidents share in the suffering of these tragic events along with the innocent victims of hatred and violence.

The people of Iraq are at risk of being dominated by political and religious extremism, a fact that calls upon us and the whole world to raise awareness and take immediate measures. The Presidents of the Middle East Council of Churches condemn all forms of violence against churches, mosques and other religious institutions. They encourage all Christians and people of goodwill to stand strong and not be afraid and to remember that they, together with their Muslim brothers and sisters, are the children of the same land and all share a common human nature and destiny. Therefore, we must respect and support one another as brothers and sisters.

The Presidents stand in compassion and prayer for all those in exile, displaced in Syria and in neighboring countries. We call upon all concerned parties to seek reconciliation without racial or religious discrimination. We call to release the two kidnapped archbishops Boulos Yaziji and Yuhanna Ibrahim, in addition to all kidnapped priests and innocent people.

Furthermore, the Presidents of MECC, comprised of the Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Evangelical, and Catholic families, call upon peacemakers in the entire international community, to defend the dignity and rights of all humans as well as freedom of religious expression, to quickly and effectively interfere in order to help our people to be liberated from the dreadful spiral of hatred and violence. We strongly condemn all forms of violence, regardless of who is the perpetrator, while simultaneously praying for peace, justice and reconciliation. We extend these prayers all over the world, but especially for all people of the Holy Land, to pursue peace, so that Jerusalem may be a beacon of peace throughout the world.

We, the Presidents of the MECC, ask the Holy Spirit to guide our churches in the bond of love in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

His Beatitude Theophilos III

Patriarch of Jerusalem

His Beatitude Ignatius Youssef III Younan

Patriarch of Antioch for Syriac Catholic Church

His Holiness Aram I

Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia of the Armenian Apostolic Church

His Grace Bishop Munib Younan

Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

NEW VANDALISMS AT GREEK ORTHODOX CHAPEL OF ST SION

On the morning of Friday the 31st of May/13th of June 2014, the Dragoman's Office of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, notified by the Israeli Police, arrived at the chapel/catacomb of the

Holy Spirit on St Sion and witnessed the vandalisms caused again by extreme fanatic activists from the area around David's Tomb.

The aforementioned activists broke into the heavy iron gate of the chapel, after breaking the chain, and desecrated the chapel with garbage, spreading to the holy Altar in the Eastern niche.

This description of such unacceptable, violent anti-Christian actions may be verified through the photographs herein below.

The Patriarchate of Jerusalem, at all times advocating appeasement, conciliation and a peaceful inter-religious coexistence, protests over such acts and extends its thanks to the Israeli Police of the area of David's Gate for their support.

From the Secretariat-General

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CHAPEL OF PENTECOST ON HOLY SION VIOLATED AND DESECRATED

On the evening of the Sunday of Pentecost, the 26^{th} of May/ 8^{th} of June 2014, and on the evening of the Monday of the Holy Spirit, the 27^{th} of May/ 9^{th} of June 2014, extreme Israeli activists from the area of David's Tomb violated the chapel-catacomb of the Pentecost, which belongs to the Patriarchate, cutting through the railings and throwing in garbage, while also digging in the area around it.

The Patriarchate, at all times advocating appeasement, conciliation and a peaceful inter-religious coexistence, protests over the aforementioned acts and extends its thanks to the Israeli Police of the area of David's Gate for their support.

From the Secretariat-General

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PROGRAM OF THE SERVICES OF HOLY WEEK 2014 IN THE MOST VENERABLE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

FROM MARCH 30/ APRIL 12 UNTIL APRIL 7/ APRIL 20 2014

Palm Saturday:

Vespers: 3 p.m.

Palm Sunday:

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom: 8 a.m.

Service of the Bridegroom: 6:15 p.m.

Holy Monday:

Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (Golgotha): 9 a.m.

Service of the Bridegroom: 6:15 p.m.

Holy Tuesday:

Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (Golgotha): 9 a.m. Service of the Bridegroom: 6:15 p.m.

Holy Wednesday:

Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (Golgotha): 9 a.m.

Holy Thursday:

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great in the Cathedral Church of St. Iakovos: 6:30 a.m.

Service of the Niptiros (Washing of Feet): 9 a.m.

Holy Friday:

The Great Hours (Golgotha): 10 a.m.

Vespers: **3** p.m.

Service of the Epitaphios: 10 p.m.

Holy Saturday:

Service of the Holy Light: 1 p.m.

Service of the Resurrection: 1 (midnight)

Divine and Holy Pascha:

Service of the Second Day of the Resurrection: 1 p.m.

FROM THE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

PROGRAM OF HOLY SERVICES AND DIVINE LITURGIES IN THE CHURCH OF SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN FOR THE HOLY WEEK 2014

From March 31/April 13 until April 8/April 21 2014

Palm Sunday:

-Orthros and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom: 5:00 a.m.

-Vespers: 3:30 p.m.

-Service of the Bridegroom: 6:15 p.m.

<u>Great and Holy Monday:</u>

-Hours and Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts: **5:00 a.m.** -Great Compline: **3:30 p.m.** -Service of the Bridegroom: **6:15 p.m.**

<u>Great and Holy Tuesday:</u>

-Hours and Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts: **5:00 a.m.** -Great Compline: **3:30 p.m.**

-Service of the Bridegroom: 6:15 p.m.

<u>Great and Holy Wednesday:</u>

-Hours and Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts: **5:00 a.m.** -Small Compline and Holy Unction: **5:00 p.m.**

<u>Great and Holy Thursday:</u>

-Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great: 4:30 a.m.

-Service of the Passion: 6:15 p.m.

<u>Great and Holy Friday:</u>

-Service of the Great Hours: 9:00 a.m.

-Vesper: 3:00 p.m

-Service of the Epitaphios: 11:00 p.m.

<u>Great and Holy Saturday:</u>

-Hours and Divine Liturgy of Basil the Great: 8:00 a.m.

Divine and Holy Pascha:

-Orthros and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom: 1:10 a.m.

Second Day of Pascha:

-Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom: 7:00 a.m.

FROM THE CHURCH OF SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN

THE STATEMENT OF THE PILGRIMAGE COMMITTEE ON THE CEREMONY OF THE HOLY LIGHT IN 2014

On Tuesday, the 5th/18th of March 2014, the Pilgrimage Committee of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, consisting of the Chief Dragoman, the Most Reverend Christodoulos, Metropolitan of Eleftheroupolis; the Elder Secretary-General, His Eminence Aristarchos, Archbishop of Constantina; the Secretary of the Holy and Sacred Synod, His Eminence Demetrios, Archbishop of Lydda; and the Assistant Dragoman, Archimandrite Athanasios, were received by Chief Superintendent Mr Avi Bitton at the Jaffa Gate Police Department, to whom they delivered the statement they had submitted to the Holy and Sacred Synod as regards the measures taken by the Israeli Police during the ceremony of the Holy Light on the Great Saturday of the year 2013.

The statement submitted to the Police may be reached here in English: https://en.jerusalem-patriarchate.info/2014/04/05/5387

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