

PRIESTS FROM THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN JERUSALEM VISIT THE PATRIARCHATE

On Thursday, the 5th/8th of February 2016, a group of twenty priests from the Anglican Church in Jerusalem, headed by the Anglican Archbishop, the Most Reverend Souheil Dawani, and Dean Husam, visited the Patriarchate.

The Anglican Archbishop and his entourage were received by His Beatitude Theophilos, Patriarch of Jerusalem, in the presence of Hagiotaphite Fathers.

The Patriarch welcomed the priests and addressed them in English (to be uploaded soon).

At the meeting, His Beatitude referred to the testament of Christians from the dawn of time to this day in the Holy Land, the birthplace of Christianity. He went on to talk about how the Holy Shrines protect their life and identity, as well as about the role of Hellenism and of the Patriarch as Father and Ethnarch since the year 638 AD, when Patriarch Sophronius of Jerusalem signed a Covenant with Umar Khattab.

After the exchange of gifts, the Anglican Archbishop and priests proceeded to the Church of the Resurrection in order to make supplication at the Monastery of Abraham.

From the Secretariat-General

<httpv://youtu.be/2gWNSKBz9yA>



THE MINISTER OF TOURISM OF THE REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA VISITS THE PATRIARCHATE

On Thursday, the 29th of January/11th of February 2016, the Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Srpska, Mr Zlatan Klokic, accompanied by Mr Ariel Livni, Advisor to the President of the Republic, and associates of his, visited the Patriarchate.

The Minister and his entourage were received by H.B. Theophilos, Patriarch of Jerusalem, and Hagiotaphite Fathers.

In the context of the meeting, the Patriarch spoke of the need for unity amongst the Orthodox states within the body of the Church, which respects and preserves their cultural and national heritages.

On behalf of the Minister, Mr Livni thanked Patriarch Theophilos for his benevolence towards the Republic of Srpska and other Orthodox countries, whilst His Beatitude encouraged Mr Klokic to promote pilgrimages from his country to the Holy Land in support of both pilgrims and permanent residents.

Having asked for the Patriarch's blessing, the Minister and his entourage went on to venerate at the Holy Sepulchre.

From the Secretariat-General

<httpv://youtu.be/5X5I7ijZu0k>



THE HEGOUMEN AND PRIESTS OF ACCRA-PTOLEMAIS VISIT THE PATRIARCHATE

On Monday the 26th of January/8th of February 2016, the hegoumen of Accra-Ptolemais, Archimandrite Philotheos, and priests from this area of 12 parishes, visited the Patriarchate on the occasion of the elapsed feast of the Nativity.

The priests were welcomed by Patriarch Theophilos in the presence of Hagiotaphite Fathers.

At the meeting, guests expressed their respect, love and appreciation for the Patriarch's pastoral care of the flock, manifested in the form of restorations of Churches, Catechizing Schools and parishes e.g. Abu Snan, Jdeideh, Eilabun etc. They went on to submit their requests, for instance the need for collaboration between Community Councils and priests, and the need to have their monthly financial aid and the monthly pension of the widows of presbyters increased for a more dignified living.

His Beatitude responded that He appreciates the fact that priests and the flock recognize the work performed by the Patriarchate and assured guests He would make every effort to satisfy their requests.

Having received the Patriarch's blessing, Archimandrite Philotheos and priests went on to venerate at the Holy Sepulchre.

From the Secretariat-General

<httpv://youtu.be/aA7jcknfiUE>



THE “MYROPHORAE” ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN FROM NORTHERN ISRAEL VISITS THE PATRIARCHATE

On Saturday, the 24th of January/6th of February 2016, the Association of pious women entitled “Myrophorae of Christ”, from Northern Israel, visited the Patriarchate accompanied by the Greek Orthodox doctor Halil Andraus, in order to receive the Patriarch’s good wishes and blessings.

The Association was founded in order to bring together Christian women from the Greek Orthodox Communities of Northern Israel, with the aim of dealing with matters of a Christian interest.

The pious ladies offered the Patriarch an honorary plaque and homemade cakes, whilst His Beatitude reciprocated with Jerusalemite eulogias.

From the Secretariat-General

<httpv://youtu.be/Ipr30TlFFh8>



THE METROPOLITAN OF KITROUS

AND KATERINI VISITS THE PATRIARCHATE

On Saturday, the 24th of January/6th of February 2016, the Most Reverend Georgios, Metropolitan of Kitrous and Katerini, visited the Patriarchate. He was accompanied by priests and 20 pilgrims from his Bishopric.

The guests were warmly welcomed by Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem.

At the meeting, the Most Reverend Georgios expressed joy over visiting the Holy Land once more, adding that what pertains to the Holy Land is precious to him and his flock. He went on to refer to the successful organization of Christian camps undertaken by his Bishopric in collaboration with the Patriarchate for youth from the Holy Land, and gave assurances that such camps will be organized again, not only during the summer months, but throughout the year, as Christian youth across the world are brothers in Christ and should remain united.

His Beatitude agreed with Metropolitan Georgios and went on to congratulate him on his humanitarian work, and on his love for the Holy Shrines. The Patriarch also referred to the conservation needs of these Shrines and specifically to the most recent example of the Holy Sepulchre.

After the exchange of gifts, Metropolitan Georgios asked for the Patriarch's blessing in order to officiate at the Holy Sepulchre, and left to carry on his pilgrimage.

From the Secretariat-General

<http://youtu.be/d0dV9zbV01U>



THE PATRIARCHATE VISITS THE ARMENIANS ON THE OCCASION OF THE ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS DAY

On Wednesday, the 7th/20th 2016, the Patriarchate of Jerusalem visited the Armenian Patriarchate on the occasion of the Armenian Christmas Day, namely the 6th of January.

During the visit of the Hagiotaphites to the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem, His Beatitude Theophilos addressed the Armenian Patriarch in English, see link: <https://en.jerusalem-patriarchate.info/2016/01/20/20242>

In his reply speech, the Armenian Patriarch underlined the importance of exchanging festive visits towards the creation of a climate of dialogue, peace and cooperation.

From the Secretariat-General

<httpv://youtu.be/pz6Iq5UqWcI>



CUTTING ST BASIL'S PIE AT THE PATRIARCHAL SCHOOL

On the evening of Friday, the 2nd/15th of January 2016, a humble

St Basil's pie-cutting ceremony took place at the Patriarchal Hieratical School of St Zion, led by Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem.

His Beatitude was accompanied by the President of the School Board, the Elder Sacristan, Archbishop Isidoros of Hierapolis; the Patriarchal Commissioner, Metropolitan Isychios of Kapitolias; the Elder Secretary-General, Archbishop Aristarchos of Constantina; Metropolitan Joachim of Zambia, the Protosyncelus of the Holy Bishopric of Xanthi, f. Antonios; the Greek Consul-General to Jerusalem, Mr Georgios Zacharoudiakis; the Architect of the Church of the Resurrection, Mr Theodosios Mitropoulos, and Hagiotaphite Fathers.

The Patriarch was welcomed by the acting Principal, Mr Souliotis. As students sang, His Beatitude went on to cut and distribute the pie, extending wishes for a prosperous and happy New Year. During the distribution of the pie, students sang the Hagiotaphite Carols for Nativity and the New Year as well as the Patriarch's *Polychronion*.

Patriarch Theophilos wished that the New Year be spiritually fruitful for students, whereas the Consul-General underlined the significance of their attending this School which nurtures the Hagiotaphite Brotherhood.

On the conclusion of the ceremony, His Beatitude went on to inspect renovation works carried out on the ground floor with the purpose of creating a Study Room. He went on to tour the School's outdoor area, wherein stands the Pentecost chapel and the sports field, before giving instructions on the proper execution of works in collaboration with the Mayor of Jerusalem towards preserving the property of the Patriarchate and protecting the School.

From the Secretariat-General

<httpv://youtu.be/Vio9xxWl3nE>



CHILDREN'S CHOIR FROM ABELIN VISITS THE PATRIARCHATE

On Tuesday, the 30th of December 2015/12th of January 2016, a 25-member group of a Catechizing Primary School from the Rum Orthodox Community of Abelin, visited the Patriarchate. They were accompanied by their priest, f. Savvas.

They were warmly received by His Beatitude Theophilos in the presence of Hagiotaphite Fathers.

The children, primary school students, performed Christmas hymns in Arabic, in the Byzantine style, under the direction of f. Savvas.

His Beatitude congratulated the children for their progress in music and offered them presents and Jerusalemite eulogias.

From the Secretariat-General

<httpv://youtu.be/5t6MNM4C2EE>



THE ARMENIANS VISIT THE

PATRIARCHATE ON THE OCCASION OF CHRISTMAS

At 11:00 am of Saturday the 27th of December 2015/9th of January 2016, the Armenian Church in Jerusalem visited the Patriarchate on the occasion of Christmas according to the Julian calendar.

The Armenian clerics, headed by Archbishop Aris Shirvanian, were welcomed by His Beatitude Theophilos, Patriarch of Jerusalem, in the presence of Hagiotaphite Fathers.

In the context of the visit, His Eminence Aris addressed the Patriarch saying that the light of the Nativity of Jesus Christ upon the world has illuminated the nations that went on to receive it and formulate the Church. However, to this day there are nations that do not accept the truth of Christ, hence why collaboration must be sought towards addressing such issues.

His Beatitude made a reply speech in English, see link:

<https://en.jerusalem-patriarchate.info/2016/01/09/19736>

From the Secretariat-General

<httpv://youtu.be/4tvwZSASg0I>



VISIT OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS TO THE PATRIARCHATE

A. Visit of the Franciscan Custody

At 9.15 a.m. of Saturday the 27th of December 2015/9th of January 2016, the Franciscan Custody visited the Patriarchate of Jerusalem on the occasion of Christmas.

The Franciscans were welcomed by H.B. Theophilos, Patriarch of Jerusalem, in the presence of Hagiotaphite Fathers.

The Custodian of the Holy Land, f. Pierre Batista Pizzaballa, went on to address the Patriarch, saying we praise God for this year's celebrations amidst problems and persecutions of Christians in the Holy Land and across the world. However, we do live in hope, as the Lord entered our life and our history in this very region and we have been given the privilege to live here and give testament to the world. His Beatitude replied to these words in English, see link:

<https://en.jerusalem-patriarchate.info/2016/01/09/19740>

B. All Christian Communities visit the Patriarchate on the occasion of Christmas

At 10.00 a.m. of the same day, most of the Christian Communities in Jerusalem (with the exception of the Franciscans and the Armenians, who had called on the Patriarch at a different time), namely the Latin Patriarch in Jerusalem, the Syrians, the Copts, the Ethiopians, the Lutherans and the Anglicans visited the Patriarchate on the occasion of Christmas.

The Heads and members of the Communities were welcomed by His Beatitude Theophilos, Patriarch of Jerusalem, in the presence of Hagiotaphite Fathers.

In the context of this meeting, the Heads of Churches wished the Patriarch and the Brotherhood He heads a blessed New Year by the grace of the Lord Incarnate. They also extended wishes for collaboration for the sake of Christian flocks in Jerusalem, hoping for peace and safety in the city.

The Patriarch made a reply speech in English, see link:

<https://en.jerusalem-patriarchate.info/2016/01/09/19738>.

From the Secretariat-General

<httpv://youtu.be/GPBIwa1TsLQ>

