

HIS BEATITUDE IN ATHENS

On 29th January 2008, His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, accompanied by His Grace Gabriel, Patriarchal Vicar of Alexandria, went to Athens in order to attend the funeral service of the late Archbishop Christodoulos of Athens and All Greece.

Ass soon as His Beatitude arrived at the Cathedral in Athens, he conducted the funeral trisagion prayers for the late Primate of the Church of Greece of Blessed Memory, after which, having been asked by the journalists, he mentioned the personal ties of friendship and respect between himself and the late Archbishop, as well as his general support of the missionary work of the Patriarchate of Alexandria. He ended by saying that during his upcoming journey to Madagascar in February of this year, he would give the name "Christodoulos" to a newly baptized child of Africa , in memory of the late Archbishop.

His Beatitude then met with Mr Takis Arapoglou, Director of the National Bank of Greece , with whom he discussed issues regarding the rites of the completed works of the Patriarchal Library for 10th May 2008, and the inauguration, of the works completed through the sponsorship of the above-named bank. During this meeting, the Director who was born in Alexandria, offered to undertake the costs of restoring the Holy Patriarchal Church of St Nicholas in Ibrahimia.

On 30th January, Feast Day of the Three Hierarchs, His Beatitude officiated at the Divine Liturgy at the Holy Patriarchal dependency of St Athanasios in Athens, and preached the homily to 1150 pupils from three schools in the capital, making mention of the suffering children of the African Continent and the significance of missionary work for them.

He then held talks with the Civil Engineer Mr Katsonas, regarding the technical works in the area surrounding the dependency.

He also received in the Offices of the Alexandrian Church in Athens His Eminence Proterios of Ptolemais and His Eminence Philemon of Kavason, and Mr Aristotle Pavlides, former Minister, Parliamentarian and Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission on Orthodoxy.

On the same evening, His Beatitude, accompanied by His Eminence Petros of Aksum, his representative in Athens, and His Grace Gabriel Bishop of Mareotis, dined at the the Grande Bretagne, with His All Holiness Vartholomaios, Ecumenical Patriarch, who arrived in the Greek capital, together with other Autocephalous Primate of Orthodox Churches to attend the funeral service of the late Archbishop of Athens and All Greece Christodoulos, . His Beatitude discussed issues of Orthodoxy with His All Holiness. He also met with the other Primate as well as with Archbishop Chrysostomos of Cyprus and especially held talks with him regarding the missionary work of the Patriarchal Throne in Africa .

On 31st January His Beatitude Theodoros II, accompanied by His Eminence Petros of Aksum and His Grace Gabriel of Mareotis, attended the funeral service and the burial of the body of the late Archbishop Christodoulos of Athens and All Greece.

That night His Beatitude met with Mr Seraphim Tsoka, General Secretary of the District of Crete, at the Athens Airport . He then departed for the Great City of Alexandria, having been seen off by His Eminence Petros of Aksum.