

PATRIARCH THEODOROS: "MY HEART BEATS IN ODESSA"

On Sunday 3rd December 2017, His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa visited the Dependency of the Patriarchate of Alexandria in Moscow, where he attended the Church service at the Holy Church of All Saints.

His Beatitude the Patriarch was warmly welcomed by the Exarch of the Patriarchate in Moscow, His Eminence Athanasios of Cyrene.

The Divine Liturgy was conducted by His Eminence Seraphim, Metropolitan of Zimbabwe, together with clergy from Moscow. The Alexandrian Primate and the Metropolitans Athanasios of Cyrene and Meletios of Carthage were prayerfully present in the Holy Sanctuary.

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, the Patriarch said, amongst other things: *"Here in our Dependency, the heart of the Patriarchate beats in Moscow, while my heart beats in our Dependency in Odessa, where I served for 10 years... We came here to Moscow to celebrate a huge event, and I consider it a great blessing, that on the day that I was elected as Patriarch (9/10/2004), is the day of the feast of Patriarch St. Tykhon"*.

Addressing Metropolitan Athanasios of Cyrene, he called him, together with the Metropolitan of Zimbabwe, children of the "Virgin of Kykkos" and thanked him for his love, his nobility, as well as the important efforts he has made in the past 17 years in Moscow, as Exarch of the Patriarchate of Alexandria.