



Great Vesper Service for Saints Sergios and Bacchus



The Holy Metropolitan Church of Saints Raphael, Nicholas and Irene in Rondebosch, was filled to the brim on Sunday evening for the Vespers Service preceding the Feast Day of Saint Sergios, on Monday October 7, one of the greatest and most revered martyrs and also the Name day of our own Archbishop Sergios.

Father Zacharias is invested as Archimandrite

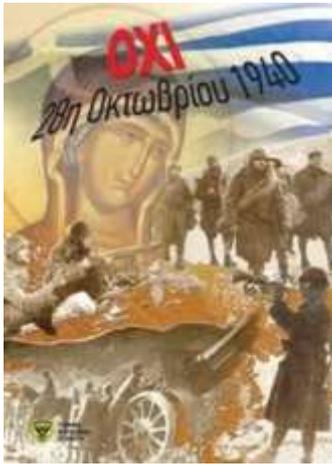


Russian Orthodox Archbishop Mark of Egorevsk visits the Archbishopric of Good Hope in Cape Town

Archbishop Mark (Golovkov) of Egorevsk, Deputy Chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department of External Church Relations, visited South Africa for the first time to interact with Russian-speaking Orthodox communities in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

During his short and very busy stay in Cape Town, His Grace Archbishop Mark, accompanied by Fr. Daniel Logovoy, who is the priest of the Russian-speaking parish at the Church of St. Sergius of Radonezh, in the Orthodox Archdiocese of Gauteng.





Why We Celebrate OHI (OXI) Day in Greek Orthodoxy: The Virgin Mary and World War 2
On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos or Agia Skepi (October 28) we implore the defense and assistance of the Queen of Heaven, "*Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we not perish by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you.*"

Though celebrated outside of Greece on October 1, the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos was transferred to October 28th after World War 2 with the annual commemoration of Ohi Day. This was done to commemorate the great help and protection of the Theotokos to the Greek nation throughout its history, and especially during World War II during which many miracles are reported

It was precisely on August 15, 1940, off the eastern coast of Greece near the Aegean island of Tinos, an island especially dedicated to the Holy Virgin more than any other, that a great tragedy struck. As thousands upon thousands of pilgrims were celebrating the joyous Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, the crew of a Greek light cruiser called *Elli* was also participating in the festivities off shore. Suddenly the ship was torpedoed and sunk by an Italian submarine. The wharf of Tinos was also torpedoed amongst the festivities. This initiated the beginning of Greece's involvement in World War II.

Greece officially entered the war on October 28, 1940. This is celebrated annually as Ohi Day (No Day) commemorating dictator Ioannis Metaxas' (1936-1941) refusal of the Italian ultimatum. The ultimatum demanded of Greece to allow Axis forces to enter Greek territory and occupy certain unspecified "strategic locations" or otherwise face war. Most scholars today say the actual reply was not "οχι" or "no", but the French "Alors, c'est la guerre" ("Then it is war"). Upon his declaration it is reported that thousands of Greeks stormed the streets and began shouting "Ohi" to the Italian ultimatum. On April 6, 1941, Hitler attacked Greece for the first time and united his German forces with those of the Italians.

The relationship between the Theotokos and the modern Greek nation stems back to the Roman Empire, but was revived in modern times during the Greek Revolution of 1821. For this reason, in Athens on the 25th of March in 1838, when the first official celebration of the Greek Revolution took place, by a decree of King Otto it was determined that the 25th of March would be celebrated as the day of National Regeneration, although the Revolution had started a few days earlier. In fact, the choice of this particular date shows the importance and the major role that Christianity played in the lives of Greek people, as the "time" that the Greek Revolution broke out was also considered the "time" for religious elation. As the poem by Popi Matsouka – Zachari from Arta titled "The Message of 25th March" indicates:

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Namibia

On 27 October His Eminence Archbishop Sergios officiated at the Service of the Holy Eucharist which also included the Greek National Day Celebration and the Feast of the Protection of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

It was also the third Memorial Service for the late Yianni , son of Mr and Mrs Savvas



**Saint Georges Cathedral
- Cape Town**

His Grace Bishop Gennadios, of Botswana, officiated at the Service of the Holy Eucharist together with Pater Nikolaos and Deacon Fr. Michael



**Church of the Dormition of the
Mother of God - Port Elizabeth**



Church of Saint George - East London



Chapel of Saint Luke - Onrus

St Luke's at Onrus River is one of the few small and private churches in South Africa. The little Eastern Orthodox styled chapel, near Hermanus in the Cape, is certainly one of the most interesting. This minuscule place of worship stands close to the sea and is the characteristic of the white Eastern Orthodox chapels with its barrel-vaulted roof.

On Saturday 2 November, the Very Reverend Father Nikolaos officiated at the Service of the Holy Eucharist at the Chapel of Saint Luke in Onrus in the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Sergios and His Grace Bishop Gennadios from Botswana. The president of the Hellenic community in Cape Town, Mr Nassos Martalas together with other committee members and parishioners from the Cathedral of Saint George also travelled to Onrus to attend the service.

After the service, everyone enjoyed a lunch together, before travelling back to Cape Town.





On Saturday evening 9 November His Eminence Archbishop Sergios officiated at the Vespers service at the Church of The Holy Archangels (in George) which included the Artoclasia for the Holy Archangels. And at the Service of the Holy Eucharist on Sunday 10 November, in the presence of Mr Thomas Matsoukas, the Greek Consulate in Cape Town, Mr Evstratios Kritzas president of the Hellenic Community in George, and Mr Andreas Coulbanis, president of the Hellenic Students Association at UCT



The Greek deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Kyriakos Gerontopoulos, visited the Archbishopric of Good Hope this morning 16 November where he met with His Eminence Archbishop Sergios

Holy Synod meeting - Patriarchate of Alexandria and all Africa



The principle of summoning a synod or council of ecclesiastical persons to discuss some grave question affecting the Church goes back, of course, to the very beginning of her history. Since the day when the Apostles met at Jerusalem to settle whether Gentile converts were to keep the Old Law (Acts 15:6-29), it had been the custom to call together such gatherings as occasion required. Bishops summoned synods of their clergy, metropolitans and patriarchs summoned their suffragans, and then since 325 there was a succession of those greatest synods, representing the whole Catholic world, that are known as general councils

On 23 November 2013, the Holy Synod gathered for the appointed Meeting of the Holy Synod of the Patriarchate of Alexandria, under the Presidency of His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa in the Conference Hall of the Holy Synod

Memorial Services held for the late Nelson Mandela

Cathedral of St George - Cape Town



Church of the Dormition of the Mother of God - Port Elizabeth



Church of St. George - East London



Children say a special prayer for Madiba after the Memorial Service which happened to coincide with their Christmas celebration

On Sunday 8 December, the Hellenic Community of Cape Town attended a special memorial service held for the late Nelson Mandela at the Orthodox Cathedral of Saint George in the presence of the consul of Greece in Cape Town, Mr Thomas Matsoukas, the honorary consul of Cyprus, Mr. Demetri Costantinides and the president of the Hellenic Community of Cape Town, Mr. Nassos Martalas.

In his address after the service, His Eminence reminded us of the role that the late Nelson Mandela played not only for South Africans but for all of human kind. He said that despite the difficulties that he had to face in prison, he remained loyal to what was right. He came out of prison (after many years) without any bitterness or anger and with profound humility. His Eminence said his prayer is that the world will produce a few more leaders like the late Nelson Mandela. Nelson Mandela as there is much need of unselfish peace leaders like him throughout the world.

He said that Nelson Mandela was a Philhellene and when he visited Greece for the first time, he commented from the steps of the Parthenon, that he was proud to be in that country "the mother of democracy", and, a country that historically had overcome centuries of oppression.

His Eminence stressed that we all have an obligation to honour those who serve humanity with self-sacrifice, not only for their own people but also for others throughout the world. Nelson Mandela was faithful to the principles and ideals for human rights. People and democracy were the sole purpose of his life. On his passing we pray that his vision becomes realised not only in our own country, but also on the entire continent of Africa and every country in the world. May his memory be eternal!

His Eminence Archbishop Sergios addresses students at the NAHYSOSA Congress 2013 in Durban



Among the activities organised for the annual congress of the National Association of Hellenic Youth and Student Organisation of South Africa, NAHYSOSA, was a forum on religion. This was attended by His Eminence Archbishop Sergios and Protopresbyter Fr. Constantinos Kosmidis.

Community celebrations for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ



Cape Town



Port Elizabeth



George