

## **St Mary Magdalene's relics arrive in Paris: You called her in the struggle for salvation, Bp Galaction says**



Friday evening, a delegation from the Diocese of Alexandria and Teleorman arrived in Paris, bearing the sacred relics of Saint Mary Magdalene. The reliquary remained at the Three Holy Hierarchs church in La Courneuve, north of the French capital, until Sunday.

The relics were welcomed by His Grace Nectarie of Brittany, Assistant Bishop to the Archdiocese of Western Europe, the parish priest Mircea Filip, other clerics and numerous believers from the Parisian region.

Upon receiving the honourable relics, assistant bishop Nectarie of Brittany bestowed upon Bishop Galaction of Alexandria and Teleorman the highest distinction of the metropolis, the Order of Metropolitan Visarion Puiu.

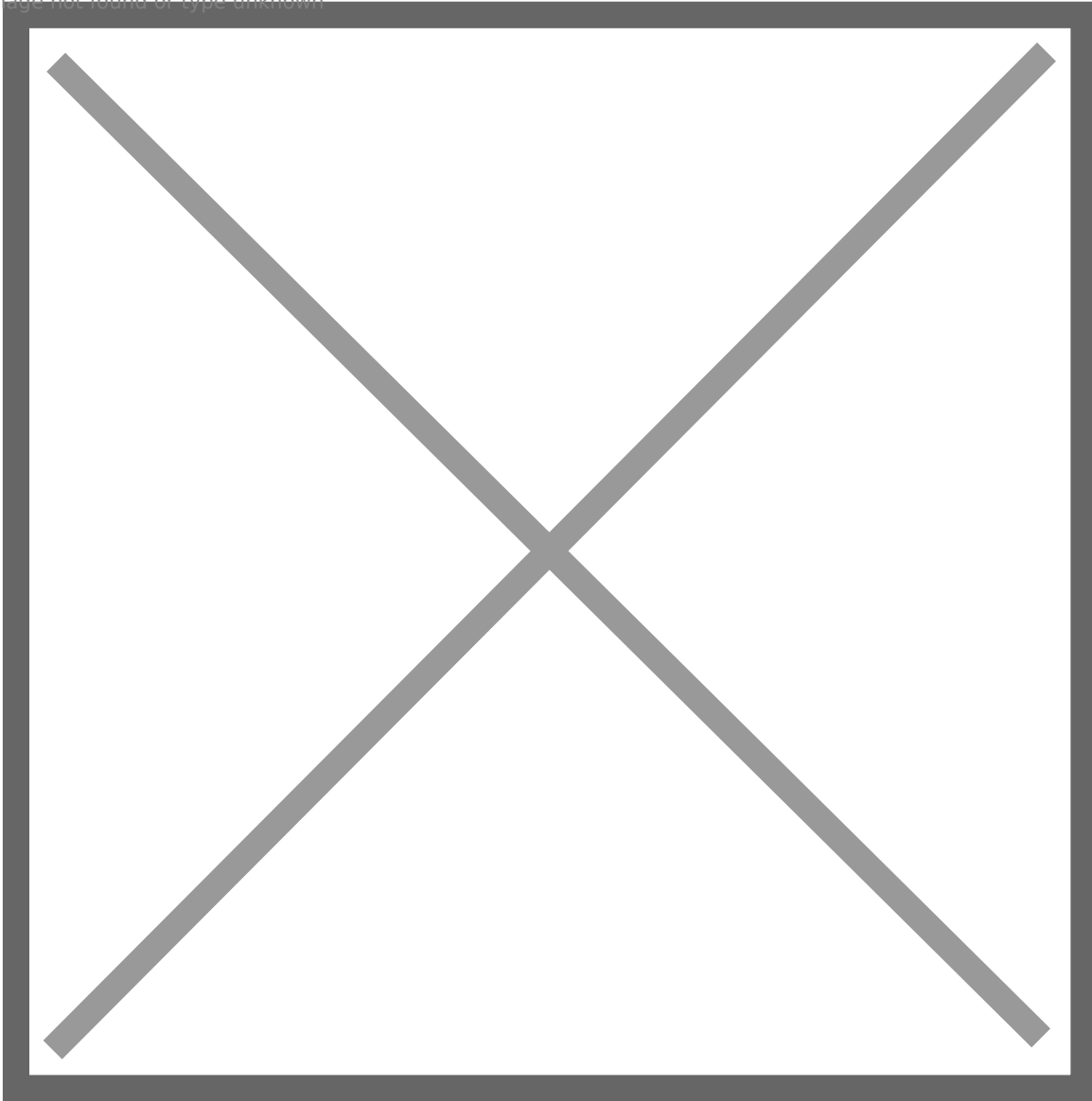
Next, the two hierarchs officiated the Matins with the Akathist of the Annunciation.

Finally, the Bishop of Alexandria spoke about the Theotokos' miracles and her quality as an intercessor for Christians. The hierarch also emphasised the blessing Saint Mary Magdalene brings through the presence of her holy relics.

"Here we have now on this blessed evening of the Matins with the Akathist of the Mother of God the presence of the holy Myrrhbearer Mary Magdalene through her holy relics, whom you called to be in your midst to strengthen you in the struggle for salvation and the saint answered your wish," Bishop Galaction said.

Saint Mary Magdalene was from Magdala, located on the borders of Galilee and Syria. Seven unclean spirits possessed her, so she led a life of heavy passions. Hearing, however, about Christ and the power of His preaching that brings salvation to the whole human race, the hope was born in her soul that Jesus would save her. Read more about the saint's life in the Orthodox Calendar section on July 22.

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*Assistant Bishop Nectarie of Brittany (left) bestows the highest distinction of the Metropolis on Bishop Galaction of Alexandria and Teleorman*

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