

## **Metropolitan of Italy at the feast day of the Orthodox parish of St. James in Florence**



On Sunday, 20 October 2024, the Greek Orthodox parish of St. James in Florence held a joyous celebration in honour of the Holy Apostle James, the First Bishop of Jerusalem. The day was made even more special by the presence of His Eminence Metropolitan Polycarp of Italy and Exarch of Southern Europe, who presided over the festivities.

The celebrations began with the service of Matins, followed by the traditional Artoklasia (Blessing of the five loaves) and the Divine Liturgy. The faithful filled the church, participating reverently in the liturgical services led by Archimandrite Fr. Nicholas and Deacon Fr. Andreas.

During the Divine Liturgy, Metropolitan Polycarp delivered a heartfelt message of hope and love, urging the congregation to open their hearts to Christ and embrace His teachings in their daily lives.

After the service, the parish hosted a luncheon, providing an opportunity for the community to come together in fellowship. Parishioners shared experiences, discussed their ongoing activities, and presented future projects, fostering a spirit of collaboration and unity.

Metropolitan Polycarp also took the time to personally meet with members of the community, engaging with the youth, children, and elderly alike, making each

individual feel valued and welcomed. His pastoral visit created an atmosphere of joy and gratitude, leaving a lasting impact on the parish community.

Source: Metropolis of Italy











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