

Clergy Wives Retreat 2024: A Gathering of Fellowship and Renewal



From 10th to 12th November 2024, Highgate House in Northampton welcomed a number of Presvyteres and Diakonisses from across the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain for the first Clergy Wives Retreat. His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain led this enriching gathering alongside His Grace Bishop Raphael of Ilion and Archdeacon George Tsourous in an atmosphere of warmth, faith, and unity for all who attended.

The retreat featured a thoughtfully-structured programme, offering clergy wives an opportunity for prayer, reflection, and meaningful connection. On the first evening, after a welcome dinner, participants gathered for an introduction from His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas, who opened the floor to questions in a relaxed Q&A, followed by Compline and evening fellowship.

Each session was led by speakers who brought insights and encouragement for clergy wives in their unique roles. Fr Stavros Kofinas and Presbyteria Georgia joined via Zoom from Greece, contributing their valuable insights on the role of

Presbytera, resilience and family life within the Orthodox tradition. Their presence, even from a distance, was a cherished highlight and brought an perspective that resonated deeply with all present. His Grace Bishop Raphael offered guidance and reflections on the mystery of the Holy Confession in his dedicated session and later held confessions for those who wished, providing support and counsel.

Sister Theodora and Sister Kassiani, visiting from the Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monastery of St John the Forerunner in Essex, were also present. Sister Theodora delivered an impactful session titled “The Work of God and the Sacrifice of Love.” Adding a fresh perspective, Intern John Shinkwin from the Archdiocese led a Bible study titled “Three Encounters of Jesus Christ with Women Disciples” and presented on the various Ministries of the Archdiocese, sparking meaningful discussions among participants.

The programme’s rhythm—from prayers in the morning and evening to sessions of shared learning and social time—created a sense of togetherness and renewal. Generously supported by the Archdiocese, which covered all costs for accommodation and meals, the retreat became a true gift to those in attendance. Attendees cherished the time spent together, reflecting on shared experiences and fostering bonds of encouragement and understanding. By the final gathering, many expressed their reluctance to part, enriched by the experience and strengthened in their ministry.





















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