31/12/2024

Archdiocesan Christmas Open House: A festal gathering of joy and unity



On Sunday, 22 December 2024, the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain joyfully welcomed clergy, parish leaders, faithful, and friends to its Christmas Open House at 5 Craven Hill in London. The event, held from 2pm to 7pm, was a true celebration of community and festivity anticipating the feast of the Nativity of Christ.

Attendees from across the Archdiocese gathered to share in the festivities, with many traveling from as far afield as Birmingham, Leicester, Southend-on-Sea, and Eastbourne. Closer to home, families from the Cathedral of the Divine Wisdom (Agia Sophia) joined with their children, singing carols for His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas, who warmly welcomed every visitor.
The atmosphere was nothing short of splendid. Father Emilian Bratu, alongside the President and Trustees of St. Lazarus Parish in Forest Gate, delighted all present

with a choir performing Romanian carols for the Archbishop. The melodies, both heartfelt and vibrant, captivated the attendees, and His Eminence expressed his deep appreciation for their effort and artistry.

Adding to the musical offerings, Father Joseph Paliouras and the Byzantine Music School’s choir performed traditional carols accompanied by instruments, weaving the timeless beauty of Byzantine chant into the lively setting. The sounds of Christmas resonated joyfully throughout the halls, uniting everyone in a shared spirit of celebration.

Representatives from the COTY Youth Ministry also graced the event, greeting the Archbishop and sharing in the spirit of the gathering. The renovated Chapel of the Transfiguration of the Lord was a particular highlight for many, as guests marvelled at its restored beauty, which provided an opportunity for prayer and reflection amidst the day’s celebrations.

The reception featured an abundant array of delicious vegan dishes, ensuring that everyone could partake in the feast. Guests enjoyed not only the food but also the warmth of fellowship, with a vibrant and festive atmosphere evident throughout the afternoon.

The Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain wishes you a blessed and joyful Christmas, filled with love, peace, and the radiant hope of the Lord’s Nativity.















































































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