12/02/2025

Ordination of Deacon Gregory-Palamas Florides to the Holy Priesthood



On Saturday, 1st February 2025, during the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of the Dormition of the Theotokos in Wood Green, His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain ordained Deacon Gregory-Palamas Florides to the Holy Priesthood. The ordination took place amidst a congregation of clergy and faithful, marking a significant moment for the parishes in Wood Green and the Archdiocese as a whole.

His Grace Bishop Nikiphoros of Amorion, Abbot of the Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monastery of Vlatadon in Thessaloniki, together with Their Graces Bishops Maximos of Meletine, Raphael of Ilion, and Iakovos of Claudiopolis, concelebrated with His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas. Among those serving were the Very Reverend Archimandrite Nephon Tsimalis, Protosyncellus, the Very Reverend Archimandrite Palamas Tsilipakos from Mt Athos, the Very Reverend Archimandrite Mark Mitchell, the Reverend Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne Professor Athanasios Mellisaris, the Reverend Protopresbyter Panayiotis Dik,

and the Reverend Oeconomos Petros Georgiou. Assisting in the service were the Reverend Archdeacons Dr. George Tsourous and Andronikos Barylo, along with the Reverend Deacon Andreas Badila.

In his moving address before entering the Holy Altar, Fr. Gregory expressed his deep gratitude to His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas, whose guidance and fatherly love have profoundly shaped his ministry. Reflecting on his journey from the diaconate to the priesthood, he prayed that he might serve the Church with faithfulness and humility, following Christ's command: "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Matt 25:40). Inspired by the example of St. Gregory Palamas and his spiritual father, His Grace Bishop Raphael of Ilion, he pledged to preach and live the Gospel with sincerity, trust, and dedication.

Fr. Gregory also acknowledged the unwavering support of his family, particularly his mother, whose love has been a source of strength. He extended his heartfelt appreciation to his brother clergy, monastics, and the faithful who have embraced and encouraged him in his ministry. Recalling the wise counsel of His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas, he recognised the importance of both pastoral care and administration in the life of a clergyman. Now serving in the historic parishes of the Dormition of the Mother of God and St. Barnabas, he remains committed to serving the Church as a family in Christ, where the Risen Lord continues to heal, transform, and renew His people.

In his response, Archbishop Nikitas offered words of wisdom and pastoral counsel, urging Fr. Gregory to carry out his ministry with humility, faith, and unwavering dedication. He commended him for his obedience and for his growth in both confidence and faith during his time of service. Recognising his humility and commitment, His Eminence reminded him of the profound responsibility of the priesthood—not only to serve but to inspire and lead the faithful closer to Christ. He exhorted Fr. Gregory to ensure that the church remains as full as it was on the day of his ordination, a testament to the love and support of the community. Welcoming him into the ranks of the clergy of the Archdiocese, the Archbishop encouraged him to be an instrument of God's grace, serving with wisdom, compassion, and steadfast devotion.

Following the Divine Liturgy, the faithful, together with the Parish Council and clergy, offered their warm wishes to the newly ordained priest. A festive reception in the community hall concluded the day, celebrating this momentous occasion in the life of the Archdiocese.





































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