

The Archbishop of Albania at the Theological School of Halki



On Monday, 16 June 2025, the newly elected Archbishop Ioannis of Tirana, Durrës, and All Albania, paid an official visit to the Sacred Theological School of Halki, as part of his peaceful visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He was accompanied by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Apollonia and Fier, His Eminence Metropolitan Astios of Berat, Vlora, and Kanina, His Grace Bishop Anastasios of Kruja, as well as by clergy and lay collaborators.

During his passage to the island of Halki, the Archbishop was honourably escorted by His Eminence Metropolitan Athenagoras of Kydonia and the Codicographer of the Holy and Sacred Synod, Deacon Evlogios. Upon arrival at the school's forecourt, he was welcomed with due reverence by the Abbot, His Grace Bishop Kassianos of Aravissos, and the monastic brotherhood.

With the joyful pealing of bells, the Archbishop entered the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, where he venerated, and the Apolytikion of Pentecost was chanted, followed by the traditional proclamation of his ecclesiastical title in both Greek and

Albanian.

Thereafter, within the Great Synod Hall, the Abbot offered a formal address, referring to the enduring historical bonds between the Theological School and the Most Holy Church of Albania, noting that many Albanian hierarchs were formed within the hallowed halls of the School. He also spoke of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's fervent desire and continued efforts for the reopening of the School, in light of the dialogue conducted over the past year with the competent authorities.

In his response, the Archbishop of Albania conveyed his deep emotion and gratitude for the opportunity to visit the School, emphasised its significant contribution to Orthodox theological education, expressed his hope for its imminent reopening, and offered words of spiritual encouragement to those present.

Following the exchange of commemorative gifts, the Archbishop and his entourage were guided through the historic classrooms, the venerable Library, and other parts of the School. A festal meal was offered in his honour, after which the Abbot cordially saw him off.



















