

18/05/2026

## **The Ecumenical Patriarch with the Archbishop of Albania visit Cappadocia**



His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, together with his guest, His Beatitude Archbishop Ioannis of Albania, is undertaking a pilgrimage visit to Cappadocia from Saturday, 16 May, until the afternoon of Monday.

The two Primates, accompanied by their entourages, arrived at midday at the airport of Nevşehir in Cappadocia and subsequently paid courtesy visits to the Governor of Nevşehir, Mr Hüseyin Kök, and the Mayor of the city, Mr Rasim Ari. Through them, His All-Holiness expressed his gratitude to the local authorities for all the assistance they provided in connection with the organisation of the concelebration held today at the Church of Saint Theodore in Malakopi (Derinkuyu), as well as the Vespers service to be celebrated at the Church of the Theotokos in Nevşehir, and especially for the warm welcome extended to all the pilgrims who travelled from Constantinople, Greece, and elsewhere to participate in this pilgrimage.

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In the afternoon, the two Primates visited the village of Tzalela (Cemil), specifically the silent Church of the Holy Cross, in whose courtyard they chanted the hymn Phos Hilaron (O Gladsome Light). They then proceeded to nearby Sinasos (Mustafapaşa), where Archon of the Great Church of Christ Mr Gregorios Chatzieftheriadis hosted a dinner in their honour at his magnificent historic mansion.

It should also be noted that His Beatitude Archbishop Ioannis of Albania, accompanied by His Grace Bishop Ignatios of Amantia, Chief Secretary of the Holy Synod, and his Patriarchal Archdeacon Ioannis, arrived in Constantinople on Thursday evening. On Friday, he had an informal meeting with His All-Holiness, during which they had the opportunity to discuss current matters of common interest. Later that evening, they attended an official banquet hosted by the Community of Xyloporta on the occasion of the recent commemoration of the

1400th anniversary of the Akathist Hymn, which took place at the Holy Spring of the Theotokos of Blachernae.

Photographs: Nikos Papachristou

(Note: The photograph with the Governor was provided for publication by the Prefecture of Nevşehir.)

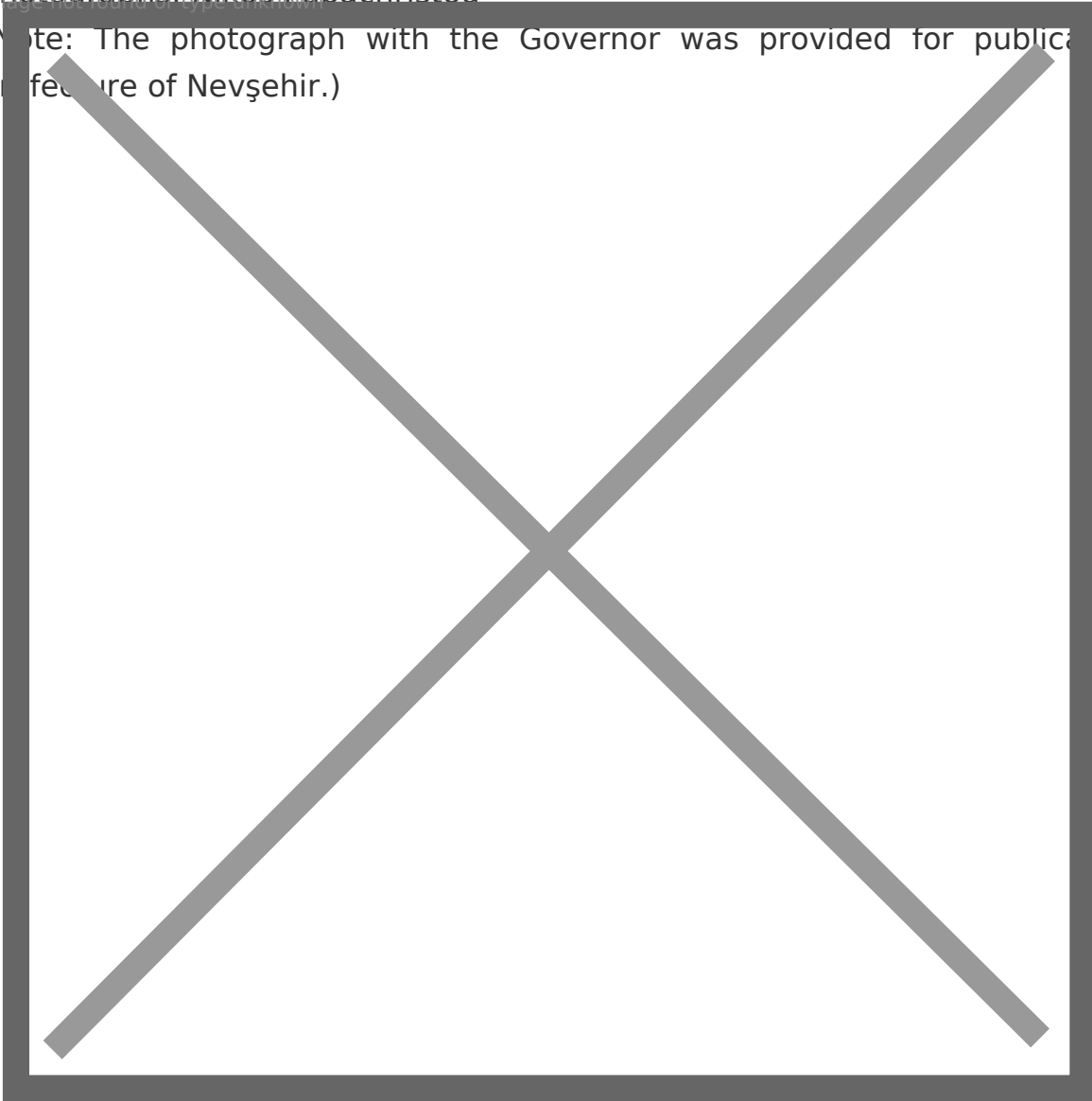
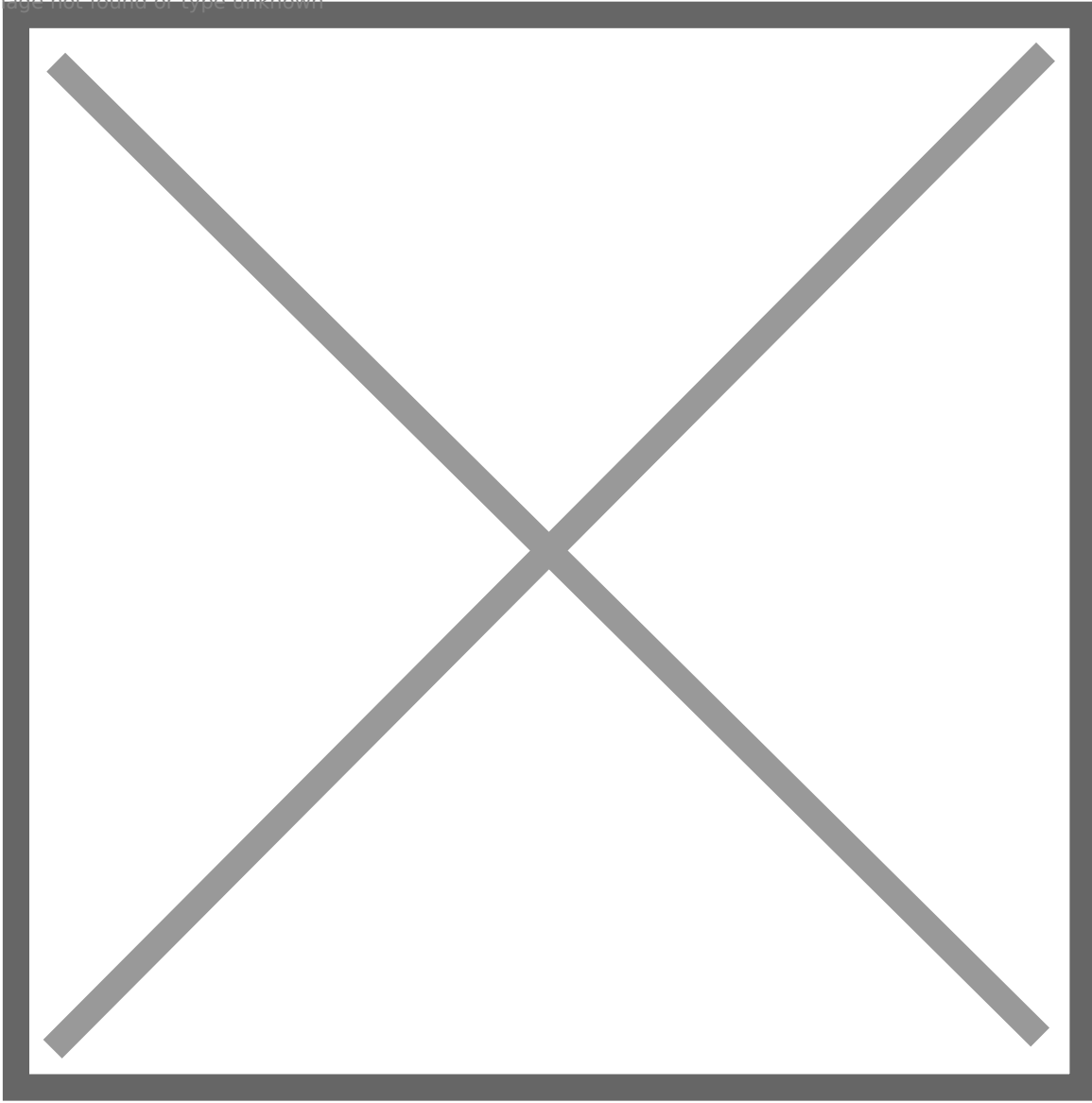




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