

The Precious Skull of the Holy Apostle Titus in Messara



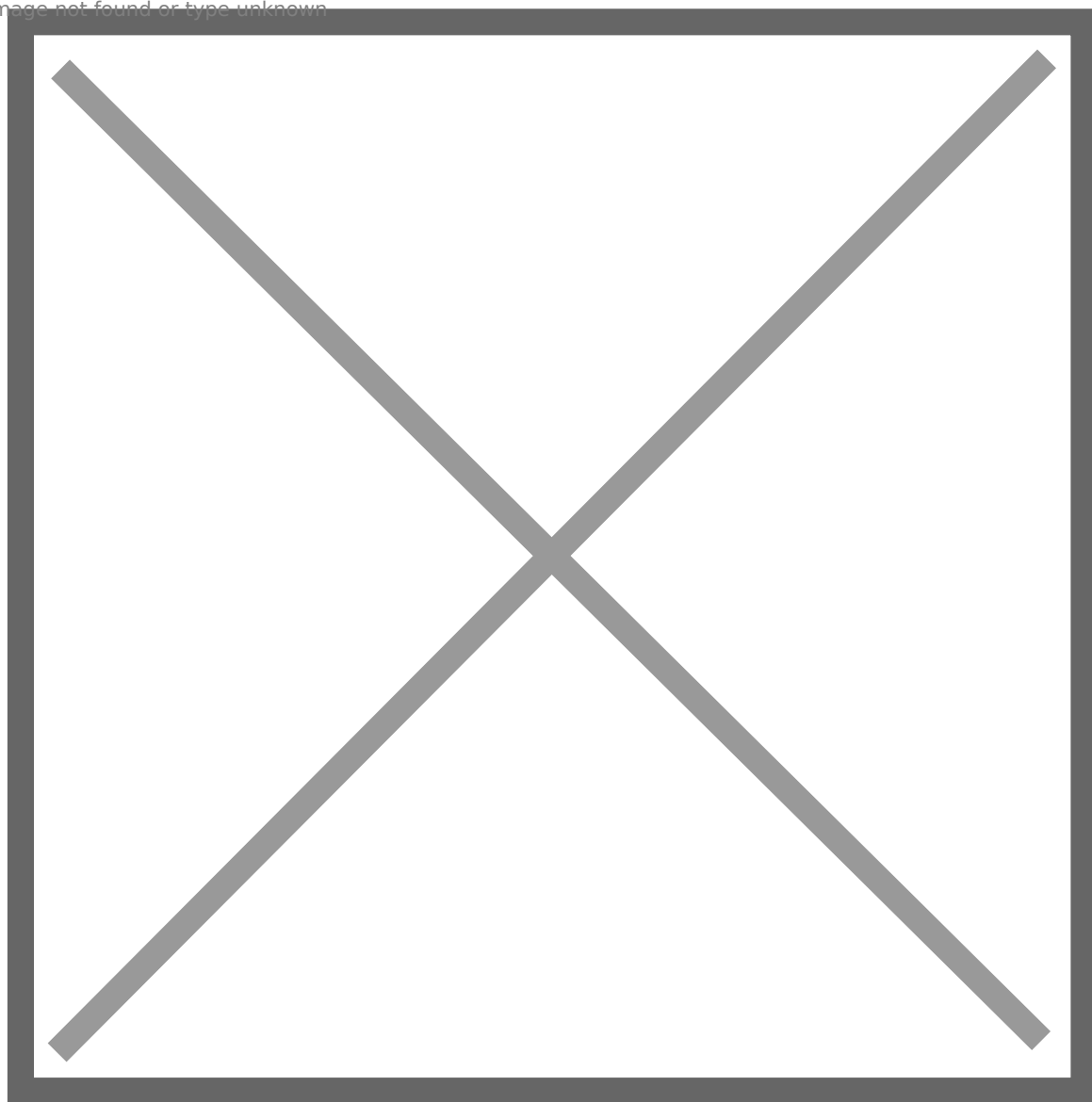
With profound reverence and the participation of numerous clergy and faithful, the Precious Skull of the Holy Apostle Titus was transferred to Messara on Saturday, 22 August, as part of the commemorations marking 60 years since its historic return from Venice to Crete.

The sacred procession from Heraklion was led by His Eminence Archbishop Evgenios of Crete. Its first stop was ancient Gortyna, where a supplicatory service was conducted in the renowned five-aisled basilica.

In his address, His Eminence referred to the strong spiritual bonds connecting Saint Titus with Gortyna and the whole of Crete. He emphasised that the stones of this historic place “were joined together with the tears of Saint Titus and his successors”, who knew “how to be crucified and resurrected, not for themselves, but for the Church”.

At the same time, he underscored the duty of all to preserve the region's precious apostolic legacy: "We now have a duty to hand down what we received—nothing less."

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The Precious Skull was subsequently transferred to the Church of Saint Titus in Tympaki, where it was received by His Eminence Metropolitan Makarios of Gortyna and Arkadia, at the head of the clergy and faithful of the region. Vespers and a Supplicatory Service followed, while a Sacred Vigil was celebrated later that evening.

The Precious Skull remained in the church on Sunday, 23 August, for the veneration and sanctification of the faithful. Its presence constituted a special blessing for preaching





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