

The Feast Day of the Church of Panagia Koumariotissa in Neochori on the Bosphorus



With modesty, ecclesiastical dignity and the traditional refinement of Constantinople, the scheduled sacred services were celebrated at the festal Church of Panagia Koumariotissa in Neochori on the Bosphorus. Clergy and faithful participated, with His Eminence Metropolitan Athenagoras of Kydonia, Patriarchal Supervisor of the Bosphorus District, presiding.

On the afternoon of 22 August, Great Saturday Vespers was celebrated together with the service for the Dormition of the Theotokos, presided over by His Eminence Metropolitan Athenagoras, who blessed the Artoklasia. His Eminence was assisted by Archimandrite Timotheos Tsismalidis, a clergyman of the Holy Metropolis of Florina, Prespes and Eordaia, who delivered the homily, and Protopresbyter Konstantinos Bartholomaïos, Parish Priest of the Neochori Community. The Patriarchal Deacon Photios Poulopoulos served. The regular chanters of the church, Mr Nikolaos Papageorgiou and Mr Nikolaos Papaventsis, together with Mr Panagiotis Dakos, chanted melodiously.

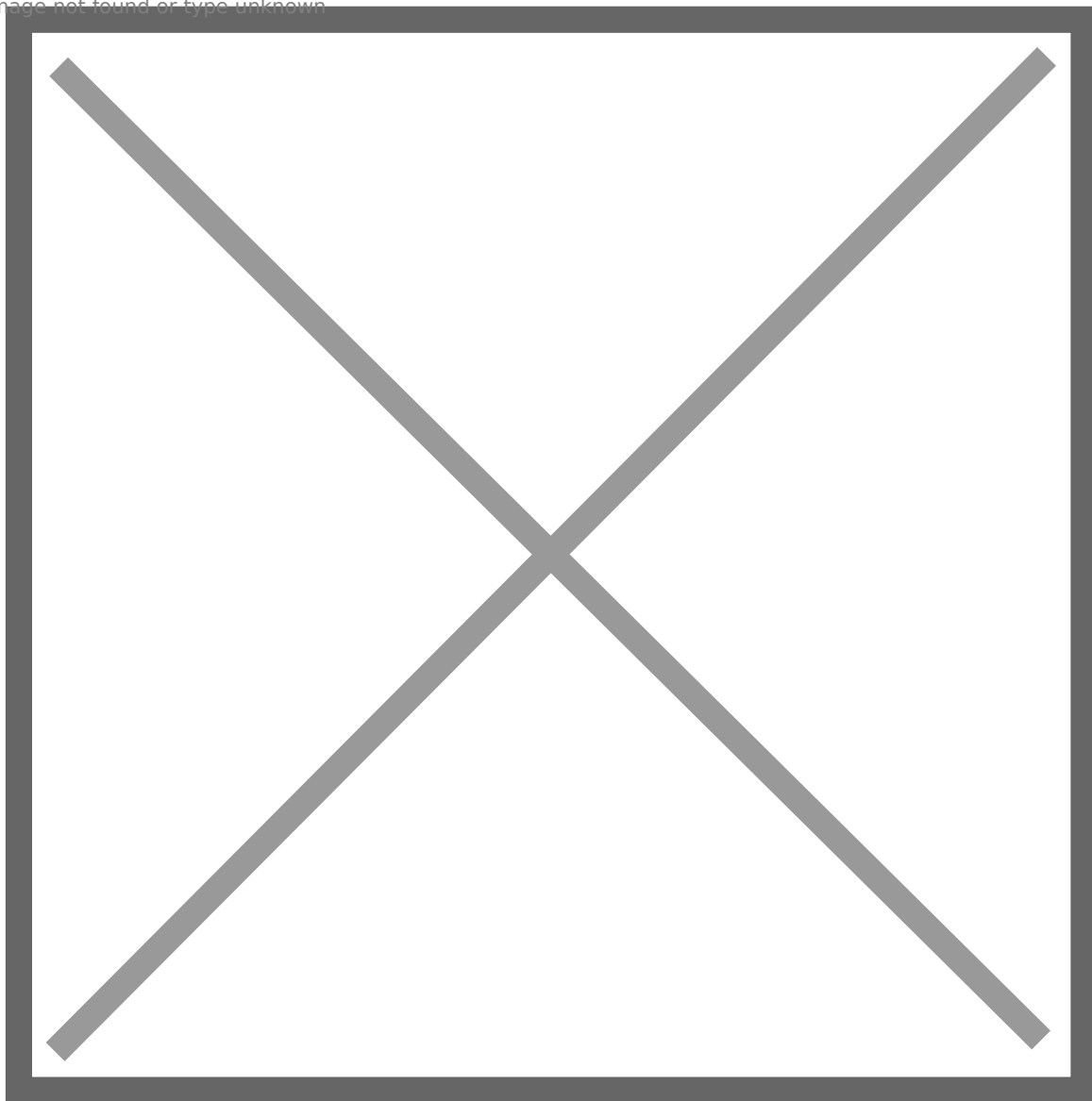
On the morning of Sunday, 23 August, Matins and the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy were celebrated by the Metropolitan of Kydonia. Concelebrating were

Archimandrite Nikiforos Kounalis, General Hierarchical Vicar and Preacher of the Holy Archdiocese of Crete, who delivered the homily, and Protopresbyter Konstantinos Bartholomaios. Patriarchal Deacon Photios Pouloupoulos served.

On the afternoon of the same day, Post-Festal Hierarchical Vespers was celebrated, presided over by the same Hierarch. He was assisted by Archimandrites Timotheos Tsismalidis and Gedeon Magkriotis, Parish Priest of the Diplokionion Community; Protopresbyter Konstantinos Bartholomaios; and Presbyter Bartholomaios Metin. The Deacon of the Patriarchal Order Anatolios Doxastakis served.

Before the dismissal and in accordance with tradition, the holy Icon of Panagia Koumariotissa was carried in procession around the church. During the procession, the faithful prayed for the health of all devout Orthodox Christians, as well as for the repose of the church's founders, the departed residents of Neochori and the members of its successive parish committees.

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Following the return of the Icon to the church, His Eminence delivered the homily, thanked all those who had contributed to the organisation and conduct of the feast, and conveyed his appropriate wishes to everyone.

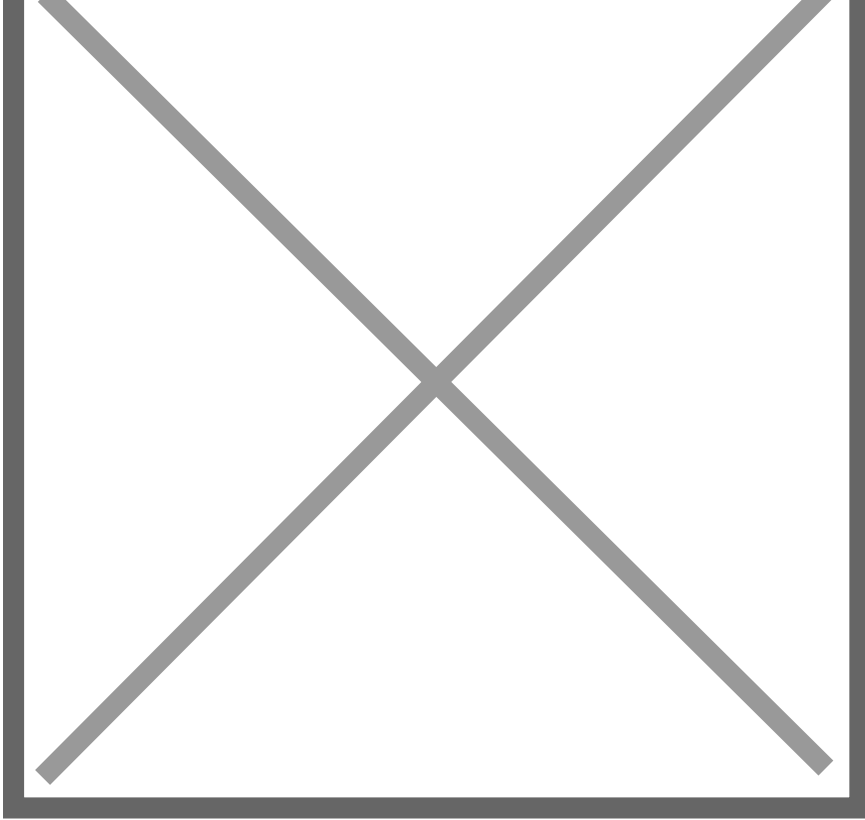
After the liturgical gatherings on both festal days, wonderful receptions were held in the community hall in an exceptionally joyful atmosphere. These gatherings provided a welcome opportunity for personal fellowship among the parishioners and other pilgrims from various parts of Constantinople and Greece.

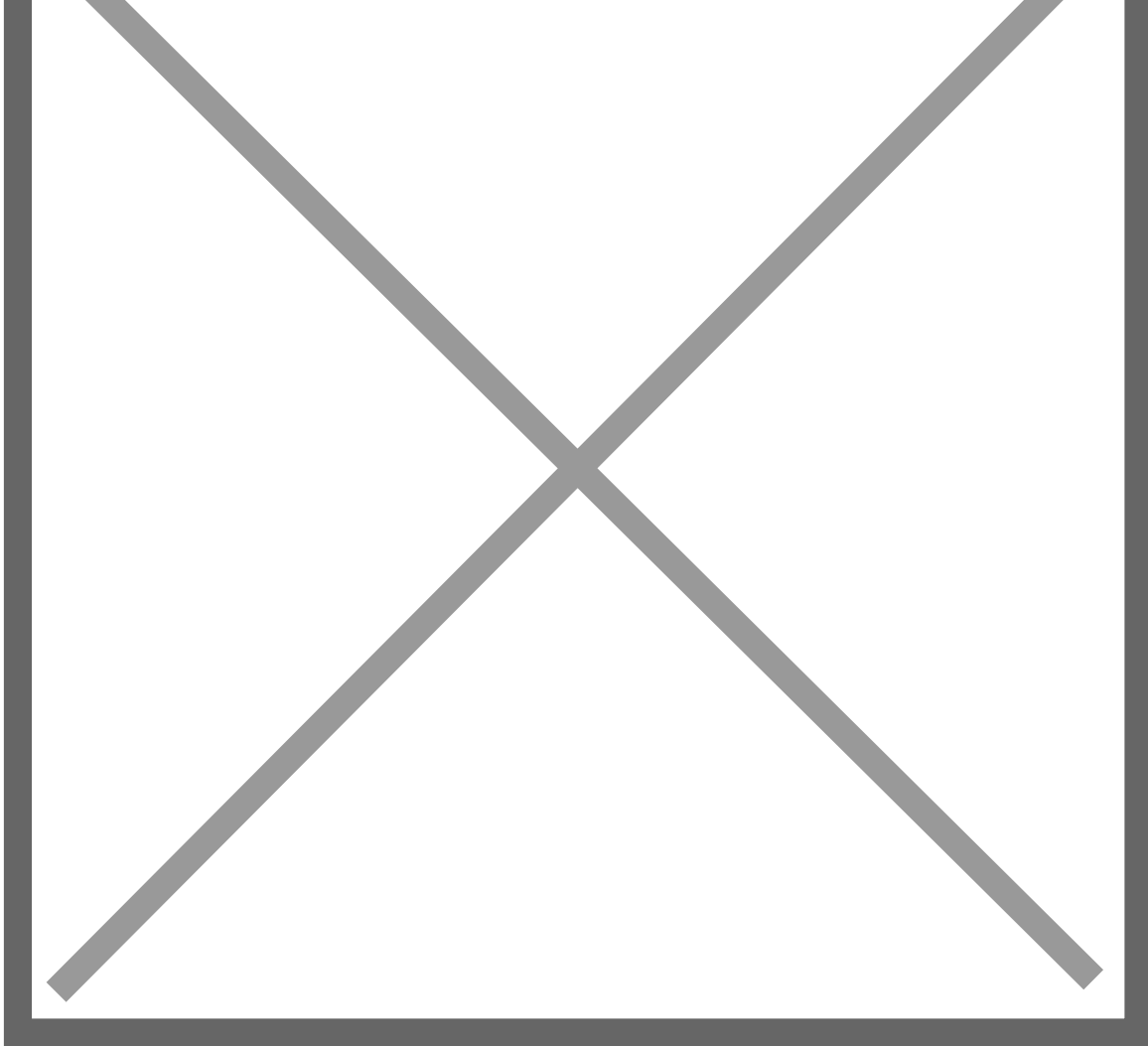




















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