

Patriarchal Gala Held in London in Honour of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew



On Tuesday, 15th September 2026, some 1,000 clergy, faithful and distinguished guests from across the United Kingdom gathered at the London Hilton on Park Lane for a Patriarchal Gala in honour of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, during his visit to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain. Representing parishes and communities from throughout the Archdiocese, the remarkable attendance made this year's Gala a particularly significant gathering in the life of the Church.

The occasion coincided with the Feast of the Holy Great Martyr Nikitas and the nameday of His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain, lending particular significance to an evening of fellowship and celebration in the presence of the Ecumenical Patriarch.

The Ecumenical Patriarch and his entourage entered the ballroom in procession, accompanied by the sound of traditional bagpipes. The guests were welcomed by Archon Louis Loizou, who played a leading role in the organisation of the Gala.

During the evening, His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas addressed His All-Holiness and those gathered, reflecting upon the growth and renewed vitality of Orthodox

Christianity in the British Isles in recent years. He spoke of the increasing number of people discovering and embracing the Orthodox faith and of the strengthening of Orthodox life throughout the United Kingdom.

His Eminence also referred to the newly renovated chapel at the Archdiocesan offices, which he had shown to His All-Holiness earlier that morning. Particular reference was made to the inclusion there of icons of the saints of the British Isles, expressing the deep roots of Orthodox Christianity in this land and its continuing witness today.

Against this background, the Archbishop reflected on the significance of the extraordinary gathering that evening: Orthodox Christians from parishes and communities across the country coming together in such numbers to welcome their spiritual father, the Ecumenical Patriarch.

Immediately following the Archbishop's remarks, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew addressed the gathering. He expressed his paternal love for the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese and his joy at being among them. His All-Holiness also acknowledged with satisfaction the work being carried out under the leadership of Archbishop Nikitas and the flourishing of Orthodox Christian life throughout the country, offering encouragement to all those contributing to the mission and witness of the Church.

The evening also featured a musical performance by the renowned Greek singer Kaiti Koulia, whose programme accompanied the latter part of the banquet and contributed to the festive character of the occasion.

His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas brought the formal programme to a close with words of gratitude to His All-Holiness, the Patriarchal delegation and all those who had contributed to the evening.

The Patriarchal Gala provided a special opportunity for the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese, gathered in remarkable numbers from across the United Kingdom, to welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch to London and to express their filial love and respect for the Mother Church of Constantinople.

The Holy Archdiocese extends its sincere gratitude to Archon Louis Loizou, the organising committee, the benefactors and supporters of the Gala, and all those whose generous assistance contributed to the success of this memorable evening.

Photo credit: Alexios Gennaris

[Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira & Great Britain](#)