

250 Pilgrims from Australia in Constantinople for the 35th Anniversary of the Ecumenical Patriarch's Enthronement



With feelings of joy, the large group of 250 pilgrims from Australia arrived in Constantinople, where they will participate in the celebrations marking the 35th anniversary of the election of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

Upon their arrival, a particularly pleasant surprise awaited the pilgrims. His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia personally travelled to the airport to receive them and welcome them to the historic See of the Mother Church on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarch, who is currently visiting Bulgaria.

The unexpected presence of their Shepherd filled the pilgrims with enthusiasm and emotion, as they expressed their joy and appreciation for this paternal gesture of

welcome.



His Eminence warmly welcomed them to Constantinople and thanked them for their impressive response to the invitation of the Holy Archdiocese of Australia, pointing out that the presence of 250 faithful from the Fifth Continent constitutes a tangible expression of the love and devotion of the Greek community in Australia towards the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Mother Church.

The pilgrims will participate in the programme of anniversary celebrations and, in particular, in the event entitled «Ἡ Ζωή ἦν τὸ φῶς» (“In Him Was Life, and the Life Was the Light”), which will be presented on Thursday, 22 October, in honour of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, on the occasion of the completion of 35 years of his distinguished Patriarchal ministry.

The arrival of the large delegation from Australia marks the beginning of a historic and moving pilgrimage to Constantinople, centred upon the Venerable Centre of Orthodoxy and the person of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.



