13/11/2026

Heraklion celebrates Its Patron Saint, Saint Menas



With ecclesiastical splendour and the participation of a large gathering of faithful, the feast of the Holy and Glorious Great Martyr Menas, Patron Saint and Protector of Heraklion, was celebrated on Wednesday, 11 November 2026. The liturgical celebrations took place in the Old Church of Saint Menas, due to the ongoing restoration works at the Metropolitan Cathedral.

On the eve of the feast, the Great Festal Vespers was celebrated, presided over by His Grace Bishop Evmenios of Lefki, in the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Evgenios of Crete. In accordance with tradition, the festal address was delivered by Archimandrite Fr Bartholomew Vogiatzoglou, Chancellor of the Holy Archdiocese of Crete.

On the feast day itself, the Festal Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Evgenios of Crete, concelebrating with Their Eminences Metropolitan Titos of Kydonia and Apokoronas and Metropolitan Ioakeim of Lampi, Syvritos and Sfakia, together with Their Graces Bishop Evmenios of Lefki, Bishop Methodios of Knossos and Bishop Niphon of Mahajanga and Madagascar, of the Patriarchate of Alexandria.



In his address, the Archbishop reflected upon the deeper meaning of the feasts of the Saints, which call the faithful to emerge from loneliness and individualism and to experience unity in Christ, as manifested in the Holy Eucharist. He presented the figure of Saint Menas as an enduring witness of faith, courage and spiritual freedom for Heraklion and Crete.

With particular emotion, His Eminence presented a historic icon of Saint Menas, which Metropolitan Timotheos Veneris of Crete had presented in 1940 to the soldiers of the 5th Cretan Division upon their departure for the Albanian Front. Following the efforts of the Archbishop, with the assistance of the leadership of the Hellenic Army and the Ministry of National Defence, the icon returned to Heraklion after 86 years and was carried in procession during the celebrations.



His Eminence also referred to the progress of the restoration works at the Metropolitan Cathedral and expressed his gratitude to the State, the Ministry of Culture, the Minister, Ms Lina Mendoni, and the Regional Governor of Crete, Mr Stavros Arnaoutakis, for their contributions to the project. He expressed the hope that, should the progress of the works permit, next year's feast would be celebrated in the main Cathedral.

Among those attending the celebrations were the Regional Governor of Crete, Mr Stavros Arnaoutakis, the Deputy Mayor of Heraklion, Mr George Agrimanakis, and representatives of the local authorities and organisations.

Following the Divine Liturgy, a solemn procession of the Holy Relic and Sacred Icon of Saint Menas took place through the streets of the city. The procession was accompanied by a military detachment of the 44th Military Command, the

Heraklion Municipal Philharmonic Band, escort units of the Heraklion Police Directorate and Traffic Police, volunteers of the Hellenic Red Cross, and young people dressed in traditional costumes from the Traditional Dance Workshop of Mr Lefteris Kougioumoutzis.

The Archbishop extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Hierarchs, clergy, authorities, Armed Forces, Philharmonic Band and all those who contributed to the celebrations. He expressed particular appreciation to the people of Heraklion for their presence and understanding, praying that Saint Menas may continue to watch











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