

Major developments in Orthodox world witnessed in 2019



The year that ends today witnessed several historic events for Christian Orthodoxy and Orthodox believers, with the foremost event being decisions, reactions and statements regarding the Tomos of Autocephaly for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which was granted by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

A day before the Epiphany, also known as the Feast of the Holy Theophany, on Jan. 5, 2019, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, signed the Tomos granting Autocephaly to the Ukrainian Church at the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George in the Fanar district — with the Metropolitan of Kiev and All Ukraine, His Beatitude Epiphanius, officially receiving the Tomos.



During the same year, **three of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's major overseas Archdioceses elected new Archbishops, namely, in America, Australia and Great Britain.**

The new Archbishop of America, His Eminence Elpidophoros, succeeded the Elder Archbishop Demetrios on the throne of the Greek Orthodox Church of America in June. Elpidophoros was the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Metropolitan of Proussa and the Abbot of the Monastery of the Holy Trinity on the Marmara isle of Halki.

The Bishop of Christoupoleos, Makarios, was elected as the new Archbishop of Australia, in May, and was enthroned in July, after the repose in the Lord of Archbishop Stylianos.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate's Metropolitan of the Dardanelles, Nikitas, was elected to the throne of the Archdiocese of Thyatira and Great Britain in June, as the successor of reposed Archbishop Gregorios. He was enthroned in July in London's St. Sophia Cathedral.





In October, the Ecumenical Patriarch arrived in the capital of the semi-autonomous monastic community of Mt. Athos, Karyes, where he officially announced the canonization of four reposed Athonite elders: Ieronymos of Simonopetra, Daniel Katounakiotis, Joseph the Hesychast and Ephraim Katounakiotis.

