

## First poll on candidate hierarchs for Church of Cyprus' throne



A survey by the Analytica Market Research firm, commissioned and published by the Cyprus Times news outlet, shows that the Metropolitan of Limassol, His Grace Athanasios, is the top preference of respondents on the eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus, when queried on which hierarch they want as the next Archbishop of Cyprus.

The first phase of a process to elect a new Archbishop of Nova Justiniana and All Cyprus comes on Dec. 18, when eligible citizens of the Republic of Cyprus and parishioners of the Orthodox Church of Cyprus will vote. The trio of top vote-getters from among the candidate hierarchs will then be submitted to members of the Holy Synod of the Church of Cyprus, who will elect a new Archbishop from among the trio.

The throne of the Church on Cyprus remains vacant after the repose in the Lord earlier this month of Archbishop Chrysostomos II, who passed away at the age of 81.

The survey shows that the Metropolitan of Tamassos, His Eminence Isiah, is second in preferences by respondents, although the third hierarch that will complete the trio of candidates remains uncertain.