

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, opened the International Symposium titled “Constantinople and Mtskheta - Ecclesiastical and Cultural Interactions”.



On October 6, 2023, at the Ecumenical Patriarchal in Phanar, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, opened the International Symposium titled “Constantinople and Mtskheta - Ecclesiastical and Cultural Interactions”.

The symposium, which is held under the patronage of the Ecumenical Patriarch and organised by the Georgian-speaking Parish of Constantinople, is dedicated to the review of the existing ecclesiastical and cultural relations between Constantinople and Mtskheta, in which interdisciplinary researchers, historians, theologians, philologists, philosophers and art historians take part.

In the Opening Speech of His All-Holiness, he blessed the symposium and its participants, emphasizing the centuries-old and close relations between the churches from the early centuries to the present day. He noted: "The people of Georgia are one of the most ancient Christian peoples, and preserved their Orthodox identity and loyalty in its apostolic and patriarchal roots and traditions. The Church of Georgia preserved and cultivated strong and unbreakable ties with the Church of Constantinople, which supported it in all its trials and times of trouble, not only during the Byzantine period, but also up until today. (...) Faithfulness to Orthodoxy has been beneficial for saving the identity of the Georgian people, because from it springs creativity, an ethos of freedom, trust in the future, and hope. With this, problems can be resolved through honest dialogue in a spirit of solidarity and mutual trust. There are no easy solutions, but there is hope and perspective, especially when we believe that the Lord of history is Christ, the Prince of peace."



The opening ceremony was attended by the Hierarchs of the Ecumenical Throne, as well as representatives of the diplomatic corps – the Ambassador of Georgia to the Republic of Turkey, and Consuls General of Georgia and Greece in Istanbul. Honorary guests and speakers from different countries and universities were also presente.

The opening ceremony continued with the honorary dinner at the Georgian Parish Church of St. George at Edirnekapi.



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