



Hierarch of Serbian Patriarchate visits Russian Orthodox Church

On 30th July – 4th August 2019, a hierarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church, Bishop Jovan of Pakrac and Slavonia, visited Moscow with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia.

During his visit to the Russian capital Bishop Jovan attended the celebrations marking the commemoration day of the Holy Prophet Elijah, which took place in the centre of Moscow on 2nd August. That day also marked the 89th anniversary of establishment of the Russian Airborne Troops, whose heavenly patron is Prophet Elijah.

The Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Holy Prophet Elijah in Kitay-gorod in Moscow was celebrated by Bishop Feofilakt of Dmitrov, administrator of the southwest vicariate of the Moscow city diocese.

Concelebrating with His Grace were Bishop Jovan of Pakrac and Slavonia; Archpriest Andrei Rechitsky, acting head of the Iverskoye deanery, rector of the Church of the Holy Prophet Elijah; Archpriest Vyacheslav Shestakov, rector of the Patriarchal metochion of churches in Zaryadye in Moscow; as well as the Moscow clergy.

Following the Liturgy was a procession with the cross from the Church of Prophet Elijah to Red Square. In Red Square a moleben was celebrated.

On 4th August, Bishop Jovan of Pakrac and Slavonia visited the Rybinsk diocese, where in Khopylevo village, Yaroslavl region, he attended the 6th All-Russian Festival of Culture and Arts named after the Holy Righteous Admiral Theodore Ushakov. The feast commenced with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Holy Theophany on-Ostrov, where the future naval commander had been baptized. Officiating at the divine service was Metropolitan Panteleimon of Yaroslavl and Rostov. Concelebrating with him were Bishop Jovan of Pakrac and Slavonia, Bishop Veniamin of Rybinsk and Danilov, Bishop Boris of Nekrasovskoye, and clerics of the Yaroslavl and Rybinsk dioceses.

The Liturgy was followed by a procession with the cross to the monument to young Theodore Ushakov and his uncle, St. Theodore of Sanaxar. The monument is located on the bank of the Volga River. There, Metropolitan Panteleimon blessed a memorial cross later to be installed on the island where the Monastery of the Holy Theophany had once stood.

Bishop Jovan of Pakrac and Slavonia presented Metropolitan Panteleimon with an icon of St. Basil of Ostrog and later took part in the opening ceremony of the festival.

Within the framework of the festival, a concert took place. Among its participants were the Russian folk instruments orchestra performing Russian folk compositions, an artistic group of children's and youth choirs, and other groups from Rybinsk and the Rybinsk region.

Based on the publications of websites of the Iverskoye deanery in Moscow, Yaroslavl metropolia and Rybinsk diocese/

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Source: <https://mospat.ru/en/news/46189/>