



His Holiness Patriarch Kirill greets Primates of Local Orthodox Churches with Nativity of Christ

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia sent Christmas greetings to the Primates of the Local Orthodox Churches: His Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, His Beatitude Pope and Patriarch Theodoros II of Alexandria, His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch, His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem, His Holiness and Beatitude Catholicos-Patriarch Iliya II of All Georgia, His Holiness Patriarch Irinej of Serbia, His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel of Romania, His Holiness Patriarch Neophyte of Bulgaria, His Beatitude Archbishop Chrysostomos of Cyprus, His Beatitude Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana and All Albania, His Beatitude Metropolitan Sawa of Warsaw and All Poland, His Beatitude Rastislav of the Czech Lands and Slovakia, and His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon of All America and Canada. The message reads:

“Christ is born! Glorify Him!

By these joyful words of a church hymn I cordially greet you and congratulate you on the great feast of the Nativity of Christ.

Now we are radiantly celebrating, giving thanks to the Creator and commemorating the miracle of the Incarnation of God – the most important event in the history of the economy of our salvation, which occurred over two thousand years ago in a small town in the east of the Roman Empire.

Born not in royal chambers, but in a squalid cave in Bethlehem, the Lord Jesus Christ brought to earth a new covenant – the covenant of love which is truly *more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices* (Mk 12:33). May this love, being sent from above, strengthen you in your Primatial ministry and inspire you to pray zealously *on behalf of all and for all.*”

The message concludes with wishes of strength, God’s generous help and success in the service for the good of the Holy Church.

DECR Communication Service