# Patriarch Kirill's congratulations to Primate of Orthodox Church of Constantinople on anniversary of his patriarchal ministry

*His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia has sent a congratulatory message to His Holiness Bartholomew, Patriarch of Constantinople, on the occasion of the next anniversary of his election to the see of the Patriarchs of New Rome.*

**To His Holiness Bartholomew**

**Archbishop of Constantinople – New Rome and**

**Ecumenical Patriarch**

Your Holiness,

Beloved in the Lord Brother and Concelebrant:

I cordially congratulate you on the anniversary of your election to the old see of the Patriarchs of New Rome.

By the will of the Holy Spirit and election by your fellow-archpastors you have assumed the lot of the Primatial Office *to be a shepherd of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.* (Acts. 20:28).

For over a quarter of the century now you have carried out the Patriarchal ministry showing tireless concern for the unity of Orthodoxy, zealously bearing witness to the truth of Christ and showing paternal care for the rational flock entrusted to your care.

On this auspicious day, I prayerfully wish Your Holiness the beneficial strengthening of your spiritual and physical resources, spiritual joy and God's generous help in your Primatial work.

With fraternal love in Christ,

**+ Kirill**

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