



THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Department for External Church Relations

Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church sends Christmas greeting to the heads of the non-Orthodox Churches

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia congratulated the heads of the non-Orthodox Churches on the Nativity of Christ. Among his addressees include Pope Francis, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos Karekin II of All Armenians, Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury, Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, chairman of the EKD Council, and heads of other non-Orthodox Churches. The text of the greeting is given below.

I wholeheartedly congratulate you on the radiant feast of the Nativity of Christ.

St. Paul said, 'God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory' (1 Tim 3:16). This mystery has filled the universe with great joy with which we are glorifying our Saviour, singing to him, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men' (Lk 2:14).

I wish you strength in your soul and help from the Ever-Flowing Source of all perfection in your noble ministry.

With love in the Lord,

+KIRILL

Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia

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