



## **Patriarch Kirill's greeting to Patriarch elect Ignatius Aphrem II of the Syriac Orthodox Church**

*His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia sent a message to His Holiness Patriarch Mor Ignatius Aphrem II, congratulating him on the election as Primate of the Syriac Orthodox Church. The text of the message is given below.*

Your Holiness,

I cordially congratulate you on the election as Primate of the ancient Syriac Orthodox Church.

Christ the Chief Shepherd predestined you to accept "*part of this ministry*" (Acts 1:17) and become a successor of Patriarch Ignatius Zakka I Iwas who won well-deserved authority and enjoyed deep respect in the whole Christian world. May God help you carry your cross with patience and confidence in Him, may He help you imitate your glorious predecessor in wisdom, gift of persuasion, righteous life, and deeds of prayer.

I zealously pray to God so that in the period of your guidance over the Syriac Church, the fratricidal war in the long-suffering land of your ancestors would cease and peace and justice would be restored there.

I wholeheartedly wish you strength and success in your future lofty and important ministry.

With love in the Lord,

**/+KIRILL/**

**PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUSSIA**