



## **DECR chairman sends congratulatory message to the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Jerusalem on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of his elevation to the patriarchal dignity**

*Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, head of the Moscow Patriarchate's department for external church relations, has extended congratulations to His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III of the Holy City of Jerusalem and All Palestine on the occasion of the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his enthronement. Below is the text of the message:*

Your Beatitude,

Kindly accept my respectful congratulations on the occasion of the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your elevation to the Patriarchal dignity and enthronement to the glorious throne of the Holy City of Jerusalem.

Care for Palestine's holy places held so dear by every Christian, tireless prayers at them for all the faithful of God and concern for the peace and prosperity of Jerusalem – these are distinctive features of Primatial ministry at the head of the Mother Church. Your Beatitude has carried out the work entrusted to you with your characteristic diligence and devotion. It was what I and other members of the Moscow Patriarchate delegation accompanying His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia during his peace visit to the Orthodox Church of Jerusalem could see with our own eyes.

Wishing Your Beatitude good health, constant joy in the Lord and many years of fruitful service at the head of the Holy Church of Jerusalem, I solicit your prayers at the Lord's Life-giving Sepulchre.

With respectful love in the Lord,

**+ Hilarion**

**Metropolitan of Volokolamsk**

**Chairman**

**Department for External Church Relations**

**Moscow Patriarchate**

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