



THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
Department for External Church Relations

DECR Chairman sent congratulations to the Primates of Local Orthodox Churches on the Feast of the Resurrection of Christ



Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, sent Paschal greetings to 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 Porfirije of Serbia, His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel of Romania, His Holiness Patriarch Neophytos of Bulgaria, His Beatitude Archbishop Chrysostomos II of Cyprus, His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana and All Albania, His Beatitude Metropolitan Sava of Warsaw and All Poland, His Beatitude Metropolitan Rastislav of the Czech Lands and Slovakia, and His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon of All America and Canada.

The message reads, in particular:

Please accept my cordial and wholehearted greetings with the great feast of Holy Pascha:

CHRIST IS RISEN!

On this day which *the Lord hath made* (Ps. 118:24), the great mystery of Christ's victory over death has been accomplished. The Lamb of God *hath borne our griefs*,

and carried our sorrows (Is. 53:4) in order to, having endured death on the cross and descended into the depths of hell, lead out the captives languishing therein and unite them with Him in the *unending day* of His Kingdom (Paschal Canon). Sharing the Paschal message about the Risen Saviour with those who are near and those who are far off, we are singing unto Him the song of praise: O great and most holy Pascha, Christ... O Pascha of incorruption, the salvation of the world! (Paschal Canon).

It is my prayerful wish that the inexhaustible joy of this great feast always abide with you in your arduous ministry. May our Lord Jesus Christ grant unto you spiritual and bodily strength for many and good years of your Primatial labours.

With esteem and love in the Risen Christ,

**/+Hilarion/
Metropolitan of Volokolamsk
Chairman
Department for External Church Relations
Moscow Patriarchate**

DECR Communication service