



## Rector of the Russian Church Metochion attends celebrations marking the 145th anniversary of the liberation of Sofia



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The 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation was celebrated in Bulgaria on January 4, as on that day in 1878 the Russian troops under the command of General Iosif V. Gurko entered Sofia and were greeted by the residents with gratitude.

Bishop Polikarp of Belogradchik, a vicar of the Sofia bishopric, officiated at the thanksgiving service at St. Nedelya Cathedral. Assisting were Archimandrite Vasily (Savov), Protosyngel of the Sofia bishopric; Archimandrite Vassian (Zmeyev), representative of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus' to the

Patriarch of Bulgaria and rector of the Metochion of the Russian Orthodox Church in Sofia: Archimandrite Euthemius (Koinov), dean of the Sofia bishopric; staurophoric oeconomus Nikolaj Georgiev, rector of St. Nedelya Cathedral; and clergy of the Sofia bishopric. Protodeacon Ivan Petkov led deacons at the service.

The thanksgiving was celebrated before an icon of the Holy Theotokos presented to the church by General Iosif V. Gurko, who attended the first thanksgiving in honour of the liberation of Sofia.

After the service, Bishop Polikarp congratulated all those present on behalf of His Holiness Patriarch Neophyte of Bulgaria on the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Sofia from the Ottoman yoke, website of the Patriarchal Metochion reports.

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