



## A new representative of His Holiness the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia is appointed to the Patriarch of Bulgaria.



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On 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 the participants of the session of the Holy Synod heard a report by the chairman of the Department for External Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate the metropolitan of Volokolamsk Anthony on the dioceses and parishes abroad.

The Synod resolved to express its categorical protest with regard to the harsh and discriminatory actions of the Bulgarian authorities over the expulsion from Bulgaria on a spurious pretext of the representative of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia and dean of the metochion (representation church) of the Russian Orthodox Church in Sofia archimandrite Vassian (Zmeyev), the secretary of the metochion archpriest Yevgeny Pavelchuk and colleague of the metochion V. Bonko.

The members of the Holy Synod supported the position of His Holiness the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill as expressed in his letter to His Holiness the Patriarch of Bulgaria Neophyte of 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

The Holy Synod decided to release archimandrite Vassian (Zmeyev) from his position as representative of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia to the Patriarch of Bulgaria and dean of the metochion of the Russian Orthodox Church in Sofia with expressions of gratitude for his labours.

The Holy Synod also resolved to release archpriest Yevgeny from his position as secretary of the metochion with expressions of gratitude for his labours and put him at the disposal of the metropolitan of Minsk and Zaslavl Benjamin. Cleric of the diocese of Vienna and Austria archpriest Vladimir Tyschuk was appointed representative of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia to the Patriarch of Bulgaria and dean of the metochion of the Russian Orthodox Church in Sofia.

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