

## **DECR chairman meets with Metropolitan Athanasios** of Limassol



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On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024, Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, while in Cyprus with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, visited the Metropolis of Limassol and met with Metropolitan Athanasios of Limassol.

Metropolitan Anthony was accompanied by Archpriest Igor Yakimchuk, DECR deputy chairman; Archpriest Pavel Povalayev, rector of St. Nicholas Church in Limassol; and Priest Nikolai Vasin, secretary to the DECR chairman.

Greeting the guests from the Russian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Athanasios said it was a great joy

and a blessing to receive the envoy of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia. He mentioned the consecration of the Russian Church of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker in Limassol that had taken place earlier that day, calling it an event of great importance, and expressed his hope that the church would become a bridge linking the Russian Orthodox Church and the Orthodox Church of Cyprus.

The hierarchs exchanged opinions on the current ecclesiastical situation in Cyprus and in the Orthodox world in general.

To commemorate the brotherly meeting, Metropolitan Athanasios presented to the DECR chairman an icon of St. John the Merciful, native and heavenly patron of Limassol.

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