



**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Department for External Church Relations

## **His Holiness Patriarch Kirill sends congratulations to Archbishop Joani of Tirana and All Albania on his election as Primate of Albanian Orthodox Church**



*His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus' sent a letter of congratulations to Archbishop Joani of Tirana and All Albania on the occasion of his **election** as Primate of the Albanian Orthodox Church. The text of the letter is given below.*

**His Eminence JOANI**  
**Archbishop-Elect of Tirana, Duress and All Albania**

Your Eminence, dear Vladyka,

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations on your election as Primate of the Most Holy Albanian Orthodox Church!

The all-good Divine Providence through the conciliar will of your brothers the bishops has put you at the helm of the martyred Church, having made you a successor to His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios of blessed memory. This lofty and responsible service implies working tirelessly for the sake of the church unity and upholding with zeal the purity of faith and canonical foundations of the Church, which in these trying times requires particular wisdom and considerable courage. Offering my fervent prayers for you, I wish heartily that the grace of the All-Holy Spirit may always strengthen you in body and spirit, so that through your labours the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified (2 Thess 3:1).

May your Primatial ministry in the ancient Albanian land be blessed and peaceful, and may our Lord Jesus Christ the Great Hierarch multiply your pious flock, granting unto His faithful children eternal salvation by the power of an endless life (Heb 7:16).

With brotherly love in the Lord,

**+KIRILL**  
**Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus'**