



Representative of Russian Ecclesiastical Mission and chairman of Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society discuss development prospects of St. Sergius Metochion in Jerusalem



DECR Communication Service, 05/08/2025

On 31st July, at the invitation of Mr Sergei Stepashin, chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society (IOPS), Hegumen Nikon (Golovko), deputy head of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem, took part in a working meeting focusing on development prospects of the St. Sergius Metochion in Jerusalem.

Taking part in the meeting held in Moscow were also Mr Anatoly Yurkov, Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr Daniil Burdyga, managing director of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society.

As **the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission's website** reports, the key topic under discussion was construction of the Chapel of St. Sergius of Radonezh at the St. Sergius Metiochion. St. Sergius was the heavenly patron of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, first chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society.

The project received a blessing from Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus' and Patriarch Theophilos III of the Holy City of Jerusalem and All Palestine.

The participants in the meeting discussed ways to further cooperation between the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem and the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society in education, academic activities and humanitarian projects aimed at supporting the Russian presence in the Holy Land.

As Hegumen Nikon pointed out, despite a decline in pilgrimages to Jerusalem because of the current geopolitical tension, the Mission's and the IOPS's joint efforts in upholding spiritual and cultural ties between Russia and the Holy Land are of great importance today more than ever.

Photo from **the IOPS website**

Source: <https://mospat.ru/en/news/93455/>