



Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk leads patronal celebrations at the Church of “Joy to All the Afflicted” Icon of the Mother of God in Bolshaya Ordynka in Moscow



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On 19th August 2026, the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Church of the “Joy to All the Afflicted” Icon of the Mother of God in Bolshaya Ordynka Street in Moscow celebrated its patronal feast. Officiating at the Divine Liturgy on the feast day was Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate.

Among Metropolitan Anthony’s concelebrants were Archpriest Igor Vyzhanov, DECR Deputy Chairman, Rector of the Church of the “Joy to All the Afflicted” Icon in Bolshaya Ordynka Street; Archpriest Vadim Leonov, Rector of the Church of All Saints – Patriarchal Metochion at Kulishki in Moscow; and local

clerics.

Performing the liturgical hymns was the Moscow Synodal Choir conducted by Alexei Puzakov, Honoured Artist of Russia.

After the Litany of Fervent Supplication, Metropolitan Anthony read the Prayer for the Holy Rus'.

During the Liturgy, Metropolitan Anthony ordained Deacon Alexander Gromotkov to priesthood. Father Alexander has been assigned to the Diocese of Australia and New Zealand of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.

After the divine service, His Eminence performed traditional blessing of fruit of the new harvest.

The DECR chairman conveyed to the rector, clerics and parishioners of the church blessings and good wishes from the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church and extended to all those present his festal greetings. The hierarch also mentioned that the year 2026 marks the 190th anniversary of the church's consecration by St. Philaret, Metropolitan of Moscow.

Archpriest Igor Vyzhanov thanked Metropolitan Anthony for officiating at the Divine Liturgy on the patronal feast of the church. To commemorate the occasion, Father Igor presented to His Eminence an icon of St. Philaret, Metropolitan of Moscow.

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