



ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΘΥΑΤΕΙΡΩΝ & Μ. ΒΡΕΤΑΝΙΑΣ  
ARCHDIOCESE OF THYATEIRA & GREAT BRITAIN

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Dearly beloved in the Lord,

With this letter I want to remind you of the Feast of the Three Great Hierarchs, Basil Great, Gregory Theologian and John Chrysostom, whose blissful memory we celebrate on the 30th January each year.

This year's celebrations will begin on Sunday, 24th January and will end on Tuesday 2nd February. The official Celebration will take place on 28th January at 7:00 p.m. at the Hellenic Centre, 16-18 Paddington Street, London W1U 5AS. The Lecture entitled "The Three Hierarchs and the Byzantine school. Spiritual and educational advice for our times" will be delivered by Dr Charalampos Dendrinos Professor of Royal Holloway University of London. During the celebration the Byzantine choir of the Archdiocese under its director Protopresbyter Father Iosif Paliouras will sing hymns. His Excellency the Greek Ambassador Mr Konstantinos Bikas and the Cyprus High Commissioner Mr Euripides Euryviades have been invited to the celebration and are expected to attend, together with representatives of Associations, Societies, Schools and Communities. We fatherly advice the priests and other Community leaders to honour the Celebration with their presence and also encourage the Parents, Teachers and members of the Church to attend it.

We remind you and fatherly advise you that each Community and Greek School ought to organise a special Celebration for Christian and Greek Literature, the priests and teachers should emphasise the value of Gospel and the virtue with which the Three Great Hierarchs whose memory we celebrate this month lived their holy lives and teaching.

We enclose an address, in Greek and English, to be read instead of a sermon in our Churches on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> January. It is not necessary to remind all of you that the celebration of Greek Literature is a celebration of Education, Civilisation and of Orthodox Christianity and for this reason we should dignify the celebrations with our physical and mental presence and with the participation of our young people and Children.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the celebration and wishing you a Blessed and Happy New Year, I remain, with fervent prayers and love and honour in the Lord.

London, 13 January 2016

Gregorios Archbishop of Thyateira  
and Great Britain



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ARCHBISHOP'S ENCYCLICAL FOR THE FEAST OF THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS

30-01-2015

To the Most Reverend Priests & Deacons, the Lay Leaders, the Honourable Directorate and the School Committees of the Greek Orthodox Schools of the Diaspora in the United Kingdom & Ireland.

The Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs grants us the opportunity to turn our attention and look upon the three sanctified figures of St John Chrysostom, Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory the Theologian. Our Church calls them "Ecumenical Teachers", "the Three Greatest Luminaries of the Thrice-Resplendent Divinity" (Apolytikion of the Three Holy Hierarchs), Patrons of Letters and of both Secular and Christian Education. These Saints are distinguished not only for their love towards God manifested by their spiritual struggles and their compassion, but because they also enriched Christendom by their words and their writings.

Like us, the Three Holy Hierarchs lived in a period of great crisis, uncertainty and insecurity. Nevertheless, from within this confused state of affairs, the Three Holy Hierarchs bestowed upon the entire inhabited world "mellifluent rivers of wisdom", interpreting the message of the Gospel regarding human relationships and society, by means of their thought, their preaching, their writings and their own personal lives. The Three Holy Hierarchs were Bishops, veritable princes of the Church, which they served with self-sacrifice, self-denial and with their divinely led existence.

The "Basileiad", the most renowned humanitarian foundation established by Saint Basil the Great, constitutes the archetypal work of charity. Saint Basil was the forerunner of contemporary sensitivity concerning the protection of one's fellow human beings, and in particular the poor, the refugees, the disinherited in life and all those who are oppressed by fanatical and intolerant regimes. This life-stance should be an inspiration to us all, that we too, may cultivate a more philanthropic way of living, vivified by a spirit of selfless assistance and self-offering.

Saint John Chrysostom and Basil the Great bequeathed unto humanity as a most precious inheritance, the greatest entrustment of the Church, namely, the Divine Liturgy. Bearing always in mind the conditions of their time and the needs of their fellow men, and guided by the illumination of the Holy Spirit, they composed the Services of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, which unites us to Christ and grants us life eternal. Furthermore, this prayer, both private and public, this participation of ours in Divine Worship constitutes our greatest means of communication with God and man, leading us towards our mutual reconciliation, love, and our attainment of God's likeness through our divinisation by His grace.

In their respective works "*On the Priesthood*" and "*In Defence of the Flight to Pontus*", St John Chrysostom and St Gregory, stress the magnitude of the clergy's mission with tremendous insight, which is especially pertinent during these difficult and world-transforming times in which all of us as humanity find ourselves. The life and the works put before us by the Three Holy Hierarchs are always relevant, because the young are encouraged to follow their shining example, remaining faithful to the Gospel of Salvation in Christ, cultivating their faith and worship of the Saviour, and by being ever ready to serve the Church and Society as Shepherds and as Teachers. I exhort all pious youth who may wish to pursue the priestly rank, to do so with love and fear of God, with purity of soul and with the mind of the Church, together with patience and temperance, that they may be rightly enlightened, regarding the pastoral task they are called to undertake.

I pray that Our Lord Jesus Christ and the Three Holy Hierarchs grant you health, illumination and knowledge of God, that you may complete your God-pleasing works, and I remain with warm wishes, love and honour in Christ,

January 2016

Archbishop of Thyateira &

Great Britain Gregorios