



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

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**Encyclical of Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain on the occasion of the tragic events July-August 1974 in Cyprus.**

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

These are days of sacred remembrance about the pain and sorrow caused by the tragic events of July-August 1974, which partitioned the island into North and South. The people of Cyprus will never forget the injustice and crime committed against them. I am writing this letter to remind the responsibilities of the guarantor countries of the Republic of Cyprus. These countries are Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom. To them we should add the United Nations and the Great Powers of the time that did not help to deter the invasion of Turkish troops to Cyprus. We should also thank the European Nation that has accepted the Republic of Cyprus in their midst and its continuous support in various ways till today.

There are days of prayer and sacred contemplation for all of us, so that we may boost the spirit of solidarity and union of the people of Cyprus and all of us who live and progress in the United Kingdom, a country that has accepted thousands of refugees from Cyprus and continues to receive the uprooted and persecuted from all over the world, particularly from Middle East and the Mediterranean Basin.

These days in which we re-live the Events of 1974 that altered the face and form of the island of the Saints, we are called to a peaceful struggle to reconstitute justice and the reunification of the Country that has been standing proud and hopeful for thousands of years, cultivating civilization and peace. For this reason, together with the prayer and in the spirit of our strong faith to God, we should renew our hopes for a better future for Cyprus and its people, Greeks and Turks, Christians and Muslims and everyone else who share its joys and sorrows.

We should bestow honor to all those who have given their lives for Cyprus, many of whom remain still in unknown graves. May our Lord Jesus Christ repose their souls and console their loved ones. We should pray for the Officers of Cyprus, both from the Clergy and the Laity, who have fought amidst the ruins following the invasion and offered support to the people during those harsh days, and worked consistently and prudently for the restoration of the peace, security and progress, and continue to do so till today for the re-unification of the island and the prevalence of justice, civilization and equality among the poor and the rich.

We congratulate from the bottom of our hearts the eponymous and anonymous people of Cyprus, who, like the mythical phoenix were reborn from their ashes, the ruins, the pain and the tribulations, and continue full of optimism today, to build their future with faith and trust in love and God's providence for humanity. All the people of Cyprus, both of the North and the South, desire and wish and work towards the love and reconciliation and the reunification of the partitioned island. With the intercessions of Mary, Mother of God and Prophet Elias the Thesvites and all the Saints who have honored Cyprus with their virtue and struggles, may our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the Powerful of the earth and the Officers of the Republic of Cyprus so that they may find ways to reunify Cyprus and pacify its people and protect them until the end of time. Amen.

Wishing all the faithful of this Biblical Eparchy of the Ecumenical Throne of Constantinople health and blessed and peaceful vacations, I remain with warm wishes and blessings in the Lord and honour.

London, 20 July 2017

Archbishop Gregorios  
of Thyateira and Great Britain