



ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΘΥΑΤΕΙΡΩΝ & Μ. ΒΡΕΤΑΝΙΑΣ  
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ARCHBISHOP'S ENCYCLICAL ON THE SORROWFUL ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF  
CYPRUS IN JULY AND AUGUST 1974

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

These days mark the 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the time that the Turkish Army invaded Cyprus and occupied 37% of Cypriot territory. As you know, this military invasion resulted in forcing 200,000 of the people of Cyprus to become refugees and to be uprooted from their homelands, leaving behind villages, cities, schools and churches, which in turn resulted in the dissolution of their social life and the migration of many of the refugees to the United Kingdom, Greece, Australia and elsewhere. Unfortunately, despite the commendable efforts made by many, it has not become possible to solve the Cypriot Issue and re-establish peace and re-unification and the return of the refugees to their homeland.

With this letter, I do not wish to lament and sow hatred and hostility on account of the fact that Cyprus remains divided to this day. Let me stress the great responsibility shared by the Great Powers, such as the European Union, (of which Cyprus is fortunately a member and part), the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Greece and Turkey, the last three being the guarantor nations according the declaration of the Republic of Cyprus in August 1960.

I also wish to stress that despite the sorrowful state of affairs, the Republic of Cyprus is functioning, it enjoys international recognition at both the United Nations and the European Union as the Republic of Cyprus. The President and the Government of Cyprus, assisted by the rest of the Political Powers of the State, reinforce peace with their attitude and buttress security and continue to inspire us all for a better future.

The Greek-Orthodox Diaspora of the United Kingdom prays and fervently beseeches God Worshiped in Trinity to grant His support to the Nation and console the refugees from Cyprus and other Nations wherever they may be. It ought not to escape our notice that many millions of citizens all over our Planet live with the pain and bitterness of being refugees. May the Holy Mother of God,- whose Holy Supplications will commence on the first day of August,- grant Her support to the Officials and the People, the Head of the Apostolic Church of St Barnabas and its Metropolitans and the whole of the Greek-Orthodox people, so that they remain patient and faithful to the Greek-Orthodox Church and cultivate the virtue of Peace, Patience, Hope and of the Faith in God. We steadfastly believe that God has not forsaken Cyprus. We believe and expect that by the grace of God the People of Cyprus will be reconciled, find peace and continue their historical course and Christian Tradition which Apostles Paul, Barnabas and Mark have brought to the island of Cyprus.

With those thoughts I extend greetings to each and every one of you and pray for the restitution of Freedom and Justice and the Reconciliation of the People of Cyprus and I remain, with warm wishes and love in the Lord and honour.

London, July 2018

Archbishop Gregorios  
of Thyateira and Great Britain

Note: To be read from the Pulpit instead of a Sermon on Sunday, 22 or 29 July 2018