

ENCYCLICAL OF ARCHBISHOP GREGORIOS OF THYATEIRA AND GREAT BRITAIN TO THE COMMUNITIES AND THE FAITHFUL OF THE HOLY ARCHDIOCESE ON THE OCCASION OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016 OF THE SCHOOL OF BYZANTINE MUSIC.

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

It is with great pleasure and joy that I am addressing this letter to you to inform you that, God willing, the School of Byzantine Music will function normally during the new school year 2015-16 under the auspices of our Holy Archdiocese. Protopresbyter Josef Paliouras will remain Head of Studies, who will devote a greater portion of his time to reorganise and coordinate the School for the benefit of its students and their spiritual and intellectual edification in the work of our Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

COMMENCING OF COURSES

Lessons at the School will commence on Monday 14 September at the well-known Community of St Barnabas, in the buildings of the Cathedral of the Dormition of the Mother of God, Wood Green, just as in the past. Courses will be taught every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 5-9 pm. In the franchised Schools, lessons will be taught every Friday and Saturday. The School will teach courses on Byzantine Music, Practicums and Theory, workshops on Chanting, European Music, the Liturgy and Form of Greek-Orthodox Church as well as Byzantine and Community Church Choir participation.

THE BLESSING CEREMONY

His Eminence Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain will give his blessing on the inauguration of the lessons Ceremony that will take place on Thursday 8 October at 7:00 pm in the evening.

THE THIRTY-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF OUR SCHOOL

Next year, the School will complete 30 years of operation that mark its rich and positive contribution to the Faithful of this Biblical Eparchy of our Ecumenical Patriarchate. For this reason, we shall celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the School at the end of this year, with fitting ceremonies and thanksgiving hymns to the glory of Triune Worshipped God.

We extend a call towards all of you, particularly the Clergy and the Laity Officers in each Community, to warmly support the work of the School. Teachers and parents should prompt their children to study at the School of Byzantine Music and Chanting, to edify themselves in the age-old tradition of ecclesiastical music which entertains us, cultivates our spiritual world and introduces us existentially into the knowledge of God and His infinite benevolence for the salvation of Humankind, which took place in the human form of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Wishing you all health and the blessing of the Triune worshipped God on your families and endeavours, I remain with warm wishes and love in the Lord and honour.

September 2015

Archbishop Gregorios  
of Thyateira and Great Britain