

**Antiochian Orthodox
Christian Archdiocese
of the British Isles and
Ireland**



الأبرشية الإنطاكية
المسيحية الأرثوذكسية
للجزر البريطانية وإيرلندا

Registered Charity Number: 1175538

Archbishop: His Eminence, Metropolitan Silouan Oner

London 20th Dec. 2024

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ 2024

To the Reverend Fathers, Deacons, and Faithful of this God-protected Archdiocese,

Beloved in Christ,

As we draw near to the holy feast of the Nativity, we rejoice in the words of the angelic hymn: *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill among men!"* (Luke 2:14). In the humility of the cave and the silence of the night, the Eternal Word of God became flesh for our salvation, fulfilling the ancient prophecy: *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"* (Isaiah 9:6).

The birth of Christ invites us to embrace the divine peace He brings—a peace that transforms hearts restores relationships and strengthens our faith in times of trial. In the mystery of His Incarnation, the Lord comes to dwell among us, reminding us that no darkness can overcome the light of His love.

As we celebrate this sacred feast, I urge you to open your hearts to the Christ Child, who humbles Himself to share in our humanity. Let us reflect on His humility, compassion, and generosity by serving one another, especially those in need. May our homes and churches shine as beacons of His love, proclaiming the message of hope to a world longing for redemption.

This year, as we gaze upon the Christ Child lying in the manger, let us not forget our brothers and sisters in the Middle East, Ukraine and all the world, who continue to endure trials, suffering, and uncertainty. We lift them in our prayers, asking the Lord of Peace to comfort the afflicted, grant healing to the wounded, and bring an end to violence and strife. May His light shine in the midst of their darkness, and may their hearts be filled with the hope and assurance of His abiding presence.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our clergy, who faithfully minister to the flocks entrusted to them, and to all the laity who labour for the life and mission of our God-protected Archdiocese. May the light of Bethlehem illumine your hearts and guide your steps in the coming year.

Wishing you and your families a blessed and joyful Nativity, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

+Silouan

Metropolitan of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland

**+ Silouan, Metropolitan of the Orthodox Christian
British Isles and Ireland**



+Silouan

Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East