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



الأبرشية الإنطاكية المسيحية الأرثوذكسية لجزر البريطانية وإيرلندا

Registered Charity Number: 1175538

Archbishop: His Eminence, Metropolitan Silouan Oner

London 18/12/2025

## Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Beloved fathers, brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we approach the radiant Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, our hearts are filled with thanksgiving and holy joy. The birth of Christ is not only the revelation of our salvation, but also the profound mystery of God dwelling with us. In the humility of the cave, heaven and earth are united, and humanity is once again embraced by the loving presence of God Emmanuel.

In a world wounded by war and violence, and in times when malicious forces seek to inflame hatred and division, the message of the Nativity shines with undiminished light. The words of the Prophet Isaiah resound with hope and promise, offering a firm foundation for our faith and our prayer:

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

Christ is born as the Prince of Peace, not as one who imposes power, but as One who heals hearts, restores broken relationships, and calls us to become peacemakers in a troubled world. His Nativity reminds us that true peace begins within the human heart, transformed by love, humility, and self-giving.

As we celebrate this holy feast with our families and loved ones, I ask you not to forget those who do not celebrate Christmas, and especially those who are alone, abandoned, or suffering. Remember them in your prayers, extend to them compassion and kindness, and allow them to feel the warmth and consolation of this blessed feast. In doing so, we make room for Christ Himself, who was born among the poor and the rejected.

May the light of the newborn Christ illumine your homes, fill your hearts with joy, and grant peace to the whole world.

With my heartfelt prayers and blessings for a peaceful and grace-filled Nativity,

Your Father in Christ, +Silouan

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

Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East