

Pastoral Visit to England and Consecration of the Monastery Church in Brookwood

BY THE GRACE OF GOD, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, who hails from England, made yet another pastoral visit to the two monasteries of our Holy Synod in England.

• On Saturday, August 29, 2010 (Old Style), the commemoration of the Beheading of St. John the Forerunner, Bishop Ambrose liturgized at the historic Holy Convent of the Annunciation of the Theotokos in London. Also taking part were Archimandrite Alexis, Abbot of the St. Edward Brotherhood [in Brookwood, Surrey—*Trans.*], Archimandrite Kiprian from Romania, who is temporarily serving as Rector of the Old Calendar Romanian community in London, the venerable Father Stephen Fretwell, Father Anders Åkerström from Uppsala, Sweden, Protodeacon Basil Yakimov from Australia, who belongs to our Sister Church, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, and who formerly served in England, and Hierodeacon Sabbas from the St. Edward Brotherhood.



After the conclusion of the Liturgy, His Grace had the opportunity to discuss various current issues with the Sisterhood, under Mother Vikentia, and the faithful.

• In the afternoon, Bishop Ambrose went with the clergy to the St. Edward Monastery in Brookwood to prepare for the Consecration of its Church, which has recently been renovated. In the evening, the services of Vespers and Matins were served according to the Slavic *Typikon*.



• On Sunday, August 30 (Old Style), the Consecration was performed, likewise in accordance with the Slavic *Typikon*. Bishop Ambrose was the principal celebrant at the Festal Divine Litur-



gy, assisted by the aforementioned clergy and also by Protodeacon Herman Ivanoff-Trinadtzaty, of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, from Lyon, France. His Grace, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis, a member of our Holy Synod, who came from Stockholm, Sweden, and our Romanian brethren, Their Graces, Bishop Sofronie of Suceava and Bishop Dionisie of Galați, concelebrated with Bishop Ambrose.



The services were attended by some three hundred Orthodox faithful of different ethnic backgrounds, and at the Divine Liturgy five languages were used: English, Greek, Slavonic, Romanian, and French.

There followed a festal banquet in the adjacent hall, in which the clergy and people, as well as the Mayor of the neighboring town of Woking, took part.

This was a gratifying and historic event, which afforded an opportunity for liturgical and, more generally, ecclesiastical coöperation and collaboration with representatives of our Sister Churches.

