

## Pastoral Visit to England\*

**W**ith the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone made a pastoral visit to England, his place of birth, from August 24-30, 2007 (Old Style).

• **On Sunday**, August 27, 2007 (Old Style), Bishop Ambrose Liturgized at the Monastery of the Holy Royal Martyr Edward, in Brookwood, with Archimandrite Alexis (the Abbot of the monastery), Father Stephen Fretwell, and Hierodeacon Sabbas. Following this, His Grace performed the Blessing of the Waters for the inauguration of the monastery's newly-built wing—which contains workshops, cells, offices, and reception rooms—, also blessing it for use. Work was just recently completed on the new facilities, which are expected, God willing, significantly to accommodate the needs of the Brotherhood and to help towards better organization and accomplishment of its spiritual work and missionary witness.



A large number of Orthodox worshippers of various nationalities were present, as well as visitors, among whom was the leader of the county council, representing Queen Elizabeth of England.



• **On Tuesday**, August 29, 2007 (Old Style), on the Feast of the Beheading of the Venerable Forerunner, Bishop Ambrose Liturgized at the Convent of the Annunciation of the *Theotokos*, in London. He then

had the opportunity to interact and discuss spiritual matters with the five-member Sisterhood under Mother Vikentia and with the pious, multiethnic flock.

He also served a *panykhida* for the repose of the souls of the first two Abbesses of the Convent, Mothers Elizabeth and Seraphima, with a number of pious worshipers in prayerful attendance.

Finally, Bishop Ambrose was given the opportunity to have an informal meeting with the former Foreign Secretary of Great Britain and its present Secretary of State for Justice, Mr. Jack Straw.



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\* **Source:** Ἅγιος Κυπριανός, No. 340 (September-October 2007), p. 86.