



Year 1 ■ No. 3 ■ Each monthly edition features select stories published on the Basilica web site during the previous month

## ‘King Michael I of Romania was a deeply faithful person throughout his life’ – Patriarch Daniel at Romania’s former sovereign funeral service



On Saturday, 16 December 2017, His Beatitude Daniel, Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church, led the funeral service for Romania’s last sovereign together with an assembly of eight metropolitans, priests, and deacons, pointing to King Michael’s spiritual qualities and his tie with the Romanian Orthodox Church.

*‘King Michael I of Romania was a deeply faithful person throughout his life. His faith was not formal, but existential and practical. The King felt God present and active in his life, especially in difficult times,’ the patriarch said. ‘The faith in God was His Majesty’s light and help during his life,’ the patriarch said adding that ‘his virtues have been valued by both European royals and ordinary people.’*

The service was attended by representatives of the Royal Families of the UK, Sweden, Spain, Belgium, Jordan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia, Albania, France, Prussia, Italy, and Portugal. Members of the Imperial Families of Russia, Austria and Germany, the Grand Duchy Family of Baden, the Royal Family of Wurttemberg and the Prince Family of Ligne also attended the funeral service. **► Full**

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

## Ecumenical Patriarch warns that globalization is destroying the conditions of social cohesion and harmony

In this year’s Proclamation of Christmas, His Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I warns that ‘in our time, the indulgence of the affluent has increased and globalization is destroying the conditions of social cohesion and harmony.’

This strange and paradoxical event, “which was hidden for ages and generations,” is the foundation of the gift of human deification. “There is no salvation in anyone else; for there is no other human name beneath heaven through which we must be saved.” (...) “The Incarnation of the divine Word is the affirmation and conviction that Christ personally guides history as a journey toward the heavenly kingdom.” **► Full story**



## Patriarch Daniel expresses compassion and solidarity with Cairo terror attack victims

Addressing Coptic Patriarch Tawadros II, His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel of Romania prayed that peace may prevail over violence and that religion may be a sign of life and mutual understanding among humans. At least two gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire outside a Coptic church south of Cairo on Friday, killing at least nine people. The attack happened at the Mar Mina church in the Helwan City district on the capital’s southern outskirts. ‘On behalf of the hierarchs, clergy and faithful of the Romanian Orthodox Church, we convey our feelings of compassion to the families of those massacred or wounded, and pray for the souls of the deceased, so that Christ the Crucified and Risen Lord rest their souls in the light of His love. **► Full story**

## Romanian Patriarch Daniel calls for fraternal communion and missionary co-responsibility Bishops’ Council of the Russian Orthodox Church

Invited to Moscow by Russian Patriarch Kirill to attend the celebrations dedicated to the centenary of the restoration of the Russian Patriarchate, His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel addressed the over 350 Russian hierarchs present at the concluding session of the Bishops’ Council of the Russian Orthodox Church, held on Saturday, 2 December 2017, pointing out the importance of maintaining Orthodox faith unity, of cultivating solidarity with those who suffer and of practical missionary cooperation.

In his message entitled Fraternal Communion and Missionary Co-responsibility, Patriarch Daniel offered his remarks regarding the establishment of the patriarchal institution during the first Christian millennium, which is related to ‘biblical patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the spiritual and political parents and leaders of the Jewish people, Moses’ predecessors.’

The Patriarch ended his address with a call to use today’s social freedom ‘to love God more and increase the missionary and philanthropic work of the Church in society.’ **► Full story**





## Metropolitan Laurentiu on **Patriarch Daniel's** name day: 'He is our example of ministry and preaching the salvific truth'

'He is our example of ministry and preaching the salvific truth,' said His Eminence Metropolitan Laurentiu congratulating Patriarch Daniel on his name day. On the feast of the Holy Prophet Daniel, December 19, 2017, the Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church presided over the Divine Liturgy at the Patriarchal Cathedral in Bucharest with an assembly of concelebrating hierarchs, priests, and deacons.

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, His Eminence Metropolitan Laurentiu of Transylvania addressed congratulations to His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel on his name day and presented him with an icon depicting the Mother of God on behalf of the members of the Holy Synod. Several children offered flowers to His Beatitude.

In his speech, Metropolitan Laurentiu stressed that the patriarch is first a father who takes care of the clergy and the faithful he pastors. [▶ Full story](#)



## Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and all Russia meets with His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel of Romania

On Sunday, 3 December 2017, His Beatitude Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia met with His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel of Romania at the patriarchal residence in St Daniel Monastery, during the visit of the delegation of the Romanian Orthodox Church on the celebrations dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the restoration of the patriarchal institution in the Russian Orthodox Church. His Beatitude Patriarch Kirill expressed his joy to welcome Patriarch Daniel at St Daniel Monastery, the oldest monastic settlement in Moscow and thanked him for taking part in this important event and for the opportunity given to discuss current issues of the two Churches.



The Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church recalled the difficult situation of the Church in Ukraine and pointed to the unity of the bishops of the canonical Orthodox Church in Ukraine, despite many pressures.

Patriarch Kirill noted that Patriarch Daniel's presence at the centenary of the restoration of the Russian Patriarchate shows that the two Churches are together both in time of suffering and of joy. [▶ Full story](#)

## Young artists sing Christmas carols to passengers during a 12,000m altitude flight

Romanian Folk artists proclaimed the Nativity of the Lord during a 12,000m altitude flight from Munich to Bucharest. In the 6-minute clip, posted Tuesday on Romanian Air Transport Company's official Facebook page, Folk Music Singers Andreea Haisan, Paul Ananie, Ana Maria Pătrășciou, Nicu Măță, Maria Beatrice Băndoiu, and Gabriel Dumitru, sing Christmas carols to passengers of Munich flight to Bucharest. The moment turned into a singalong. This moment was possible with the support of the TAROM crew: Commander Alfred Ghergan and Chief Purser Adina Adimi. [▶ Full story](#)



In new interview, Patriarch Daniel speaks about the National Cathedral as a mandate from predecessors, assumed together with the clergy and believers

Patriarch Daniel has given an interview to the Romanian public television (TVR) to mark his tenth anniversary of patriarchal ministry. In the first part of the interview broadcast in the TVR religious show The Universe of Faith (Universul credinței), the Patriarch recalled how the Romanian Orthodox Church was in 2007 and pointed to the reason of building the National Cathedral.

Reviewing the ten years of patriarchal ministry, His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel explained that in 2007 the Romanian Orthodox Church 'was continuing its course, but at the same time was intensifying its pastoral, missionary, and social-philanthropic activities.' [▶ Full story](#)

**THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:**  
*'The Saviour was born in a cave, under the surface of the earth to sanctify the earth from within. He was born from Virgin Mary to sanctify the human race from within. He was placed in animals food trough to become nourishment for the life of humans.'* [▶](#)  
† Daniel  
Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church



## 8 Bible Verses for the New Year

Isaiah 40:31

*But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.*

John 16:33

*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*

Philippians 4:6

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*

Philippians 4:13

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

Romans 8:28

*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

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