

PATRIARCH'S ARRIVAL IN SIBERIA, IN THE CITY OF YEKATERINBURG

On 8th December 2017, His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, arrived at the Koltsovo airport in Yekaterinburg, as a guest of the local Metropolitan of Yekaterinburg and Verkhnyaya Tura His Eminence Kirill, who welcomed him at the airport.

Immediately after his arrival, His Beatitude the Patriarch, gave an interview to the Media, saying: *"I would like to express my gratitude for the fact that we have arrived here. And of course, I would like to convey to you the blessing of God. Beside me is my great and very old friend, Metropolitan Kirill. We have arrived here, with the blessing of Patriarch Kirill, whom we thank warmly. And firstly, I wish to greet all the residents of Yekaterinburg. I thank you very much and wish you happy celebrations"*.

On the afternoon of the same day, His Beatitude was warmly welcomed by the Governor of the Sverdlovsk Region, His Excellency Mr. Yevgeny Kuivashev, at his residence in the town of Maly Istok.

Note that the Alexandrian Primate had visited the capital of the Urals, previously, in August 2015, where he made a pilgrimage and met leading figures of the town.