

Pastoral Visit to England for the Feast of the Annunciation

His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone made a pastoral visit to England from March 22-27, 2013 (Old Style).

On Friday, March 23 (Old Style), His Grace celebrated the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at the Convent of the Annunciation of the *Theotokos*, in London, and then went to the Monastery of the Holy Royal Martyr Edward, in Brookwood, for the chanting of the Third Stasis of the Salutations to the *Theotokos*.



On Saturday, March 24 (Old Style), he liturgized at the Monastery of St. Edward with Archimandrite Alexis, Father Stephen Fretwell, and Hierodeacon Sabbas. During the Liturgy, he ordained Subdeacon Borislav Popov—a native of Bulgaria, married and the father of four children—to the Diaconate. The new Deacon

will serve both of our communities in England, and, God willing, will be ordained a Priest in the near future.

That evening, Bishop Ambrose presided at the festal Vigil Service at the Convent of the Annunciation



On Sunday, March 25 (Old Style), His Grace liturgized at the convent with His Grace, Bishop Sofronie of Suceava (from our Sister Old Calendar Church of Romania), together with the aforementioned clergy. As a special blessing, Bishop Ambrose wore the Episcopal vestments of St. John of Shanghai and San

Francisco, the convent's founder. The Divine Liturgy was celebrated in many languages, with the participation of at least two hundred Orthodox faithful of various nationalities.

