

There are many books by leading Orthodox theologians and scholars on all aspects of the Orthodox Church and this leaflet series provides some basic information in the hope that it might prompt further enquiry.

**LEAFLETS IN THIS INTRODUCTION TO
ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY SERIES:**

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- WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR SUNDAYS?
- WORLDWIDE FAMILY

All text in these leaflets is mine except where indicated, therefore any errors of fact or in grammar are mine. I should be grateful to have those errors pointed out so that corrections can be made.

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"The Orthodox Church.....has preserved unadulterated the first and most ancient ecclesiastical tradition and teaching, has avoided innovations and personal interpretations of the Holy Scriptures and dogmas of the faith, and is administered according to the ancient synodical system under local bishops in collaboration with the faithful and successive groups of both local and broader episcopal synods, of which the highest is the Ecumenical Synod, that of the Orthodox worldwide. The basic administrative canons, the details of which are regulated according to local needs, have been determined by the seven ecumenical synods. The Church is not managed by regional states in which it resides, although it collaborates in good works when asked to do so.

Within the entire Orthodox Church there is absolute cooperation in goodwill and mutual respect. Perchance minor human problems are addressed successfully through the application of the evangelical spirit."

*Bartholomew, Patriarch of Constantinople, from
"Encountering the Mystery."
ISBN 978-0-385-51813-0*

Orthodox Community of Archangel Michael
and Holy Piran, Cornwall.
www.orthodoxincornwall.org.uk

In the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain.
Exarchate of Western Europe and Ireland.
www.thyateira.org.uk

Ecumenical Patriarchate.
Οικουμενικόν Πατριαρχεῖον.
www.ec-patr.org



Agia Sophia (Holy Wisdom) Constantinople.

Fr.N.04.23

Introduction to Orthodox Christianity: Worldwide Family



Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew's Gospel 28:18-20.

Although with "national" titles, Orthodox Christianity within those jurisdictions is present in all countries of the world.



The Ecumenical Patriarchate of
Constantinople – New Rome
Present Patriarch: Bartholomew I 1991

Patriarchate of
Alexandria and All Africa
Present Patriarch: Theodoros II

Patriarchate of
Antioch and All the East
Present Patriarch: John X

Patriarchate of
Jerusalem
Present Patriarch: Theophilos III

Patriarchate of
Moscow and All Rus
Present Patriarch: Kirill

Patriarchate of
Serbia
Present Patriarch: Porfirije

Patriarchate of
Romania
Present Patriarch: Daniel

Patriarchate of
Bulgaria
Present Patriarch: Neophyte

Patriarchate of
Georgia
Present Patriarch: Ilia II

Church of
Cyprus A
Present Archbishop: George III

Church of
Greece A
Present Archbishop: Ieronymos.

Church of
Poland A
Present Metropolitan: Sawa

Church of
Albania A
Present Archbishop: Anastasios

Church in the
Czech Lands and Slovakia A
Present Archbishop: Rastislav

Church of
Sinai A
Present Archbishop/Abbot: Damian

Church of
Finland A
Present Primate: Leo

Autonomous Church of
Estonia
Present Primate: Stephanos

The Orthodox Church of
Ukraine A
Present Primate: Metropolitan Epiphanius

A Autonomous/Autocephalous – power of self-government. Appointing its own head.

Eparchy/Exarch – area/diocese governed by a bishop.

An exarchate is any territorial jurisdiction, either secular or ecclesiastical, whose ruler is called an exarch. The term originates from the Greek word arkhos, meaning a leader, ruler, or chief. Byzantine Emperor Justinian I created the first exarchates.

Search canonical Orthodox websites for more information on all the above.

There are also Stavropegic monasteries. These are under the jurisdiction of a patriarch rather than the local diocesan bishop. The monastery of St. John the Baptist in Essex in an example of this, being under the Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Non-Chalcedonian (Oriental Orthodox) churches - **Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopian, and Syrian** - that rejected the teaching of the Council of Chalcedon (451) on the double (divine and human) nature of Christ. The non-Chalcedonian churches hold the Monophysite doctrine that in Christ there was but a single, divine nature. Whilst good relations exist there is not yet full communion or resolving differences often defined as within theological language problems.