



CHRISTENING *of*

WILLIAM
MALCOLM NOEL
JUSTO

ceremony held on
FRIDAY FIFTH OF JULY
at 12 in the afternoon

ST SOPHIA CATHEDRAL
Moscow Road, London

Conducted by The Very Reverend Archimandrite
Father Theonas Bakalis
Senior Priest and Archimandrite
of the Ecumenical Throne

ST SOPHIA CATHEDRAL

St Sophia Cathedral in Notting Hill, London, was established between 1877 and 1879 and is dedicated to the “Holy Wisdom.”

It was designed by architect, John Oldrid Scott, and was inspired by the renowned Hagia Sophia in Constantinople. It boasts an impressive combination of traditional Byzantine elements and Victorian Gothic revival style.

For example, the church’s woodwork and marble were carved by William Farmer and William Brindley. They used large quantities of dark green marble from Tinos, darker bands of Portoro marble for the cladding and light Fosterley marble for the plinths. The exterior is adorned with elegant arches, intricate mosaics, and a striking dome that dominates the skyline, reminiscent of its iconic counterpart.

As a Grade I listed building, St Sophia has hosted numerous significant religious ceremonies and has a notable history of association with the Greek royal family, including King Constantine II of Greece and Queen Sofia of Spain. Its rich history and continued significance make it an important part of London’s diverse religious and cultural landscape.

THE ICONOSTASIS

The iconostasis was designed by John Oldrid Scott himself. It measures approximately 25 feet (7.6 meters) high and is made from Canadian walnut, inlaid with other woods of various colours and mother-of-pearl.

The inset panels of the iconostasis were all painted by Bavarian artist Ludwig Thiersch who had been a professor at the Athens School of Fine Arts.

One of the distinctive features of Greek Orthodoxy is the place it assigns to icons.

The traditional pin is made with white, pink or blue ribbon and features a small Orthodox cross or icon in the centre.

For Greek baptisms the following congratulations are said to the parents or Godparents of the child. For non-family members, the traditional saying is 'Na sas zisi' (May he/she live for you). Amongst family members, 'Na mas zisi' (May he/she live for us). For all, 'Na zisi' (May he/she live).

Bouboniera are favours given out to each guest at the reception. The gift is an Orthodox tradition over 3,000 years old. Filled with koufeta (Jordan almonds), the favours are given as tokens of good fortune and happiness.

They are symbolic of life with their bittersweet taste. The sugar coating represents the hope that life will be blessed with more sweetness than bitterness.

The whiteness of the almond symbolises purity. The egg shape represents the newly baptised life. The odd number of almonds (five) is indivisible, just as the bond between the child and the Godparents shall remain undivided. The five almonds represent: health, happiness, fertility, wealth and long life.



GODPARENTS

Natasha Tsakiris

Henry Justo

WILLIAM MALCOLM NOEL JUSTO

05.07.24