A R I S T O T L E U N I V E R S I T Y O F T H E S S A L O N I K I
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PRESS RELEASE

Official Celebration of 26 October at Aristotle University

21 October 2026

In the presence of the President of the Hellenic Republic, Konstantinos An. Tasoulas, Aristotle University (AUTh) will host the official celebration of Saint Demetrius Day, honouring the patron saint of Thessaloniki, the 114th anniversary of the city's liberation and the epic of 1940. The ceremony will take place on Monday, 26 October 2026, at 19:00, in the Ceremonies Hall.

The ceremony will open with the Apolytikion of Saint Demetrius, performed by AUTh's "Giannis Mantakas" Choir under the direction of Erifyli Damianou.

This will be followed by an address from AUTh Rector, Professor Kyriakos Anastasidis, and the keynote commemorative speech by Sir Roderick Beaton, Emeritus Koraes Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language and Literature at King's College London, entitled "*From Saint Demetrius to Metaxas's 'No'*."

As part of the musical programme, the Aristotle University Symphony Orchestra will perform works by Aaron Copland, Mikis Theodorakis and Edward Elgar. The Orchestra will be joined by AUTh's "Giannis Mantakas" Choir and the Choral Workshop of the School of Music Studies, prepared by Erifyli Damianou.

Associate Professor Vladimir Symeonidis of the School of Music Studies will conduct the Aristotle University Symphony Orchestra and choirs.

The 26 October celebration will conclude with the National Anthem, performed by the University's musical ensembles.

We kindly request that this event be published, broadcast, and covered by the media.