



Russia is a country of prayer from sunrise to sunset

For over 35 years, the Pilgrimage Agency «Radonez» has been organizing trips to holy places. Every person has the right to visit a holy place at least once in their life, wherever this place may be: Jerusalem in Israel, Bari in Italy, or Altai in Russian Siberia — and be sure to offer a prayer and say that we, the people of Russia, are united. United in prayer throughout the Russian Land from East to West, from Vladivostok on the Sea of Japan to St. Petersburg on the Baltic Sea. And all of this is Russia.

In every city there are holy places - churches, monasteries, holy springs, and of course holy people. They are holy by their deeds and actions, which we are telling you about.

**2025 - the year
of memory of
the great saint
of Russia – Saint
Tikhon, Patriarch of
Moscow and All Rus'
(January 31, 1865 –
April 7, 1925)**



Saint Tikhon became Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus' — November 18, 1917. It was a very difficult year, when the revolution that came to Russia overthrew everything in its path, the church, and faith in Christ the Savior became banned.

And Patriarch Tikhon prayed: «Lord God, our Savior! We bow to You with sorrowful hearts and confess our sins and iniquities, which have irritated Your favor and stopped Your generosity. We have left You, our Savior, and have not kept Your commandments and have done as You did not command. Therefore You were angry with us and gave us grief as punishment. And the earth wept, and deadly diseases came to us...
... give intelligence and strength to all who have power, so that they may do good for our Church and all people. By the power of Your Cross, strengthen our army and deliver us from enemies. Give us strong and intelligent government and give wisdom and the fear of God to all of us. Lord, we flee to You, teach us to do Your will. You are our God, You is the source of our life, in Your light we will see light. Grant Your mercy to those who know You always. Amen.»

Patriarch Tikhon prayed all the time and worked hard, he saved the Russian Church from schism. When the revolutionary government destroyed churches and exterminated believers, Patriarch Tikhon was able to show that Christ is alive, that faith in God is the only thing that will save Russia. He called everyone to prayer, because

**«...where two or three are gathered in my name,
there am I in the midst of them...»**

Matthew 18:20



**Fyodor Petrovich Gaaz
(August 10, 1780 – August 16 (28), 1853)**

In 1853, Dr. Fyodor Petrovich Gaaz fell ill, and the prisoners began to ask the prison priest to conduct a prayer service for his health. He hurried to the Metropolitan to ask permission, since it was not possible to conduct a prayer service for the health of a non-Orthodox according to the rules. Metropolitan Philaret of Moscow exclaimed: «God has blessed us to pray for all the living, and I bless you!»

Saying goodbye to the dying doctor, Metropolitan Philaret said: «In you, what the Savior said is fulfilled: «Blessed are the meek... Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness... Blessed are the merciful... Blessed are the pure in heart... Blessed are the peacemakers...» Be strengthened in spirit, my brother, Fyodor Petrovich, you will enter the Kingdom of Heaven...».

When he was buried, more than 20 thousand people came to see the doctor off on his final journey. Requiems were held in Orthodox churches for the German Catholic, who left behind a kind and bright memory for centuries.

“Yes, I am a German, but first of all I am a Christian. And, therefore, for me, ‘there is no Greek, no Jew...» Why do I live here? Because I love, I love very much many of the people here, I love Moscow, I love Russia, and because living here is my duty to all the unfortunate people in hospitals and prisons».



Easing the suffering of people, helping them in difficult times, giving them human attention, clothing, food, and those legendary oranges, he saw the image of God in everyone. He carried his ascetic cross, giving himself to those who needed it most, leading them to Christ the Savior and his commandments. In Moscow, they called him «the good doctor,» and the prisoners said, «Gaas has no refusals.»

«The surest path to happiness is not in the desire to be happy,» wrote Gaaz, «but in making others happy. To do this, you need to understand people's needs, take care of them, not be afraid of work, helping them with advice, deeds, words, love them, and the more often you show this love, the stronger it will become.» No one saw him angry, sad, bored, or in despondency and melancholy. He was saved by the awareness of the necessity of what he was doing and unshakable faith.

And after 200 years, Moscow remembers the «good doctor»: they study his legacy and medical practice in medical schools, give lectures, conduct excursions and preserve the museum and memory of the Christian man Fyodor Petrovich Gaaz. And on his tombstone are carved the words «Hurry to do good», which he always followed and which can be considered his last will to all of us.

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