

## **ONE YEAR MEMORIAL FOR THE LATE PROTOPRESBYTER BERNARD DIAFOUKA**

**On the 2nd Sunday of Lent, 27th March 2016**, His Grace Panteleimon, Bishop of Congo-Brazzaville and Gabon conducted the Divine Liturgy and preached the homily at the Holy Cathedral of St Dimitrios in Pointe-Noire.

Prior to the end of the Eucharistic gathering the one year memorial service was held for the late Protopresbyter Bernard Diafouka.

Fr Bernard was born on 3rd January 1959 in the village of Mbamba in the Pool District of the Congo. He studied at the University of Brazzaville. He came to know and embrace Orthodoxy through the first missionary and later first indigenous priest of the Congo, the late Floribert Tchizibou. In 1988 he was consecrated a Reader and sub-Deacon by the late Metropolitan Irenaios of Accra and in 1974 was ordained Deacon and Presbyter by the late Petros Metropolitan of Cameroon, who later became Patriarch of Alexandria (1997-2004). In 2013 he received the office of Protopresbyter and consecrated a Confessor by His Grace Panteleimon, Bishop of Congo-Brazzaville and Gabon.

The deceased, who passed away in the early hours of 27th March 2015 in a hospital in France, was the oldest priest of the local Church, who had served for 20 years in the Parish Community of the capital of Congo-Brazzaville.