

## **Sayyid Al-Hakeem Attends St. Joseph Cathedral Christmas Mass, Affirms Iraq's Coexistence**



Sayyid Ammar Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance participated in the Christmas Mass at St. Joseph Chaldean Cathedral in Baghdad's Karrada district, joined by His Beatitude Patriarch Louis Raphael I Sako. During His Eminence's address, H.E. conveyed warm greetings to Christian brothers and sisters in Iraq and worldwide, celebrating the blessed occasion of Jesus Christ's birth (peace be upon him, our Prophet, and his family).

H.E. spoke of how Christmas is a moment of shared joy for all Iraqis and reflected on Islam's and the Qur'an's deep recognition in many references to Jesus Christ, his remarkable birth, and the Virgin Mary (peace be upon her), thus reflecting Coexistence and Brotherhood between divine messages.

H.E. reaffirmed the importance of managing diversity as a cornerstone for strengthening Iraq's unity and identity. H.E. also stressed the need to harness Iraq's rich cultural and religious diversity to build stronger connections with regional and international communities. Furthermore, H.E. highlighted the significant role of Christians, including their contribution to the historic visit of His Holiness the Pope to Iraq, and showcasing the importance of peaceful coexistence between the components of Iraqi People.

In H.E.'s closing remarks, H.E. emphasized the value of drawing lessons from the past while approaching the future with optimism. Iraq is now experiencing a period of social harmony, political and security stability, and ongoing progress in reconstruction, development, and growth.