

## **Sayyid Al-Hakeem From St. Joseph Cathedral Extends Christmas Greetings, Affirms Iraqi Christian Community Authenticity**



From St. Joseph Chaldean Catholic Cathedral in Baghdad, and in the presence of Cardinal Louis Sako, Patriarch of the Chaldeans in Iraq and worldwide, and Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al-Sudani, His Eminence Sayyid Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance, extended Christmas greetings to Christians in Iraq and around the world on the occasion of the birth of Jesus Christ (peace be upon Him, upon our Prophet, and upon his family). H.E. affirmed that the Christian community is an authentic Iraqi component and a source of pride for all Iraqis.

H.E. emphasized that Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary (peace be upon them) hold a distinguished place in Islamic culture, standing as symbols of purity, divine selection, chastity, sanctity, and holiness. Referring to Qur'anic verses that speak of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary (peace be upon them), H.E. noted that Christmas represents a message of solidarity and a continuation of the path of prophets and messengers.

H.E. also stressed the importance of protecting women from domestic and societal violence, recalling the hardships endured by the Virgin Mary (peace be upon her), and called for investing in a culture of peace and coexistence to deepen brotherhood and citizenship among the Iraqi people.

H.E. affirmed that the political class bears responsibility for forming the government, building on positive achievements, and continuing along the path of security, stability, and national recovery, in a manner that consolidates the gains already achieved.