

ANTAKYA, TURKEY

For more than 2,000 years, Antakya, or Antioch as it was known in ancient times, has occupied an important place in the Christian world. It was one of the first great centres of Christianity, becoming one of the first five patriarchates, along with Jerusalem, Constantinople, Alexandria, and Rome.

Today, its Orthodox community, numbering 1,300, continues to use Arabic as the language for its service and bibles, due to the current church being founded just before Antakya was moved from Syria to Turkey in a redrawing of borders in 1939. As in all Christian communities, Easter is the highlight of its year.

- 01 Jan Delluller, 66, from Antioch, who has worked as a priest in the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch since 2008, distributes consecrated bread during Holy Communion on Easter Sunday.
- 02 As dawn approaches at 4 o'clock in the morning on Easter Sunday, members of the congregation pray together and burn scented candles that symbolise the arrival of Holy Light from Jerusalem.

Photographer
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