

## **‘An Ornament for Us Thessalonians’ - St Theodora of Thessaloniki**

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Today, 29 August on the Church's calendar, we celebrate the memory of the Holy Theodora of Thessaloniki (812-892). As a former Thessalonian, I have a close connection to St Theodora. Although nothing of her monastery has survived except the foundations, much of it was rebuilt in the last century, and St Theodora's relics as well as those of St David of Thessaloniki are enshrined in two chapels in the current katholikon. Today, with its Byzantine courtyard, St Theodora's Monastery is a lovely and peaceful oasis in the middle of the bustling city. When we lived in Thessaloniki, we used to visit the Saints' relics frequently, and I have fond memories of one of the hieromonks who lived there.

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