

Christian Orthodox Monastery in Turkey Celebrates First Liturgy Since Genocide

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The Monastery of the Virgin Mary of Soumela, on the Mount Melas, near the City of Trebizond in the Pontus (actual Turkey), was until 1922 one of the most sacred and most popular Christian pilgrimages of world Orthodoxy. It was founded in the year 386 AD during the reign of emperor Theodosius the Great (375 - 395), tradition has it that two priests from Athens, Sophronius and his nephew Barnabas, undertook the founding of the monastery on the site after having discovered a miraculous icon of the [Virgin Mary](#) in a cave on the mountain.

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