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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Taking the Plunge, Russia Celebrates Epiphany

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Thousands of Russian Orthodox Church followers plunged into icy rivers and ponds across the country to mark Epiphany, cleansing themselves with water deemed holy for the day. Water that is blessed by a cleric on Epiphany is considered holy and pure until next year's celebration, and is believed to have special powers of protection and healing.

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