

Russian Orthodox Bishop Warns Faithful Not to Vote for 'Dark' Putin

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Bishop Yevtikhy Kurochkin / Vkontakte

A Russian Orthodox clergyman has spoken for the first time against voting for Vladimir Putin's re-election this spring over recent comments the president made which he described as "blasphemous."

Putin raised controversy in the Orthodox Christian community last week by [comparing](#) the Bolshevik revolutionary Vladimir Lenin's tomb to "holy relics" in a documentary about the Valaam Monastery.

Related article: [Putin Compares Communism to Christianity](#)

Bishop Eutyches Kurochkin of the Epiphany Cathedral in Ishim said Putin's comparison of communism to Christianity was "utterly blasphemous."

“Shall I go against Christ and vote for darkness, or advise others to do so?! No, no, no!” Rev. Eutyches [wrote](#) on his Vkontakte last week.

By contrast, Patriarch Kirill, the head of the Russian Orthodox church and Putin’s ally since his return to the presidency in 2012, has [called](#) on believers to vote in the coming elections scheduled for March 18. _

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