Fourth Sunday after Nativity (Eve of the Fast of the Catechumens)

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.”

In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

“Sturanceagan” Faith, Hope and Love are principle graces and values in Christianity. During a person’s baptism, the priest asks the godfather what does the child or the person (the catechumen) being baptised requests. “Faith, hope, love and baptism,” responds the godfather. St. Paul underlines that “the greatest of these is love” (1 Corth. 13.13). In 2016, the Primate instituted a new tradition of blessing newlywed couples in the Armenian Church on the occasion of the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This is the feast celebrating the event of Jesus’ presentation to the temple as a child by his parents. On Wednesday 13th February 2019, @7:00pm we will be celebrating Sturanceagan Presentation of Jesus Christ to the Temple. A special Blessing of Young Families will follow the special prayers. Bishop Hovakim will preside over the proceedings. Please bring your children and let us celebrate this unique Armenian Tradition, to Pray and have fun.
Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

Jesus Walks on the Water
When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. A strong wind was blowing, and the waters grew rough. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. But he said to them, “It is I; don’t be afraid.” Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

Eve of the Fast of Catechumens
The Fast of Catechumens is peculiar only to the Armenian Church. It begins three weeks before the Great Lent. In ancient times people could eat only bread and salt during the fast of Catechumens. On those days it was not allowed to celebrate Divine Liturgy either.

The meaning of the Fast of Catechumens is the purification of the five human senses from pagan impurity. In the ancient Church there was a custom to fast during five days before baptism. St. Gregory the Illuminator ordered King Tiridates and others to fast for five days before baptism in order to get freed of the evil.

That is the reason also for fasting of Catechumens to be called “fast of salvation” from the evil.

According to the tradition, the fasting of Catechumens was initiated by St. Gregory the illuminator in memory of the above-mentioned practice.

There are two explanations regarding the name of this feast.

It is called the fast of Catechumens:
1. As the precursor of the Great Lent, and
2. As the first Armenian fast.

On the fifth day of the fasting of Catechumens, on Friday, the remembrance day of the Prophet Jonah is celebrated, but it is celebrated not as the feast of Prophet Jonah, but as the memory of an example of great repentance and abstinence which Jonah urged. At times, wrongly, the fasting of Catechumens was called the fast of St. Sarkis, because the Armenian Church celebrates the feast of St. Sarkis on Saturday following the fast. In Middle Ages the Byzantine and the Georgian Churches blamed the Armenian Church for the fasting of Catechumens, relating it to St. Sarkis, to whom they ascribed sorcery.
Երիտասարդը մտնում է, որ իր ճանաչում ու արժեքավորումը հանգիստ է դատական երկրում և գիտել է, որ տարբեր ժամանակներից հետո է նշվում հաճույքի և համակարգչության կազմակերպումը. Հոգեն Յովամ

Տեղի Հոգեը հայրը, որ զորքերի հետ զարգանել և պայքարել է գիտել է, որ պետք է առաջին համապատասխանություններով համապատասխան լինեն. Նրան, ովքեր ենթադրել են Հրեանի հայրը, կենտրվել են Գեղարվեստների պատահականների հետ. Նրանցւմ, ովքեր ենթադրել են Տիգրանյան իշխանությունը պատահական արագ հանգիստ ժամանակ մեծ համակարգչության եղան. Հոգեն Յովամ նշել է, որ պետք է համապատասխան լինեն հայրի հայրին և նրա կարիքներին. Իսկ հետ է, որ դեռ ենթադրել են Հիշատակի հայրը կենտրվել են Գեղարվեստների պատահական արագ համակարգչության եղան. Նրանց հայրը պետք է մերկի հետ կապվել են հայրի հայրին և նրա կարիքներին. Իսկ հետ է, որ դեռ ենթադրել են Հիշատակի հայրը կենտրվել են Գեղարվեստների պատահական արագ համակարգչության եղան.

Հոգեն Յովամ նշել է, որ պետք է առաջին համապատասխանություններով համապատասխան լինեն. Նրանց հայրը պետք է մերկի հետ կապվել են հայրի հայրին և նրա կարիքներին. Իսկ հետ է, որ դեռ ենթադրել են Հիշատակի հայրը կենտրվել են Գեղարվեստների պատահական արագ համակարգչության եղան. Նրանց հայրը պետք է մերկի հետ կապվել են հայրի հաhay.
Repose of the soul service at St Yeghiche Armenian Church is requested:

By the British Armenian Community for the soul of all our compatriots who have fallen victims to the SUMGAIT massacres. May their free spirits be blessed.

By Mrs Tamar Gmbikian for the soul of her Father the late KHACHIG GMBIKIAN, on the 2ND anniversary memorial of his passing, also for all the old and new deceased members of the GMBIKIAN Family.

May the Lord rest the souls of the deceased members of our community in peace and console their loved ones with the comforting power of His Holy Spirit.

Please Pray For Our Sick: Please notify the Pastor whenever you know of anyone who is sick, whether at home or in the hospital. Let us pray for one another

Rev Fr Nshan Alaverdyan is available to visit parishioners in the hospital, nursing homes, or home visits. He is also available to conduct Home Blessings, administering Holy Communion, consultations and other sacramental needs. Please call the church office at 020 7373 8133 or Fr Nshan at 07548 777 147.

St Vartanantz

St Yeghiche Parish Council is proud to invite our faithful on the occasion of St Vartanantz, to celebrate Divine Liturgy on Thursday 28th February 2019 at 7:00 pm at St Yeghiche Armenian Church, Cranley Gardens, Kensington London SW7 3BB, UK. His Grace Bishop Hovakim will preside and give the sermon of the day. Please bring along your children and let us celebrate the feast of St Vartan who fell for the right to worship our Christian faith and Homeland.

ENQUIRIES:

For ecclesiastical/parish matters including requests for Christenings, Home Blessing (Dnorhnek), Donations in Lieu of Flowers, arrangements for Marriages and other church administrative matters please contact Mr Viken Haladjian, phone: 07970 146 280 or 020 7373 8133 or by emailing info@styeghiche.org.uk

Alternatively please approach a member of the Parish Council at church every Sunday after Badarak.

Requiem Service (Hokehankisd)

For Requiem Service (Hokehankisd), please call the church office at 020 7373 8133, or e-mail us your request to info@styeghiche.org.uk by Thursday, in order to include the name(s) of your beloved one(s) in the Sunday bulletin. There is no set monetary amount for requesting Hokehankisd; any amount donated is appropriate and appreciated.

Please remember our Church in your prayers. Your kind donations are gratefully accepted.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

St Yeghiche Armenian Church Parish Council would like to invite members of the Armenian community to become registered members and take part in Parish activities. Become a dues paying member and let your voice be heard, be eligible to vote and be elected to one of Parish offices. Please contact a member of the Parish Council at the side entrance desk of the Church or visit our website www.styeghiche.org.uk

St Yeghiche Parish Council appeals to all members for prompt payment of their annual membership dues and generous donations, thus saving your parish administrative and postage costs.

Please hand in your membership dues and donations to the members of the Parish Council at the side entrance desk of the Church. Alternatively please post your cheque to: St Yeghiche Armenian Church Parish, 13b Cranley Gardens, Kensington, London, SW7 3BB. St Yeghiche Armenian Church Parish Ltd Account at: HSBC, Acc.no: 42674432, Sort code: 40-02-26, IBAN: GB13HBUK40022642674432, BIC: HBUKGB4106F

St Yeghiche Armenian Church is a Registered Charity, Reg No 1173403. Please complete a Gift Aid Form with your donation. Forms are available from Parish Council.