

February 14th, 2019

Shoghk Educational



In this Issue:

◆ **House
Blessing
Tradition**

St Yeghiche Armenian Church Parish

Reg Charity No 1173403

13b Cranley Garden, Kensington London SW7 3BB, UK

t.020 7373 8133, e. info@styeghiche.org.uk

w. www.styeghiche.org.uk , f. www.facebook.com/styeghiche

Welcome to Shoghk Educational

Tradition of Diarnuntarach (TIARN'NDARAJ)

Presentation of our Lord

Diarnuntarach is the feast of presentation of baby Jesus to the temple 40 days after the nativity.

“When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”) and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledove or two young pigeons.



Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

Guided by the spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took

him in his arms and praised God saying:

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” (Luke 2:22-32)

The major tradition tied to Diarnuntarach is lighting a bonfire in front of the church and in neighborhood streets. This was a pagan tradition which was incorporated into Christian life with the understanding that fire is a source of light which is a symbol of Jesus.



On the eve of the feast, the priest light a candle from the alter and invites the parishioners to light their candles from that candle and carry bit to their homes.

The privilege of lighting the bonfire was given to the newlywed grooms. The first bonfire would be lit in the courtyard of the church and then people would take smoldering wood from that and light bonfires in their streets. In the province of Van, the priest would invite newly-wed grooms to church and let them wear robes and at the end of ceremony participate in procession, carrying officially the light from church to the world

This fire symbolizes the idea of love and family, since all the newly-weds traditionally would dance around the fire, and when the flames decreased, they would jump over the fire together as couples, believing that their life would be free of mishaps and they would have a pleasant spring.

Over this fire would jump as well barren women and brides who had given birth to a child but were still in their 40th day. In case of barren women, the object was to be cured of barrenness, and in case of the latter the object was to be cleansed, since it was believed that after giving birth a woman was unclean and she needed to go through a process of cleansing, which is technically called the process of churching. Today, when we bring our babies to church for Karasouk, in effect we are doing two things: Presenting the child to the Alter of God, and helping the mother to be cleansed.

Lighting Fire Means “Burning the Cold”

The other belief behind these customs was that by lighting a bonfire in the middle of winter they are “Burning the Winter” which is equivalent to the

American tradition called “Ground Hog Day,” meaning that spring is near.

Like many ancient nations, Armenians believed in the cleansing power of fire. The fire would bring better weather patters, their fields would yeald abundant crops and their marriage would abundantly blessed. It is interesting to note that at the end of the celebrations they would scatter the ashes of their bonfire in their farms, stables and orchards.



Fire is a symbol of sun and light. It was considered sacred. The family nest or the roof was called “Ojakh”(fire place) and “Dzookh” (smoke) and parishioners the “Dzkhagan,” which means somebody coming from a household and belonging to the larger house of the Church.

As previously mentioned, this was a pagan custom, which made its way into Christian life, as have many other customs. Pagan names of this custom are “Derendez” and Meeled”.

Rev Fr Nerses Manoogian.



**ՏԻԱՐՆՆԴԱՐԱՅ –
ՏԵԱՌՆԸՆԴԱՌԱՋ:
ՏՈՆ
ՔԱՌԱՍՆՈՐՅԱ
ԳԱԼՍԵԱՆՆ
ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍԻ Ի
ՏԱՃԱՐՆ**

Feast of Light

St Yeghiche Armenian Church’s Educational Series

We are pleased to introduce these Educational Series of leaflets which are prepared to inform our Community Members of the various traditions, Customs and Canons of the Armenian Apostolic Church which has been passed over the centuries and preserved to date. To help us expand these Educational and Informative Series we are looking for voluntary contributions towards the printing costs.

For your Donations to the Publication Fund, please make your cheques payable to “St Yeghiche Armenian Church Parish” and kindly post them to: **St Yeghiche Armenian Church** Parish, 13b Cranley Gardens, Kensington, London, SW7 3BB. You can also pay by bank transfer to St Yeghiche Armenian Church Parish Ltd Account at: HSBC, Acc.no: 42674432, Sort code: 40-02-26, IBAN:

GB13HBUK40022642674432, BIC: HBUKGB4106F.

We thank you for your kind support.



For Enquiries and Booking:

Rev Fr Nshan Alaverdyan is available to visit parishioners in the hospital, nursing homes, or home visitations. 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.

Ձեր ամեն տեսակի հոգեւոր կարիքներուն եւ Խորհրդակատարութիւններուն՝ Տնօրինէքի, հիւանդի այցելութեան, Սբ Հաղորդութեան ստանալու եւ այլ խնդրանքներուն համար դիմեցէք Եկեղեցի 020 7373 8133, կամ ուղղակի հեռաձայնեցէք **Հոգեւոր Հովիւ Տէր Նշան Քահանայ Ալավերդեանին** 48 777 147:

St Yeghiche Armenian Church Parish

Reg Charity No 1173403
13b Cranley Gardens
Kensington London SW7 3BB
Phone: 020 7373 8133
Email : info@styeghiche.org.uk
Web: www.styeghiche.org.uk
Face book:
www.facebook.com/styeghiche



Look always
for our
Educational
Series
Booklets

ՏԵՐՈՒՆԱԿԱՆ ԱՂՕԹՔ

Հայր մեր, որ յերկինս ես,
սուրբ եղիցի անուն քո:
Եկեսցէ արքայութիւն քո:
Եղիցին կամք քո որպէս յերկինս և յերկրի:
Զհաց մեր հանապազորդ տուր մեզ այսօր:
Եւ թող մեզ զպարտիս մեր,
Որպէս եւ մեք թողունք մերոց պարտապանաց:
Եւ մի տանիր զմեզ ի փորձութիւն
Այլ փրկեա զմեզ ի չարէ.
Զի քո է արքայութիւն եւ զօրութիւն
Եւ փառք յաւիտեանս. Ամէն:

Hair mer, vor hergins yes,
Sourp yeghitzi anoon ko.
Yegestze arkayootioun ko.
Yeghitzin gamk ko vorbes hergins yev hergri.
Uzhatz mer hanabazort dour mez aisor.
Yev togh mez uzbardiz mer,
Vorbes yev mek toghoumk merotz bardabanats;
Yev mi danir uzmez ee portzoutiun,
Ail purgia uzmez ee chareh.
Zi ko eh arkayootiun yev zoroottiun Yev park havidians.
Amen.