



Primacy of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church  
of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland

*His Grace Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, Primate*

## **Saint Yeghiche Armenian Church Parish Սբ Եղիշէ Հայոց Եկեղեցւոյ Ծովի**

**Priest in Charge Rev Fr Nshan Alaverdyan**

13b Cranley Gardens, Kensington London, SW7 3BB

Registered Charity No 1173403

Pastoral office t. +44 (0)20 7373 8133 email. [info@styeghiche.org.uk](mailto:info@styeghiche.org.uk)

[www.styeghiche.org.uk](http://www.styeghiche.org.uk) <https://www.facebook.com/StYeghiche>

## **SUNDAY BULLETIN**

**1: Today's Scripture Reading,**

**18th August 2019**

**Bulletin 33/2019**

### **Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God**



#### **ԳԱՂԱՏՍՅՒՆԵՐԻՆ 3:29-4:7**

Իսկ եթէ դուք Քրիստոսինն էք, ուրեմն Աբրահամի զարմն էք, եւ խոստումին համաձայն՝ ժառանգորդներ:

Բայց այնքան ատեն որ ժառանգորդը մանուկ է, կըսեն թէ ոչինչով կը տարբերի ստրուկէ մը, թէպէտ բոլորին տէրն է. հապա խնամակալներու եւ հոգատարներու հեղինակութեան տակ է՝ մինչեւ հօրը ճշդած պայմանաժամը: Նոյնպէս ալ մենք, երբ մանուկ էինք, աշխարհի սկզբունքներուն տակ ստրուկ էինք: Բայց երբ ժամանակը լրումին հասաւ, Աստուած ղրկեց իր Որդին՝ որ կնոջմէ ծնաւ եւ Օրէնքին տակ մտաւ, որպէսզի փրկանքով գնէ Օրէնքին տակ եղողները. որպէսզի մենք որդեգրութի՛ւնը ստանանք: Եւ քանի որ դուք որդիներ էք, Աստուած ձեր սիրտերուն մէջ ղրկեց իր Որդիին Հոգին, որ կաղաղակէ. «Աբբա՛, Հա՛յր»: Հետեւաբար ա՛յլ ստրուկ չես, հապա՛ որդի. ու եթէ որդի, ուրեմն՝ Աստուծոյ ժառանգորդը Քրիստոսի միջոցով:

## 2: A short interpretation of the Scripture reading

### Galatians 3:29-4:7

If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces <sup>a</sup> of the world. But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>b</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, <sup>c</sup> Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

### ՅԻՍՈՒՄ ՔՐԻՍՏՈՍԻ ԱՒԵՏԱՐԱՆ ԸՍՏ ՂՈՒԿԱՍԻ 2:1-7

Այդ օրերը Օգոստոս կայսրեն հրամանագիր ելաւ, որ ամբողջ երկրագունդը արձանագրուի: (Այս առաջին աշխարհագիրը եղաւ՝ երբ Կիւրենոս Սուրիայի վրայ կառավարիչ էր:) Բոլորը կ'երթային արձանագրուելու, իւրաքանչիւրը՝ իր քաղաքին մէջ: Յովսէփ ալ՝ Գալիլեայէն, Նազարէթ քաղաքէն, բարձրացաւ դէպի Զրէաստան՝ Դաւիթի քաղաքը, որ Բեթլեհէմ կը կոչուի, (քանի ինք Դաւիթի տունէն եւ գերդաստանէն էր,) արձանագրուելու Մարիամի հետ, որ իր Նշանածն էր ու յղի էր: Երբ անոնք հոն էին՝ անոր ծնանելու օրերը լրացան. եւ իր անդրանիկ որդին ծնաւ, խանձարուրով փաթեց զայն ու մսուրին մէջ պառկեցուց, որովհետեւ իջեւանին մէջ տեղ չկար իրենց:

### The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke 2 :1-7

#### The Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while <sup>a</sup> Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.



## **Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God**

The Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God is a non-variable commemoration and the oldest of all those dedicated to St. Mary. The Armenian Church celebrates this feast day on the nearest Sunday to August 15, a practice adopted at the time of St. Nersess the Graceful.

Assumption comprises a week of fasting, *Navagadik*, and a Memorial Day. In the early centuries, the observance took place over the course of three days; but as arranged by Shnorhali, it was extended to nine days.

According to tradition, following the Ascension of Christ, Mary lived out the rest of her days in Jerusalem, cared for by St. John the Evangelist. She died in Jerusalem some 15 years after Christ's Ascension and was buried in her family tomb in Gethsemane.

After she passed away, all the apostles—save Bartholomew who was absent at that time—conducted her funeral with great ceremony at a cave-like tomb in the Garden of Gethsemane. Later, St. Bartholomew returned and wished to see Mary one last time.

He convinced the apostles to open the tomb, but they could not find her body inside. Angels' voices were heard for three days and nights. The apostles interpreted the angels' singing as a sign that our Lord had assumed, or taken up, his mother into heaven as he had promised her.

They found the empty tomb a confirmation of that promise for she had not been dead, but had fallen asleep. For this reason, the church refers to the end of Mary's earthly life as "the dormition" rather than "death."

The tradition concerning the dormition of the Holy Mother did not become a basic teaching (doctrine) of the church until the 9th century, and it wasn't until the 12th century that the feast was titled "the Assumption."

## **The Blessing of Grapes | *Khaghogh Orhnek***

On the Feast of the Assumption, the blessing of grapes takes place immediately after the Divine Liturgy. The ceremony is rich in symbolism and emphasizes the important role the Virgin Mary assumed in the revelation of God.

The custom of blessing grapes, the first fruits of the harvest, can be traced back to Old Testament times, when farming was a common vocation. Of the vast variety of produce, grapes had a special place of honor and were considered the "first fruits" because they were the first produce of harvest.

Among the Israelites, as among many neighboring cultures, grapes were regarded as belonging in a special way to God since they were the first fruits. It was He who gave the gift of the whole harvest and to offer Him the first fruits was to acknowledge complete dependence on Him. Special services of thanksgiving were conducted by priests in the temple, a tradition that prevailed to the time of Christ.

With the birth of Jesus, these dedications took on a new meaning. Jesus Christ was the first born—or the first fruit—of Mary and, as such, was offered to God in the temple. (Luke 2:25-30)

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Armenian Church doctrine teaches that Mary has a primary place of honor because it was of her and by the Holy Spirit that God became incarnate (took human flesh). She is seen as the image of humanity fully obedient to God and ultimately sanctified by doing God's will. Therefore, on the feast remembering her dormition (falling asleep in Christ) and Assumption (ascending to heaven), we celebrate the blessing of grapes.

Christ gave His blood to us for eternal life, and in remembrance we bless the grapes, the fruits of the earth.

It is traditional to use seedless grapes to emphasize that this fruit came into being without seed, just as Christ became man without any human agent.

**A BIG Thank You** for all those Families and Individuals who have joined and generously donated for the purchase of the grapes which will be blessed today and distributed to all. May their gifts be accepted and blessed by our Lord for their generosity and support to our Church.

**Thank You.**

**St Yeghiche Armenian Church Parish Council.**



### 3: Հոգեհանգիստ - Memorial Service

There are no Memorial Service request.

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 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 Ավագերդեանին** 07548 777 147:

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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*. Please make your cheques pay-able to: **“St Yeghiche Armenian Church”**. 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

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.