First Sunday after the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God

1: Today’s Scripture Reading, 25th August 2019 Bulletin 34/2019

**The Epistle of St Paul to the 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1**

What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

“I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

Therefore, “Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” And, “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.”

**The Gospel according to St John 1:39-56**

On that day Jesus stood in the town of Bethany, across the Jordan. Now there was a man named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He went to Jesus by night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs that you are doing if God were not with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus says to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born? Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a one is born of water and the Holy Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again,’ for Moses wrote about the one born of water. As for the one born of the Spirit, it is said of him, ‘How can you hear the voice of God yet not speak?’ You have not heard that voice and seen that it was from heaven. Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Holy Spirit.”
Mary Visits Elizabeth

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!"

Mary’s Song

And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their in most thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.
Commemoration of Sts. Joachim and Anna, Parents of the Holy Mother of God, and Oil-Bringing Women

The names of St. Joachim (Jehoiakim) and Anna are closely related to Jesus, as they are the parents of the Holy Mother of God.

According to the tradition, wealthy Joachim was a descendant of King David, and Anna was the daughter of a priest. One day, when performing a service in the cathedral, the priest tells Joachim to stand in the end, as he had no son. Becoming upset, Joachim comes out of the Cathedral and immediately climbs up the mountains, vowing not to descend the mountain until the visit of God. Following his example, Anna, staying at home, devotes herself to prayer and repentance. And once, when Anna sees in the garden the birds playing with their nestlings, becomes sad and cries, as she wasn’t granted the grace of being a mother. Just at that moment the Angel of God visits Anna, telling her that God will be granting her a son who will be the mother of the Savior of the world. Joachim also has the same vision and becoming very happy, gives alms to the poor. The parents decide to devote the baby to the Church. The baby is named Mary, which means “Illuminated”.

The oil-bringing women are the witnesses of Christ’s torments. They are the first to give the good tidings of the Resurrection of our Lord. The Oil-Bringing women followed Christ during all the time of realizing His earthly mission. The church calls them “Oil-Bringing Women” as on Sunday, in the morning, they hurried to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus by the aromatic oils prepared by themselves.

Thanks to their devoutness they were first to see the Rosen God and told about it the Apostles. They were in the upstairs during Pentecost and together with the Apostles received the graces of the Holy Spirit.

The Armenian Apostolic Church commemorates the memory of St. Joachim and Anna together with the oil-Bringing Women.
Repose of the soul service at St Yeghiche Armenian Church is requested:

- By Zaza Balian and Avo, Simon, Garo Nercessian’s for the soul of their Father and Mother the late Armenag and Yesten Kalfayan-Nercessian, and for the souls of old and new deceased members of the Nercessian and Kalfayan Families

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.

Requiem Service (Hokehankisad)
For Requiem Service (Hokehankisad), please call the church office at 020 7373 8133, or e-mail us your request to info@styeughiche.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 Hokehankisad; any amount donated is appropriate and appreciated. Please remember our Church in your prayers. Your kind donations are gratefully accepted.

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

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, 13a 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.