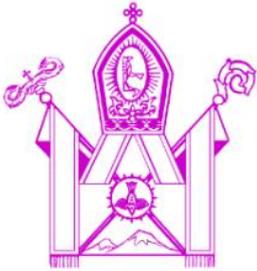


Armenian Church News

Diocese of the Armenian Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland



Armenian Church Representative Assembly



In this issue:

Armenian Church
Representative Assembly

Kevorkian Theological
Seminary Students in the
UK

Upcoming Divine
Liturgy Celebration and
Genocide Memorial
Anniversary in Wales

Spirituality: Are Roman
Catholics permitted to
receive Holy
Communion in the
Armenian Apostolic
churches?

Announcements

Upcoming Events

From 6-9th of June His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, hosted the 6th Armenian Church Representative Assembly in the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. For this occasion Members of the Supreme Spiritual Council, Archbishops and Bishops, heads of Armenian and Diocesan Dioceses and Patriarchal delegates, religious leaders and representatives of the Diocesan Dioceses, Patriarchal Delegations and Diaspora Dioceses were gathered in Holy Etchmiadzin.

The UK Diocese was represented at the 6th Church Representative Assembly by His Grace Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, Primate for the Armenian Church of United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland; Mr Viken Haladjian, Chairman of St Yeghiche Armenian Church Parish and Mrs Ayda Lundon Sarafian, Chairlady of the Armenian Church Parish of Republic of Ireland.

Diocese of the Armenian
Church of the United
Kingdom and the Republic
of Ireland

His Grace Bishop Hovakim
Manukyan, Primate

Armenian Church Representative Assembly



The UK and Ireland Diocese Representatives

The main points discussed are presented below.

1. The document outlining the bylaws of National Ecclesiastical Assembly (NEA) was adopted to be ratified by the NEA which is the highest authority of the Church.
2. New members of Supreme Spiritual Council were elected for a one-and-a-half year period.
3. The process of adoption of guidelines of diocesan bylaws was discussed.
4. A committee that will make suggestions and prepare the agenda of the NEA was created. Questions that have been already discussed include mixed marriages, bioethics and other issues that the Church faces in the modern age.
5. Youth projects have been presented by Archbishop Hovnan Derderian. The year 2018 was declared the Year of Youth which means more activities and support for our youth.
6. The UK delegation had a separate meeting with His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. The clergy and Christian education were discussed.
7. There was a meeting Q&A with His Excellency the President of Armenia. The delegates were able to ask any question pertaining politics, economics, geopolitics, migration, elections, Artsakh conflicts, Syrian crisis.
8. There was a special session with presentation and discussion about the birthright in Armenia.
9. There was also a separate meeting of lay participants, a visit to the Youth Centre and an official dinner in the name of His Holiness.

Armenian Church Representative Assembly



The meeting was concluded with the blessing of His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. His Holiness noted his appreciation for the effectiveness of the congregation and wished that the Heavenly Lord strengthen the ministers of the Armenian Church and the secular leaders in church structures, who contribute to the brightness of the Church and the welfare of the Armenian people worldwide.

Mrs Ayda Lndon Sarafian shared her experience of visiting the Vagharshapat Youth Centre in Etchmiadzin and meeting with His Holiness. In her own words:

"On the evening of the second day, a concert was given at the Vagharshapat Youth Centre in Etchmiadzin. These children from age 4 to 14 gave us an outstanding performance to the delight of everyone there. They entertained us for the hour with their singing dancing and acrobatics. They had obviously put a huge effort into putting the show together and their efforts showed on the night. I felt great pride in these children and had wished if I had brought up my own children in motherland Armenia.

On the last day of the conference, Bishop Hovakim kindly facilitated a meeting with His Holiness Karekin II, during which time I expressed the challenges facing our Armenian Church & Community in Dublin. His Holiness was very responsive and initiated approachable means to these issues."

In conclusion she added how important it was for her to attend the conference, share the challenges with others and discover how many issues they have in common. She also expressed her hope to see more women participation at such meetings in years to come.

For more information about the Armenian Church Representative Assembly please visit the website of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin by clicking [here](#).

Kevorkian Theological Seminary Students in the UK

Two students from the Kevorkian Seminary, Hrach Sultanyan and Davit Sahakyan, will come to the UK for one month. They will serve in Armenian Churches throughout the UK and, in addition, study English. It is a project that Kevorkian Seminary is carrying out in cooperation with different dioceses.

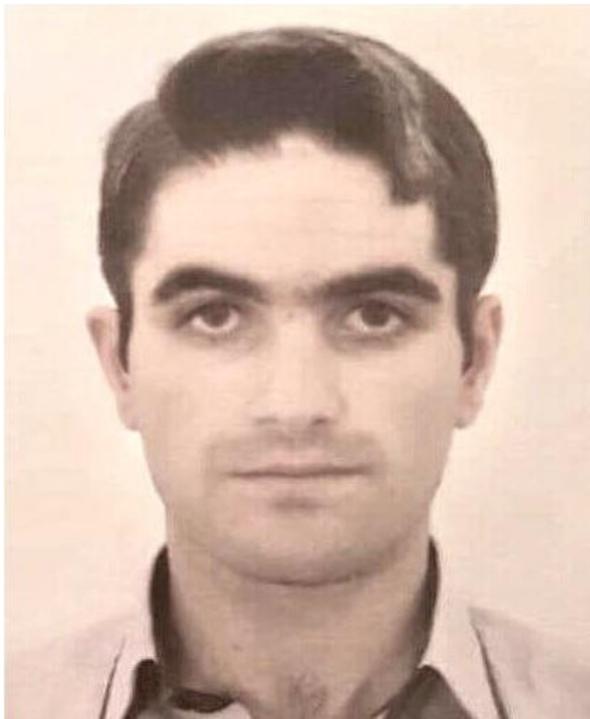


Hrach Sultanyan is a deacon.

He has been studying at Kevorkian Theological Seminary since 2012. He is in his 5th year, studies Dogmatic Theology and his Master's thesis is about the Holy Spirit.

He graduated from Vazgenyan Seminary and has a Bachelor degree in Theology.

He can't imagine himself without spiritual service because of his deep love for Church and God. He wants to become a priest because, in his opinion, it is the best way to serve God.



Davit Sahakyan is a deacon. He's been studying at Kevorgyan Theological Seminary at Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin since 2012. He is in his 5th year doing Masters at the Faculty of Dogmatic Theology. His Master's thesis is "Christology of Armenian Church in Pre-Chalcedonian Period".

He was also a student in Vazgenyan seminary in 2014-2016 and passed his bachelor exams with the highest scores. His bachelor thesis was "The Preaching of Christianity in the Acts of the Apostles".

He likes to study and do research in theology and finds his relaxation and inner peace through listening and singing gospels.

Upcoming Divine Liturgy Celebration and Genocide Memorial Anniversary in Wales

On the 3rd and 4th of November His Grace Bishop Hovakim will celebrate a Divine Liturgy in St David's Cathedral. It will coincide with the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide memorial in Cardiff.



The Memorial was opened on 3rd November 2007. It is located in the garden of the Temple of Peace amidst one of the finest buildings in Cardiff and directly opposite the Welsh College of Music and Drama. The memorial is made of a stone similar to Armenian tuff and Welsh slate to symbolise the two nations coming together.

The memorial was desecrated 27th January 2008 in an act of vandalism. The Cross was immediately replaced by a wooden replica. Two year later it was replaced with an identical slate cross. The pieces of the original cross were buried in concrete in front of the memorial.

It is the first memorial to the Armenian genocide that is on "public ground". The plot was given by the national Assembly in Wales. There are two events that are commemorated there annually without fail - 24th April and 3rd November, the opening day of the memorial.

More details on Divine Liturgy in St. David, Wales will follow in later issues.

Spirituality

Are Roman Catholics permitted to receive Holy Communion in the Armenian Apostolic churches?

The answer to this question cannot be a simple "yes" or "no." Since the Armenian Church does not practice proselytizing¹ among Christians who are members of other churches, she urges the faithful of other denominations who request to receive the sacraments to go to their church in order to receive them there.

In situations and places when and where the other Christian denominations have no church or priest, the Armenian Church does tend to the spiritual needs of Christians other than her own. The best example of this was the situation of the Roman Catholics in the Republic of Armenia under Soviet regime. Though there were times when the Armenian Church and particularly the priests were persecuted by the Soviet government, some sanctuaries in major cities and Holy Etchmiadzin, the seat of the patriarchate (catholicate), were still open and functioning. During those years, Armenian Catholics turned to the Armenian patriarchate for their needs and the patriarchs as well as the bishops and priests did not deny them spiritual care, including Holy Communion and the other sacraments. This kind of care was also extended to Armenian Catholics who lived in areas beyond the borders of the Republic of Armenia.

Holy Communion and the other sacraments can also be administered by Armenian priests in emergency situations such as to a Christian in his/ her deathbed or to an infant who is about to die, when priests of other denominations may not be available. In such situations the Armenian priest administers the sacraments only upon request.

Source: "Frequently Asked Source: "Frequently Aked Questions about the Armenian Church" by Very Rev. Fr. Krikor Maksoudian, St. Vartan Press, NY, 2004, page 72

Volunteers needed

Volunteers needed for the Armenian Street Festival that takes place 16th July, from 12-7pm. Please contact the Primate's Office by phone or email:

Phone: 020 8127 8364

Email: primatesoffice@armeniandiocese.org.uk



The poster features a large image of Mount Ararat in the background. In the top left corner, there is a logo with the letters 'A' and 'S' in a stylized, colorful font. The main title 'ARMENIAN STREET FESTIVAL July 16 / 2017' is written in large, bold, white letters with a blue outline. Below the title, there is a collage of images: a priest in a red vestment, a woman in a blue patterned dress, a group of people holding colorful balloons, and a group of people singing from a book. To the right of the collage is a portrait of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a black dress and large hoop earrings. Below the portrait, the text 'SPECIAL GUEST SIBIL | Սիպիլ' is written. At the bottom left, there is an image of a church building. At the bottom right, the text 'IVERNA GARDENS, LONDON, W8 6TP' and 'NEAREST TUBE: HIGH STREET KENSINGTON' is written in bold, black letters.

ARMENIAN STREET FESTIVAL July 16 / 2017

**SPECIAL GUEST
SIBIL | Սիպիլ**

**IVERNA GARDENS,
LONDON, W8 6TP**
**NEAREST TUBE:
HIGH STREET KENSINGTON**

Deacon Training Programme



The Deacon Training Programme was re-launched on 25th January 2017 at St. Sarkis Church. Every Wednesday, Deacons in training attend church and are instructed in the traditions of serving at the altar.

For those who are wishing to attend the training, please contact His Grace Bishop Hovakim Manukyan at: primatesoffice@armeniandiocese.org.uk



ACYO London introduces their new project

"Welcome to our new borns"

If you have a new born or know someone who has just had a baby in the community please write to the primatesoffice@armeniandiocese.org.uk

and let us know, we would love to send a gift to them.

Kindly send us your baby's full name and your home address.

For more information about ACYO London, to donate or to help us with any of our projects please contact us on:

acyolondon@armeniandiocese.org.uk



Facebook – ACYO London

Telephone: 0208 127 8364



BOOK A STALL AT THE ARMENIAN STREET FESTIVAL!

On Sunday 16th July, the Armenian Church and its community will be hosting its 7th annual Armenian Street Festival (ASF), taking over the whole Ivorna Gardens near High Street Kensington.

ASF is a celebration of our culture, history, identity and faith, bringing the community and our friends together for a fun day filled with music, food and dancing. Our event attracts over 1000 people, including the Armenian community, local residents, friends of our community, and representative of sister Churches in the UK. On the day we will be offering vendors an opportunity to hire one of our stalls in order to sell their products and raise awareness. Over the years our stalls have sold books, artwork, craftwork, charitable merchandise, jewellery and more. We are offering up to 20 vendors the opportunity to hire one of our stalls for only £100 for the whole day.

If you would like to learn more, please email us: primatesoffice@armenianchurch.co.uk or call 020 8127 8364.

Our stalls usually get sold out quickly, so we recommend contacting us as soon as possible to secure a place at ASF.



Organised by the Diocese of the Armenian Church of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland



Annual Armenian Street Festival - Sunday, 16th July, 2017

The ASF (Armenian Street Festival) Executive Committee and Primate request our faithful to save the date on Sunday, 16th July, 2017 for the next Armenian Street festival. This will be our 7th annual Armenian Street festival and as ever we want to make it the most successful one!

The ASF Team are a very committed and creative one and are always looking for fresh new ideas and help from the community. We are specifically looking for volunteers to help and support the Primate's office in all aspects, particularly for:

- Volunteers on the day to help set up/selling the food and drinks vouchers/clearing up etc
- Volunteers to help organise the event
- Advertising to the wider community
- Fund raising
- Volunteers to help host our VIP quests
- Journalists
- Reporters
- Photographers

Please contact us on 020 8127 8364 or email us at our new address: primatesoffice@armeniandiocese.org.uk



With the blessings from the primate of the Armenian Church
in UK and Ireland

WWW.TATEOSSIAN.COM

Tateossian London is starting the production of beautiful golden and silver crosses with chains. Please note that they are not available on Tateossian's website yet. Items sold through Armenian Church will have "Armenian Church in UK & Ireland" writing on the back. Please contact the Primate's office for more information.

Summer School-Camp "Epic": Unique Educational Project in Armenia

Summer School-Camp "EPIC" is a unique project which will take place in Armenian most beautiful resort Tsakhkadzor from 1 to 21 August, 2017.

What's amazing about EPIC, that it combines education with leisure in a nature environment, students get a chance to form the list of courses and activities themselves, and that it incorporates games training both body and mind, and even an open air rock fest and more exceptional events! You will get a chance to learn and communicate with worldwide top specialist from various fields.

For those students who want to discover new places, culture and nature, participate at educational, creative and sport activities while also being taken away by an idyllic forest-mountain landscape, there is a great opportunity ahead which combines it all.

Students may become a part of an international non-formal platform which brings together more than 300 students from the best universities of the world: Europe, USA, Russia, China, Kuwait, Japan, UAE and other countries.

This platform will give them a chance to get quality education along with a great opportunity for interaction, cultural exchange and friendship. The program is interdisciplinary in its nature so it gives students an opportunity to broaden their worldview by combining leisure with education.

Among the invited guests and speakers will be famous people:
Serj Tankian - musician, you may know from "System of a Down",
Garik Israelian - influential astrophysicist,
Henrikh Mkhitaryan - successful football player, and others.

At the end of the Summer School-Camp the participants will be provided with the certificates that meet international standards.

For detailed information, please contact project coordinator

Anahit Babayan at coordinator@epic.study

Phone: (+374 11) 54 55 56

Email (general enquiries): info@epic.study

or visit

www.epic.study

Announcement

From The Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia

The Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia re-launches “Ari Tun” program for the Diaspora youth.

The goal of the program is to familiarize Armenian Diaspora youth spread all over the world with its Homeland, instill them acknowledge their national identity, familiarize them with the traditions and practices of their people, Armenian families and the Armenian soul, foster a closer cooperation of Armenia and the Diaspora both in educational-cultural and moral-psychological respect.

In 2017 the program will be launched on June 18 and will continue till August 26, in 8 phases (each phase will last 14 days: 9 days with a host family, 4 days in camp). Diaspora youngsters from 13 to 18 will be hosted in Armenian families and will participate in a four-day camp envisaged by the program. The program is open for application by young people who did not participate in the program before.

The choice of host families is carried out by the administrative districts of Yerevan, RA community councils, and RA Ministry of Diaspora. The participants’ stay with the Armenian families is not remunerated. The process of selection of groups and individuals for program participation is carried by the Diaspora community structures, educational institutions and the Diaspora Armenian organizations, with the support of RA diplomatic representations in the given country.

Individual applications for participation in the program are also welcomed. Travel expenses are covered either by the participants or sponsors. The Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia meets the participants upon their arrival and sees them off when they leave Armenia. Armenian language classes, visits to the museums, sightseeing tours are also organized by the Ministry. During the camping days educational programs, classes of Armenian language and Armenian Studies, national songs and dances will be organized as well. Meetings with state, public and cultural figures will also take place. In order to ensure safety during the trips the participants will be accompanied by the doctor and the police.

**For additional information please contact the Department Pan-Armenian Programs
of the RA Ministry of Diaspora:**

tel: (+37460) 500-610 or (+37460) 500-830

E mail:

europedep@gmail.com

europedep@yahoo.fr

aritun.mindiaspora@gmail.com

Address:

Yerevan 0010, V. Sargsyan 3 Or Click [here](#) to download the application form

A Message from the Primate Office

His Grace Bishop Hovakim Manukyan wishes to inform you that at the bottom of our weekly e-newsletter you will find the contacts of our Churches and Parishes in the UK and Ireland. Details are also available on the websites of the respective Churches and Parishes. Please do not hesitate to contact any of these addresses if you need any help regarding Church services. You will receive a reply either from the Parish Council Chair or from the priest.

If you encounter any kind of problems regarding communication with the above, please contact the Primacy (Առաջնորդարան) directly at the following address:

Bishop Hovakim Manukyan

The Primate's Office

c/o The Armenian Vicarage

Iverna Gardens

London, W8 6TP

Tel: + 44 (0) 208 127 8364

e-mail: primatesoffice@armeniandiocese.org.uk (*please note our NEW email address*)

website : armeniandiocese.org.uk

facebook : [Հայոց Առաջնորդարանի](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100014906651446) <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100014906651446>





Upcoming Events

Bible Studies

Every Thursday at 7:00pm in the Gulbenkian Hall

Next dates: July 6, 13, 20, 27

Armenian Street Festival

Sunday, 16th July

7th Annual Armenian Street Festival at St. Sarkis Church, Ivema Gardens,

London W8 6TP

Divine Liturgy in Wales

3rd and 4th November

St Davids Cathedral, The Close, St Davids, Pembrokeshire SA62 6RD

More details to follow

More events will follow. Please stay tuned.

Prayer Intentions for July:

We ask God to strengthen and give spiritual courage to our brothers and sisters, our community members, who are in search of spirituality.

Announcement

The Armenian Church News (ACN) publishes announcements of any Armenian organisation as it is an inclusive channel of communication.

The objectives of ACN are to inform the wider public and its constituency members about:

- a. Activities of the Primate
- b. Organisations under the auspices of the Primate: ACT UK, ACYF, Ladies Committee
- c. Worldwide Armenian Church
- d. Parishes
- e. Upcoming events in the community

The announcements about the community events are published upon the request of a particular organisation. The articles cannot be longer than 150 words.

ACN do not raise funds on behalf of any other organisation except for Armenian Church (ACT UK, ACYF, Primate's Office Ladies Committee, St. Yeghiche, St. Sarkis, Holy Trinity, Dublin, Cardiff, Birmingham, Oxford).

Any article, flyer or information that may contain appeals do not represent the Primate's or ACN official position.

Worship Services in the Armenian Churches

Services are held in the Armenian Churches in London every Sunday starting at 11:00 am. **In Manchester, there is a service on the 1st Sunday of the month.** For further details, please contact the parish nearest to you:



Holy Trinity Armenian Church

229 Upper Brook Street
Manchester, M13 0FY
Tel: 0161 273 1074

www.armenianchurchmanchester.org/
1st SUNDAY OF THE MONTH



St. Sarkis Church

Iverna Gardens
Kensington, London, W8 6TP
Tel: 020 7937 0152

<http://www.stsarkisparish.co.uk>



St. Yeghiche Cathedral

13b Cranley Gardens
Kensington, London SW7 3BB
Tel: 020 7373 8133

<http://www.styeghiche.org.uk/>

Other Parishes of our Diocese:

Cardiff - Tel: +44 771 279 2304, +44 2920779248. john@jagproperties.co.uk

Dublin - Tel: +44 2891 863559. <http://www.armenians.ie/>

Birmingham – Tel: +44 121 675 1469. St John's Church, Stratford Road, Birmingham, B11 4EA

Oxford - Tel: +44 7810 490242. armenian.society@studentsclub.ox.ac.uk

The Primate thanks Nyraff Ltd & the Tanielian family for their continued support to ACT UK and the ASF



We invite those who have questions or wish to gain deeper understanding of the faith, moral discernment, teachings and traditions of the Armenian Church to contact the Office of the Diocese of the Armenian Church in United Kingdom and Ireland:

His Grace Bishop Hovakim Manukyan
The Primate's Office
c/o The Armenian Vicarage
Ivema Gardens
London, W8 6TP

Tel: 0208 127 8364

Email: primatesoffice@armeniandiocese.org.uk

Website : armeniandiocese.org.uk

Facebook : [Հայոց Առաջնորդարան](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100014906651446)

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