

## How do we proceed?

Please contact your parish priest:

- St. Sarkis Church  
0207 937 0152  
office@stsarkislondon.org
- St. Yeghiche Church  
0207 341 4444  
services@styeghiche.org.uk

Or the Primate's Office:

- 0208 127 8364  
primatesoffice@armenianchurch.co.uk

*to arrange a visit to your family*



The Primate's Office

c/o The Armenian Vicarage

Iverna Gardens

London W8 6TP

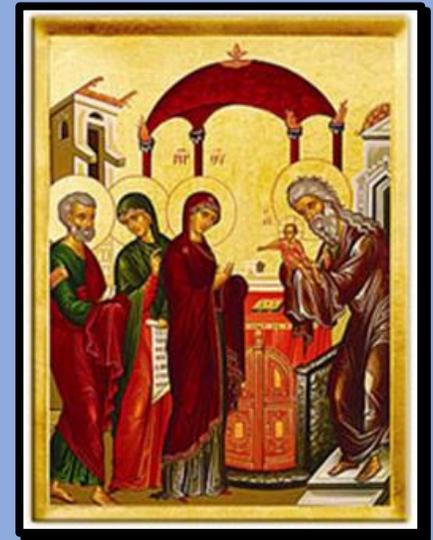
Phone: 0208 127 8364

Email: primatesoffice@armenianchurch.co.uk

armeniandiocese.org.uk



Blessing of Young Families



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



## The Christian family is the core of our community

Faith, hope and love are the principle graces and values in Christianity. During a person's baptism, the priest asks the Godfather what 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 Cor. 13.13).

Indeed, these three values have been at the core of the Armenian family for centuries and are still the same today. Faith, hope and love unite the family and sustain them against all challenges in life. For many generations, children have been brought up with these values. Today we must

continue to nourish our children with abundant faith, hope and love.

## Blessing of young families

Last year, 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.

This newly inaugurated ceremony for the "Christian family", which takes place in the church, is an opportunity for couples to strengthen their Christian faith, especially as a young family or family to be, and to renew their commitment to serve Christ through the various ministries of the Church.

As part of our ministry to provide spiritual nourishment to every Armenian family, we invite families to actively engage with the Church and the parish priests.

## What are we asked to do?

It is very simple: priests will visit families, do house blessings, talk about faith, hope and love and listen to their spiritual concerns. What are their expectations from the Church and the community? How is the Christian faith practiced in the family? How is their sense of belonging to

the community fulfilled? Questions such as these and others would be part of the conversation. During home visits, the priests will bless the house and bring small gifts for the family.

## The end of the programme

On the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on 14<sup>th</sup> February, these families will be asked to come to the Church. There will be a special blessing of them and reception hosted by the Primate in honour of them.

