



Newsletter

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Feast of Ascension Celebrated

On Sunday, 12th May, 2013, the Parish Council organised a special celebration of the Feast of the Ascension of Christ (Hampartsum, Hambarcum), and thank God the weather cooperated! At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the faithful were greeted with traditional Armenian music as they gathered in the front garden. Shakeh Major Tchilingirian welcomed all commenting on the typical Armenian patterns of circle-dance. The faithful

were then invited to join in the circle dance with simple steps. Within a few minutes a long circle of Armenian dancers of all ages, led by Shakeh, encircled the beautiful building of St. Sarkis Church. After several turns around the church on a beautiful and sunny day, the dancers entered the Gulbenkian Hall to continue the festivities with more dancing and light lunch, courtesy of the St. Sarkis Ladies' Committee. Next followed the group-singing of Hampartsum Yayla, a traditional Armenian song associated with the Feast of Ascension, which was sung by several singers of the London Armenian Opera group who were present in the Hall. HG Bp Vahan Hovhanessian, Primate, was invited for his concluding remarks, in which he thanked the Parish Council, Hratch and Shakeh Tchilingirian, the Ladies' Committee, the London Armenian Opera group, and all the faithful for such an inspiring and traditional celebration of "Ascension."