



## **DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2015**

### **“Diarentarach” ~ the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Temple**

**In the Armenian Apostolic Church this feast day is also dedicated to newlyweds**

#### **According to the Gospel of Luke**

Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple to be consecrated by God. There they were greeted by an old man named Simeon who revealed that Jesus was the Son of God, the prophesied Messiah. The Armenian Apostolic Church observes this feast day with great esteem for it is in the revelation of Christ that mankind places eternal hope.

#### **The Tradition of Celebration of Newlyweds**

This tradition dates back to an old Armenian custom still practiced in the Middle East when on the eve of the Presentation service a bonfire ceremony takes place.

Faithful congregation members, and in particular newlyweds, gather around the bonfire site and set the fuel alight with burning candles from the church. Young people then jumped over the low burning flames and the remaining ashes would be collected and scattered over fields and pastures for prosperity.

Jumping over the fire symbolises joy and happiness for newlywed youth and families.

**With this old custom in mind, this was an opportunity for the newlyweds to rededicate themselves to one another and to Almighty God.**

