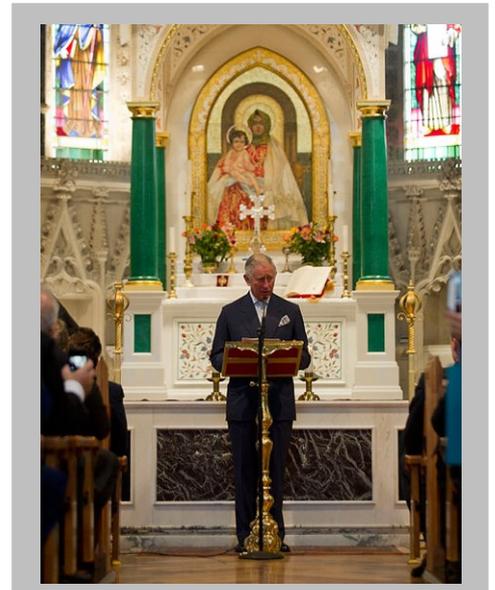


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## THE PRINCE OF WALES PRAYS AT ST YEGHICHE ARMENIAN CHURCH

As part of the agenda of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to raise worldwide awareness of the suffering of the Christians in the Middle East, and responding to the invitation of HG Bp Vahan Hovhannessian, Primate, HRH Prince Charles joined the Armenian faithful in the UK in an Armenian prayer service at St Yeghiche Armenian Church on Wednesday, 19 November at 10:30am. The Church was packed with the faithful who have come to greet the Prince of Wales. Present also were Mr and Mrs Vatche and Tamar Manoukian, benefactors of the St Yeghiche Armenian Church, Mrs Hranoush Hakopyan, Minister of the Diaspora and Dr and Mrs Armen and Nune Sarkissian, Ambassador of Armenia to the UK. The prayer service started with a procession followed by petitions and prayers for Armenians and Christians in the Middle East. The service was followed by a short performance by a joined choir led by Maestro Aris Nadirian. At the end of the service Bishop Vahan thanked His Royal Highness for his visit the Armenian Church, and presented the Prince with a hand-made replica of a 14th century Armenian icon of St George, as a symbol of appreciation and gratitude for his historic visit (the first



of a member of the Royal Family) to the Armenian Church in UK. This was followed by remarks by His Eminence Abp Avak Asadourian, Primate of the Armenian Church of Iraq and General Secretary of Christian Leaders in Iraq and by Dr Armen Sarkissian, Ambassador of Armenia to the UK. In his speech, His Royal Highness thanked Bishop Vahan for the icon adding, "I will treasure it for the rest of my life and I am hugely



ou all here today." His Royal Highness then repeated his emphasis on the importance of raising awareness concerning the growing persecution of Christians in the Middle East. The Prince also condemned the terrorist act of the destruction of the Der el Zor Armenian Church and martyrs' sacred shrine. At the conclusion of his visit the Prince thanked Bishop Vahan and the Ambassador as well as Mr and Mrs Vatche and Tamar Manoukian, benefactors of the St Yeghiche Church. His Royal Highness exited the church through the central isle shaking hands with as many as possible of the over thousand Armenians who gathered in the Church to join the Prince in prayer and thank him for his visit to the Armenian Diocese.

*Thank you Your Royal Highness for visiting us.*

[To watch the Video Clip please click here.](#)

[To read the full speech of the Prince, click here.](#)

[To read and listen to Bishop Vahan's Interview on Premier Radio, click here.](#)