



## Cultural Programme for the Armenian Community in Dublin

Sunday, 3rd June, 2012, was a busy day for the Mission Parish Council of the Armenian Church in Dublin. That afternoon, a community audience of over 75 people welcomed the guests of the day: Dr. Hratch Tchilingirian and his wife Mrs. Shakeh Major Tchilingirian of London at Taney Parish Centre. The couple was there at the invitation of the Dublin MPC to offer a lecture on the Diaspora and a workshop on Armenian ethnographic dance. Armenia's Honorary Consul in Ireland, Mr. Ohan Yergaynharsian, was in attendance.

Dr. Tchilingirian, a sociologist, presented the issues and questions prevalent in contemporary Diaspora life and examined them in the ongoing process of globalisation. He focused on the key elements of Diaspora life which have played and to a large extent continue to play important roles in preservation and maintenance of Armenian identity. These key institutions are the church, school and media/communications. The lecture was followed by a very motivating discussion.

Following the lecture, the Irish-Armenian community was invited to a special treat: an explanatory presentation on Armenian ethnographic dance by Shakeh Major Tchilingirian, an acclaimed solo dance artist and choreographer. The short talk was followed by dance-instruction. Within minutes after Shakeh's instructions and demonstration, all attendees, including children, were on their feet dancing the traditional and beautiful Armenian dances.

A reception followed courtesy of the Mission Parish Council of the Armenian Church in Dublin. Thank you to Hratch and Shakeh, and congratulations to Dublin MPC for such an interesting cultural and educational programme.