



The Presentation of Christ in the Temple
(Candlemas)
Purification of the Virgin Mary

The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas and continued through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, now comes to an end today with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas).

The child who has been manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter (which begins with Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 17th).

The UK has tragically passed 100,000 COVID-19 deaths. Our hearts and prayers go out to all those affected and grieving. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued an open letter to the nation and are calling on the nation to come together to pray from **tomorrow at 6pm and throughout February**.

We remember before God those who have died and we pray that God's love will surround all who mourn them, now and always

*Gracious God,
 as we remember before you the thousands who have died,
 surround us and all who mourn with your strong
 compassion.
 Be gentle with us in our grief, protect us from despair,
 and give us grace to persevere
 and face the future with hope
 in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.*

The Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn has provided the prayer below:

Praying as a milestone is passed

'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal.'
 (Revelation 7.13, 14)

*God of love, who hold us in life as in death,
 as we commend each one of those who have died
 to your eternal and tender care
 comfort all who grieve, hold us in our sorrow
 and give us that sense of hope
 which brings us all to resurrection life
 in Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.*

**Welcome to the United
 Benefice of Holy Innocents &
 St. Mark, South Norwood**

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



31st January 2021

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne Eversley
Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley

**The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/
 The Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin**
10.00am Parish Mass

President, Mother Roxanne Preacher, Despina Francois
 Malachi 3.1-5 * Psalm 24.1-10 * Hebrews 2.14-18 * Luke 2.22-40

Access online worship via
www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

This week's diary

Today, 31 st January	Candlemas	6pm National Prayer
Thursday, 4 th February	Gilbert of Sempringham, 1189	10.00am Mass at Holy Innocents 8.00pm Deanery Synod (Zoom)
Sunday, 7 th February	Second Sunday before Lent	8am BCP Mass 10am Parish Mass

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: *Mother Roxanne is available on Tel. 020 8916 1830 or Mobile 07723 038215 or mtrroxanne@gmail.com Mother Roxanne is not available on Mondays; or Mother Susan (07890 780572) on Fridays.*

For your prayers: *Archbishops Justin and Stephen; Bishops Christopher, Jonathan, Richard and Karowei in this Diocese; and the bishops in our link Dioceses of Zimbabwe.*

For Welcare within our Diocese, for parents and carers, and for the difficulties of bringing up children and dealing with family problems in modern times
For the Bishops, priests and people of Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brazil (Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil)
For the sick - Alec, Una, Claude, Helen, Linda, Mick, Jennifer and Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Vera, Barry and Valerie, Sheila, Andrew Scorgie, Joanna Simpson, Rose, Allison, Caroline and Don Hawkes; **The bereaved** – the Davies, Aberdeen, Simon, Benn, Ferguson and Webley families; **RIP** – Olu Aberdeen, Sybil Simon, Alanzo Ferguson and Nevil Webley. **Years Mind.**

*Our Preacher today, Despina Francois is a Lay Reader at Holy Trinity Church Sydenham and Forest Hill, here in our Diocese, in the Woolwich Episcopal Area. Despina is a Christian of the Greek Orthodox tradition where the Service of **The Thanksgiving of Woman after Child-Birth** commonly called **The Churching of Woman** (BCP) still takes place. So, she is best-placed to talk to us about the Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin.*

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son
was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

PSALM *Either* Psalm 24:[1-6] 7-10

R The Lord of hosts,
he is the king of glory,
or

R The Lord whom you seek
will suddenly come.

[The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world and all who dwell therein.
For it is he who founded it upon the seas
and made it firm upon the rivers of
the deep. *R*

"Who can ascend the hill of the Lord?
and who can stand in his holy place?"

"Those who have clean hands and a
pure heart,
who have not pledged themselves to
falsehood,
nor sworn by what is a fraud. *R*

They shall receive a blessing from the
Lord
and a just reward from the God of
their salvation."
Such is the generation of those who
seek him,
of those who seek your face, O God
of Jacob. *R*

Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
"Who is this King of glory?"
"The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle." *R*

Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
"Who is he, this King of glory?"
"The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory." *R*

Or *Psalm 84* (RCL only)

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-end

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since the children share flesh and blood,
Jesus himself likewise shared the same
things, so that through death he might
destroy the one who has the power of
death, that is, the devil, and free those
who all their lives were held in slavery
by the fear of death. For it is clear that
he did not come to help angels, but the
descendants of Abraham. Therefore he
had to become like his brothers and
sisters in every respect, so that he might
be a merciful and faithful high priest in
the service of God, to make a sacrifice
of atonement for the sins of the people.
Because he himself was tested by what
he suffered, he is able to help those
who are being tested.

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.*

When the time came for their purification
according to the law of Moses, Mary and
Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to
present him to the Lord (as it is written
in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn

male shall be designated as holy to
the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice
according to what is stated in the law of
the Lord, "a pair of turtle-doves or two
young pigeons." Now there was a man in
Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;
this man was righteous and devout,
looking forward to the consolation of
Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.
It had been revealed to him by the Holy
Spirit that he would not see death before
he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided
by the Spirit, Simeon came into the
temple; and when the parents brought
in the child Jesus, to do for him what
was customary under the law, Simeon
took him in his arms and praised God,
saying, "Master, now you are dismissing
your servant in peace, according to your
word; for my eyes have seen your
salvation, which you have prepared in
the presence of all peoples, a light for
revelation to the Gentiles and for glory
to your people Israel." And the child's
father and mother were amazed at what
was being said about him. Then Simeon
blessed them and said to his mother
Mary, "This child is destined for the
falling and the rising of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be opposed so
that the inner thoughts of many will be
revealed – and a sword will pierce your
own soul too." There was also a prophet,
Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the
tribe of Asher. She was of a great age,
having lived with her husband seven
years after her marriage, then as a
widow to the age of eighty-four. She
never left the temple but worshipped
there with fasting and prayer night and
day. At that moment she came, and
began to praise God and to speak
about the child to all who were looking
for the redemption of Jerusalem. When
they had finished everything required
by the law of the Lord, they returned to
Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.
The child grew and became strong,
filled with wisdom; and the favour of
God was upon him.

POST COMMUNION

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon
and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts
beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus
when he comes to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.