

**ST GEORGE  
BICKLEY**

**THE ORDER FOR MASS ON  
THE PRESENTATION  
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN  
THE TEMPLE**

**4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024, 10.30AM**

*(external solemnity, from 2<sup>nd</sup> February)*

*Parish Priest*

**Father Henry Everett**

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**Welcome to St George's!** This booklet contains all the material you will need for today's celebration of Mass. We hope you will find this service easy to follow, but please also do not be afraid to ask if you are unsure what to do at any point. The building is fitted with an Induction Loop - sit away from the pillars for best results!

Families with small children are very welcome to make use of the carpeted area at the back of church, where you will find books, crayons and soft toys. There are two further play stations in the side aisles.

A toilet is at the back of church behind the screen. Before Mass, please try to maintain an atmosphere of quiet prayer.

Mass setting: Lourdes.

Please stand when the bell rings, for the entrance of the clergy, servers and choir, who go to the back of the church. When all are in place, the people's candles are lit, and the choir sing the antiphon:

**Choir**        The Lord our God will come in majesty: he will enlighten the minds of his servants, alleluia.

*The priest sings,*

**Priest**        In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People**        **Amen.**

**Priest**        The Lord be with you.

**People**        **And also with you.**

*The Priest introduces the Mass:*

**Priest**        Dear brothers and sisters, forty days have passed since we celebrated the joyful feast of the Nativity of the Lord. Today we mark the day when Jesus was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. Outwardly he was fulfilling the Law, but in reality he was coming to meet his believing people. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Simeon

and Anna came to the Temple. Enlightened by the same Spirit, they recognized the Lord and confessed him with exultation. So let us also, gathered together by the Holy Spirit, proceed into the house of God to encounter Christ. There we shall find him and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, until he comes again, revealed in glory.

*All raise their candles and the priest blesses the candles, saying:*

Let us pray:

O God, source and origin of all light, who on this day showed to the just man Simeon the Light for revelation to the Gentiles, we humbly ask that, in answer to your people's prayers, you may be pleased to sanctify with your blessing + these candles, which we are eager to carry in praise of your name, so that, treading the path of virtue, we may reach that light which never fails. Through Christ our Lord.

*People*     **Amen.**

*The priest sprinkles the candles with holy water and puts incense into the thurible. He receives his lighted candle, and the Deacon announces the procession:*

*Deacon*     Let us go forth in peace to meet the Lord.

*As the procession begins, the Choir sing the Nunc Dimittis, with this antiphon:*

*Choir*     To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.  
Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation.  
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*Then all sing hymn 33 as we all go in procession around the church, the people joining in after the clergy:*

**Of the Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that Fountain  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic Close,  
Evermore and evermore.**

**By his word was all created;  
He commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
Universe of three in one,  
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
All that breathes beneath the sun,  
Evermore and evermore.**

**He assumed this mortal body,  
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
That the race from dust created  
Might not perish utterly,  
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced  
In the depths of hell to lie,  
Evermore and evermore.**

**O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
When the Maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
In her loving arms received,  
Evermore and evermore.**

**This is he, whom seer and sibyl  
Sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealèd**

In the page of prophecy;  
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;  
let the world his praises cry!  
Evermore and evermore.

Let the storm and summer sunshine,  
Gliding stream and sounding shore,  
Sea and forest, frost and zephyr,  
Day and night their Lord adore;  
Let creation join to laud thee  
Through the ages evermore,  
Evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
Angels and Archangels, sing!  
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
Let your joyous anthems ring,  
Every tongue his name confessing,  
Countless voices answering,  
Evermore and evermore. *Prudentius (348-413) tr R F Davis (1866-1937)*

*When the priest enters the sanctuary the choir sings:*

*Choir* They offered for him unto the Lord a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons as it is written in the law of the Lord. When the days of Mary's purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished they brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord; as it is written in the law of the Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it is written in the law of the Lord.

*Remain standing to sing the Gloria*

*Cantor* Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.

*People* **Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

*Choir* Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

*People* **Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

*Choir* Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father. Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.

*People* **Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo**

*Choir* For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*People* **Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo**

*Then the Priest prays the Collect,*

*Priest* Almighty, ever-living God, we humbly implore your majesty that, just as your Only begotten Son was presented on this day in the Temple in the substance of our flesh, so, by your grace, we may be presented to you with minds made pure. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Now sit to listen to the First Reading. Malachi 3; 1-4.*

*Reader* A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of Hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fullers' alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

*Reader* This is the Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The Psalm (24) follows the reading. Remain seated to sing,*

Ps. 24 (alternative chant) W. BOYCE



- 7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye ever- | lasting | doors  
:  
and the King of | glory | shall come | in.
- 8 Who is the | King of | glory :  
it is the Lord strong and mighty, even the | Lord\_ | mighty ' in | battle.
- 9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye ever- | lasting | doors  
:  
and the King of | glory | shall come | in.
- 10 Who is the | King of | glory :  
even the Lord of hosts, | he ' is the | King of | glory.

*Remain seated for the Second Reading. Hebrews 2; 14-18.*

*Reader* A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.  
Now, since the children are men of blood and flesh, Jesus likewise had a full share in these, that by his death he might rob the devil, the prince of death, of his power, and free those who through fear of death had been slaves their whole life long. Surely he did not come to help angels, but rather the children of Abraham; therefore he had to become like his brothers in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God on their behalf, to expiate the sins of the people. Since he was himself tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are tempted.

*Reader* This is the Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*We pause for reflection. Then stand for the Gospel Acclamation,*

*Choir* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*People* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Choir* The light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel, your people.

*People* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Deacon* The Lord be with you

*People* **And also with you.**

*Deacon* A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*Luke 2; 22-40.*

*People* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Deacon* When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.



When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

*Deacon* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*People* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Please sit for the Homily from Fr Paul.*

*Then stand to recite the Nicene Creed:*

*People* **I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Please remain standing for the Prayers of Intercession.*

*Priest* Let us pray that the light of Christ may shine in our hearts  
and be revealed in our lives.

*After each bidding:*

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy

*People* **hear our prayer**

*At the prayer for the departed:*

*Reader* Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,

*People* **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*In conclusion to the prayers:*

*Priest* May our offering of prayer be united with the  
thanksgiving of Mary and Joseph and be accepted in the  
name of the Holy Child Jesus. Merciful Father,

*People* **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our  
Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Please sit as the Choir sing the Nunc Dimittis from the Evening Service in C by  
Frank Henry Shera (1882-1956), and bread and wine are brought to the altar.*

*Please stand to sing hymn 157, as the collection is taken. If you want to give by  
card, there is a card reader at the back of church.*

**Hail to the Lord who comes,  
Comes to his temple gate!  
Not with his angel host,  
Not in his kingly state;  
No shouts proclaim him nigh,  
No crowds his coming wait;  
  
But borne upon the throne  
Of Mary's gentle breast,  
Watched by her duteous love,  
In her fond arms at rest;**

Thus to his Father's house  
He comes, the heavenly guest.

There Joseph at her side  
In reverent wonder stands;  
And, filled with holy joy,  
Old Simeon in his hands  
Takes up the promised Child,  
The glory of all lands.

Hail to the great First-born  
Whose ransom-price they pay!  
The Son before all worlds,  
The Child of man to-day,  
That he might ransom us  
Who still in bondage lay.

O Light of all the earth,  
Thy children wait for thee!  
Come to thy temples here,  
That we, from sin set free,  
Before thy Father's face  
May all presented be!

*J Ellerton (1826-93)*

*Priest* Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

*People* **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for  
the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and  
the good of all his holy Church.**

*Priest* May the offering made with exultation by your Church be  
pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, for you willed that your  
Only Begotten Son be offered to you for the life of the  
world as the Lamb without blemish. Who lives and reigns  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*The priest prays the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer, and then all sing the Sanctus and Benedictus:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.**

**Full of your glory are heav'n and earth, God of pow'r and might.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.**

**Blessed is he who comes to us in the name of the Lord.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.**

*Please kneel. The Eucharistic Prayer continues, until the Memorial Acclamation:*

*Deacon* Great is the mystery of Faith.

*Cantor* You are the world's redeemer: save your people Lord.

*People* **Save your people Lord.**

*Cantor* By dying on the cross, you have set us free: save your people Lord.

*People* **Save your people Lord.**

*Cantor* By rising from the dead, you have set us free: save your people Lord.

*People* **Save your people Lord.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer concludes, and all sing,*

*Priest* Through him, with him, in him.

*People* **Amen.**

*Priest* in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

*People* **Amen.**

*Priest* all glory and honour is yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

Please stand for the Lord's Prayer,

*Priest* At the Saviour's command, and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say,

*People* **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.**

*Priest* Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our day,  
that by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*People* **For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

*Priest* Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you;  
look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance  
with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

*Priest* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Deacon* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Now sing the Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us, have mercy on us. (repeated)  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

Then kneel.

*Priest* Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

*People* **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

*Priest* My eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

*The people come forward to receive communion. If you have **not** been baptised and confirmed, please come forward for a blessing instead of communion, carrying this Order of Service.*

*During communion hymn 27 is sung, for which all remain seated or kneeling,*

**How brightly shines the Morning Star!  
The nations see and hail afar  
The Light in Judah shining.  
Thou David's son of Jacob's race,  
The Bridegroom, and the King of grace,  
For thee our hearts are pining!  
Lowly, holy,  
Great and glorious, thou victorious  
Prince of graces,  
Filling all the heavenly places!**

**Though circled by the hosts on high,  
He deigns to cast a pitying eye  
Upon his helpless creatures;  
The whole creation's Head and Lord,**

By highest seraphim adored,  
Assumed our very nature.  
Jesu, grant us,  
Through thy merit, to inherit  
Thy salvation;  
Hear, O hear our supplication.

Rejoice, ye heav'ns; thou earth, reply;  
With praise, ye sinners, fill the sky,  
For this his incarnation.

Incarnate God, put forth thy power,  
Ride on, ride on, great Conqueror,  
Till all know thy salvation.

Amen, Amen!

Alleluya, Alleluya!

Praise be given

Evermore by earth and heaven. *P Nicolai (1556-1608) tr W Mercer (1811-73)*

Please stand for the Post-Communion Prayer:

*Priest* By these holy gifts which we have received, O Lord, bring your grace to perfection within us, and, as you fulfilled Simeon's expectation that he would not see death until he had been privileged to welcome the Christ, so may we, going forth to meet the Lord, obtain the gift of eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please sit for the Notices.

*Then stand for the Blessing & Dismissal,*

*Priest*      The Lord be with you.

*People*      **And also with you.**

*Priest*      May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠  
and the Holy Spirit.

*People*      **Amen.**

*Deacon*     Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*The clergy and servers go to the crib for the Angelus. As they go we sing the Final Anthem of Our Lady:*

**Mother of Christ, hear thou thy people's cry,  
Star of the deep, and portal of the sky;  
Mother of him, who thee from nothing made,  
Sinking, we strive and call to thee for aid:  
O by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee,  
Thou Virgin first and last, pray mercy.**    *J Byrom (1692-1763)*

*The priest censes the crib and leads the Angelus.*

*Priest*      The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary,

*People*      **and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

**Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit  
of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for  
us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

*Priest*      Behold the handmaid of the Lord,

*People*      **be it unto me according to thy word. Hail Mary...**

*Priest*      And the Word was made flesh,

*People*      **and dwelt among us. Hail Mary...**

*Priest*      Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

*People*      **that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**



*Priest* Let us pray. We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts, so that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ through the message of an angel, so, by his cross and passion, we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Remain standing to sing hymn 377 during which the clergy and servers depart.*

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all life thou givest—to both great and small;  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
Then wither and perish—but naught changeth thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
All laud we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.** *W Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)*

*The organist then plays Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne in C – Buxtehude*

### **Mass times this week**

Tuesday                    9.30am (St Paul Miki & Companions)  
*Readings:* 1 Kings 8; 22-23, 27-30. Mark 7; 1-13.

Wednesday                9.30am  
*Readings:* 1 Kings 10; 1-10. Mark 7; 14-23.

Thursday                    9.30am  
*Readings:* 1 Kings 11; 4-13. Mark 7; 24-30.

Friday                        9.30am (Parish Requiem)  
*Readings:* 1 Kings 11; 29-32, 12; 19. Mark 7; 31-37.

Saturday                    9.30am with Rosary (St Scholastica)  
*Readings:* 1 Kings 12; 26-32, 13; 33-34. Mark 8; 1-10.

### **Next Sunday (Sixth of the Year)**

8.00 am	Low Mass
10.30am	Sung Mass
12.30pm	Baptism Service

**Collection – we take a collection during the second hymn, towards the cost of providing services and the upkeep of this church. If you are a UK taxpayer please place your offering in one of the envelopes in the pews (completed with your name and address) and place it in the collection plate when it is circulated during the hymn. A card reader to give by contactless payment is also available at the back of church. Special thanks if you give by standing order, as this helps us to budget.**

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