

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



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 or Candlemas (the true date being February 2nd).

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 begin with Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd).

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Today, we are reminded by **Archdeacon Moira Astin** (Chair, Croydon Zimbabwe link Committee), in her report below, to pray for Bishop Ignatios and the people of our link diocese of **Central Zimbabwe**.

The situation in Zimbabwe has long been a desperate one and this continues even as people in our own country and other parts of the world are also finding their lives turned upside down by the COVID Pandemic.

As we seek to find new ways to be church here in this Diocese and this country, it is important that we do not lose sight of those who are our brothers and sisters in Christ in Zimbabwe and other parts of the world and, continue to support them whenever we can.

The Croydon Episcopal Area sends the money raised in the Bishop's Lent Call and other donations to help the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe as support for the Diocese's budget. This means that the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe can choose its priorities and use the money in the way which is most needed in the Diocese. So, today we pray for:

- the ongoing resilience of the church and its ordinary people both in Croydon and the diocese of Central Zimbabwe.
- those affected by COVID 19 and the recent Omicron virus.
- the joint Committee between our two countries as it seeks to give mutual support and prayer.

Join us for a quiz night at Christ Church Purley on Saturday 19th February at 7pm. Also gives an opportunity to find out more about the Link.

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NEXT DATE FOR FUNDRAISING EVENT:
Post Valentine Lunch after Church on Sunday, 20th February. Cost per person £10. Do come and support this event and bring your family and friends. **Thank you!**

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

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



30th January 2022

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne Eversley
Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley
Reader: Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple
8.00am and 10.00am

President and Preacher, Mother Roxanne

*Malachi 3.1-5 * Psalm 24.7-10 * Hebrews 2.14-18 * Luke 222-40*

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Until further notice, both Parishes will continue to meet for worship at Saint Mark for the 8am & 10am Sunday Masses; and at Holy Innocents for the weekday Mass on Thursdays at 10am.

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

To hire the Church Halls, please call:
 Jan on 020 8653 0447 for St Mark; and
 Annette on 020 8771 5779 for Holy Innocents.

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We pray: for Archbishops Justin and Stephen; Bishops Christopher, Jonathan, Richard and Karowei in this Diocese; and the Bishops in our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe.

For all those Clergy and Readers with Permission To Officiate (PTO) in the Diocese; and for the support they have given and continue to give to both clergy and lay people.

Pray for the Bishops, priests & people of the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean.

For the sick: Claude & Richard, Helen, Jennifer & Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Amanda, Rose, Caroline, Sigi, Anecka, Lynn, Ronald, Tommy, Ena, Adeline, Akos, Peggy, Rudolph, Stephanie, Pamela, Barry, Dennis, Linda, Greta, David, Oslene, Anthony, Adrian, Barbara, Jacqueline, Jackie.

For the bereaved: the Naldrett family.

For the recently departed: Hilda Naldrett.

For those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time (Years Mind).

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'NAME A STAR' AT CHRISTMASTIDE

Thank you to those who have purchased STARS thus far. **Today is your last day. Our coffers need you!** No video this year I'm afraid but please feel free to take your own photos /make videos of your Stars on the tree. **Thank you for your generosity.**

Sunday

30 January 2022 Presentation of Christ in the Temple

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-end**

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.