



**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 17<sup>th</sup>).

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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*



**31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood)

**This week's diary**

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

**CHURCH NOTICES**

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