

St German's Church

2 February 2020 - The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)



This day marks the completion of forty days since the birth of Jesus, when Mary and Joseph took the child to the Temple in Jerusalem. The requirement in Levitical law was for Mary to be 'cleansed', the completion of her purification following the birth of a male child. Until that day, she could touch no holy thing nor enter the sanctuary. Yet on seeing the holy family, Simeon praised God and acclaimed the infant as 'the light to enlighten the nations' and the prophet Anna gave thanks and proclaimed him her Redeemer. The image of Christ as the Light has led to the celebration of light countering darkness, with candles often taking a central place in the observance.

Parish Notes:

I Ffordd Tangnefedd -this evening 2 Feb in St German's at 6:00pm when we will have a Labyrinth Service. IFT is a contemplative service that is open to those who struggle with traditional services. We begin with coffee at 6pm followed by a time of reflective prayer and then, hopefully, involve a visit to a local pub for fellowship.
Nightshelter - If you would like to help in any way please contact Fr Phelim. Please pray for our guests and helpers. Rota for February now available. Nightshelter finishes at the end of March.

PCC - The next Parochial Church Council meeting is on Monday 10 Feb after the 6pm mass in the church.

Book Group - Starts up in St German's after mass tomorrow Monday 3 February (6:30pm). The next book will be on St John of the Cross 'The Impact of God' by Iain Matthew. This is open to everyone and is ideal for those wanting to explore further the spirituality of John of the Cross as well as a closer look at his life and trials.

Blessings - It is traditional on the feast of St Blaise (tomorrow) that we have a simple blessing of throats using the candles blessed in the candlemas service.

Social Committee - The next social event is next Sunday 9 February when we will have 'Aperitif Sunday' after mass. This one will be hosted by Richard Hill and offerings will go to his nominated charity, the Velindre Hospital. If you'd like to help on the day or support Richard and his charity please let him know.

Messy Church - The next Messy Church will be in St Saviour's on 1 March at 4pm. Theme: St David of Wales. All are welcome.

Recently Departed: Kenneth Lewis *RIP*.

This week:

Sun 2: Candlemas

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

St German's:

8am Nightshelter Mass

11:00 am Sung Mass

6:30pm I Ffordd

Tangnefedd

Mon 3:

6pm Mass

(St G)

St Blaise

Tues 4:

10am Mass

(St S)

Wed 5:

10am Mass

(St G)

St Agatha

Thur 6:

5:45pm Mass

(St S)

Sts Paul Miki &

Companions, Martyrs

Fri 7:

No Mass

Sat 8:

11am Mass

(St S)

Sun 9:

Septuagesima

(OT5)

St Saviour's:

9:30 Sung Mass;

St German's:

8am Nightshelter Mass

11:00 am Sung Mass

6:30pm I Ffordd

Tangnefedd

Parish Priest:

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READINGS THIS WEEK

Malachi 3:1-4

Ps 24:7-10

Heb 2:14-18

Luke 2:22-40

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Isa 58:7-10

Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

1 Cor 2:1-5

Matt 5:13-16

PSALM RESPONSE

Who is the king of
glory? He, the Lord, he
is the king of glory.
(vv.4)

Today's hymns: 486 Of the Father's heart begotten; 419 Lord, the light of your love; 67 Be still for the presence; 157 Faithful vigil ended; Mass Setting: Rizza (955).

COLLECT

Almighty and everliving 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. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Malachi 3

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Who is the king of glory? He, the Lord, he is the king of glory.

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! **R/**

Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war. **R/**

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! **R/**

Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory. **R/**

Psalm 24

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Christ too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

This is the word of the Lord.

Hebrews 2

GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him 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 for 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.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Luke 2