

Coffee and tea in church after Mass. Please stay.

11.30 P.C.C meeting and lunch in church

This week: Psalter Week 4 – Divine Office.**Mon: St. Blaise**

1.30 – 2.25 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for Silent Prayer

2.30 - Mass. Laying on of Hands & anointing for healing.

Tues. 9.00am Mass. Int. All who suffer long term illnesses**Wed. St. Agatha**

9.30am Mass. Int. Persecuted Christians

Thurs. St. Paul Miki

9.30am Mass. Int. The Church in Japan

Fri. 9.30am Mass Int. All prisoners**Sat.** 10.00am 1st Mass of Sunday. Int. Friends of St Mary's .

4.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions).

Next Sunday - 5th of Year A.

9.30am Parish Mass, Address and Holy Baptism (Isabella)

NOTICES:

1. Thanks to all those of you who have kindly sponsored shrine lamps this year. There are still a few which have not been sponsored; these cost £10 a month or £120 year. There is a list on the table at the back of the church and you can Gift Aid this donation if you pay tax. Please see Andi for details about how to pay.
2. Thank you to all who donated clothes to the Advent and Christmass Sockbank for those cared for by St Martin's Housing Trust in Norwich. As well as a lot of bedding and clothes, there were 47 hats, 110 pairs of socks plus 2 scarves and a pair of gloves. Thank you to Graham and Annita for taking them to Norwich.
3. Tomorrow is our monthly Healing Service at 2.30pm with a time of silent prayer from 1.30pm, in which you may join at any point. Tea and coffee afterwards for those who wish to stay.
4. Please pray for the new Bishop of Richborough, Fr Luke Irvine-Capel, currently Archdeacon of Chichester, to be consecrated at Canterbury Cathedral on Thursday 27th Feb. See the Richborough See website for details.

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM
Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord or Candlemass

Theme: Today Simeon proclaimed Jesus as the Light of the world. His presence among us opens our eyes to the salvation God has prepared for all nations.

The Celebrant greets the people

Forty days ago we celebrated the joyful birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today we recall the holy day on which He was presented in the Temple, fulfilling the law of Moses and at the same time going to meet His faithful people. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the Temple, recognised Christ as their Lord and proclaimed Him with joy. United by the Spirit, may we now go to the house of God to welcome Christ the Lord. There we shall recognise Him in the breaking of bread until He comes again in glory.

Let us pray: God our Father, source of all light, today you revealed to Simeon your light of revelation to the nations. Bless these candles and make them holy. May we who carry them to praise your glory walk in the path of goodness and come to the light that shines for ever. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

The priest sprinkles the candles with Holy Water.

Celebrant: Let us proceed in peace.

People: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Procession around the church symbolising our mission to make Christ better known in the world by being lights for Him. Please join in if possible.

Hymn for procession: 365

GLORIA: John Allan Candlemass setting (words on sheet)

OPENING PRAYER: All-powerful Father, Christ your Son became Man for us and was presented in the temple. May He free our hearts from sin and bring us into your presence.

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD:

1st Reading: Malachi 3 v. 1-4. The people of the Old Testament longed for a time when the worship of God would be pure: this longing was fulfilled when Christ Jesus was carried into the temple.

Thus says the LORD God: Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his Temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, 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 sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 24 © The LORD of hosts, he is the king of glory!

O gates, lift high your heads;
Grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! © Who is this king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
The Lord, the valiant in war.©

O gates, lift high your heads;
Grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! © Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of hosts,
He is the king of glory. ©

2nd Reading: Hebrews 2 v. 14-18. Christ, the Son of God, takes on the condition of man in its entirety. Consequently, He is the only mediator and high-priest between God and man.

Since the children share in flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Gospel Hymn: 164

Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 2 v. 22-32. The living witnesses of the hopes of the Old Testament era recognise Jesus as the light of all people.

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord') and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said 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, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the Temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

'Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.'

ADDRESS CREED: Apostles' Creed (page 4).

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:

Celebrant: Lord, you have prepared a light to enlighten all mankind. May this light guide us in our prayers for the needs of this community and of the whole world.

Reader: We ask on this day a blessing on all mothers, that they may be as true to God's will as was Mary.

We pray for a greater eagerness in preaching the Gospel and a stronger faith, so that all men may come to see the light of the world.

Let us pray that those who bring the light of Christ to places where it has not yet been seen may be blessed in their work.

Let us pray that the elderly may be honoured and protected everywhere.

Let us pray that the sick may be strengthened and healed, especially Anna Horsnell, Marcel and Marjorie Rousseau, Jessica Mercer, Lynne Aldous and all prayed for at Shrine Prayers.

Let us pray for all bereaved people. May the pain of their sorrow be softened and that the emptiness may be filled by the love of God.

Let us pray for the departed, may they be forgiven their sins and failings and be welcomed by the whole communion of Saints – especially: James Burke; Phyllis Syrett; Mary Jacobs; Esme Perry; Zachary Monksfield; Margot Fletcher; Florence Hubbard; Vida Godart Brown; Frederick Freeman; Eleanor Ball, Mabel Parker; George Hart; Geoffrey Fletcher; Eve Roshier; Robert Downie; Charles Old; Joan Agate; William Hodge; whose anniversaries of death fall at this time.

Like Simeon we pray that we may see our Saviour. We ask Mary to show us the way to Him. **Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with the; 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.**

S I L E N C E

All: Father, we pray that Christians may be lights to the world so that others may know you. We make our prayer through Christ who is the Light of All Ages, now and for ever. Amen.

Offertory Hymn: 428 v. 1-2. **Offertory Prayers** Hymn 428 3 & 4.

SANCTUS & MYSTERY OF FAITH John Allan Candlemass setting.

After Eucharistic Prayer - **Blessed and praised be Jesus Christ, in the most Holy Sacrament. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.**

AGNUS DEI: John Allan Candlemass setting.

Communicants of other Christian denominations are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you are not a Communicant and/or would like a blessing, please bring your hymn book to the altar.

Hymns at Holy Communion: 401; 568; (Please join in.)

Hymn at Ablutions: 609.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER AND ANGELUS – front of hymn book

Recessional Hymn: 106.