

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH In NEW MILTON

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

15 Mount Ave, New Milton. BH25 6NT.

Parish priest: *Father George Ngwa*

Church opening hours 07.30am – 4.00pm



THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - YEAR "A" 2ND FEBRUARY 2020

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION MUCH MORE IMPORTANT FOR US TODAY.

After celebrating the Nativity of our Lord, with its splendour in both the Church and the popular culture, it would be easy for one's mind to drift and overlook the significance of the fortieth day after the Lord's birth. There is one more sacred day that should not be lost in in our Christian Calendar. **February 2nd – The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord** – deserves more attention than just being the absolute final day for the Christmas narrative. Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in today's liturgy.

"The specific liturgy of this Candlemas feast, the blessing of candles, is not as widely celebrated as it should be, except of course whenever February 2 falls on a Sunday and thus takes precedence. There are two ways of celebrating the ceremony, either the *Procession*, which begins at a 'gathering place' outside the church, or the *Solemn Entrance*, celebrated within the church."

Joseph and Mary's presentation of the baby done as the tradition of the Jews required. The words of the prophet Malachi are fulfilled in the poor parents presenting their firstborn son along with their humble sacrifice of two turtledoves. (*Now I am sending my messenger— he will prepare the way before me; And the lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple; The messenger of the covenant whom you desire—see, he is coming! says the LORD of hosts.* Malachi 3:1) The mother of God – the Theotokos, in no need of ritual purification – and her husband did not set themselves above the Law. In their conformation to the Law, is God's entrance into his Temple. Simeon and Anna, pious and elderly, having spent their lives in prayer and waiting in the Temple for the Messiah, have their 'moment.' There is the glorious Nunc Dimittis of Simeon.

With Candlemas we celebrate the coming of the Light of the World. But a shadow also passes; a shadow foretelling the suffering that will precede the victory of the Light over darkness. Simeon not only proclaimed that he had seen his salvation, but also told the Mother of our Lord that her share would include a sorrow pierced heart. In *Redemptoris Mater*, Pope John Paul II wrote that Mary heard in Simeon's words something likened to a second Annunciation, "for they tell her of the actual historical situation in which the Son is to accomplish his mission, namely, in misunderstanding and sorrow. While this announcement on the one hand confirms her faith in the accomplishment of the divine promises of salvation, on the other hand it also reveals to her that she will have to live her obedience of faith in suffering, at the side of the suffering Saviour, and that her motherhood will be mysterious and sorrowful.

Brief History: The feast was first observed in the Eastern Church as "The Encounter." In the sixth century, it began to be observed in the West: in Rome with a more penitential character and in Gaul (France) with solemn blessings and processions of candles, popularly known as "Candlemas." The Presentation of the Lord concludes the celebration of the Nativity and with the offerings of the Virgin Mother and the prophecy of Simeon, the events now point toward Easter. According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is referred to as the "Purification of Mary." This is known as a "Christmas feast" since it points back to the Solemnity of Christmas. Many Catholics practice the tradition of keeping out the Nativity Christmas decorations until this feast.

People and the Events of the Feast: Today's Gospel introduces us to different people and events that in

themselves provide numerous lessons and themes for further reflection. First of all, Mary and Joseph respect the Mosaic Law by offering the sacrifice prescribed for the poor: a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

The Prophecy of Simeon: Simeon's prophecy also announces that Christ will be '*a sign of contradiction*'. St Cyril of Alexandria, in one of his homilies, interpreted the words '*sign of contradiction*' like a noble cross, as St Paul wrote to the Corinthians '*a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles*' (1 Cor 1:23) [...] *It is a sign of contradiction in the sense that those who lose, appear as foolish while in those who recognize its power [the cross] reveals salvation and life*'.

Simeon and Anna were two venerable elderly people dedicated to prayer and fasting and so their strong religious spirit rendered them able to recognize the Messiah. On this day, the Church demonstrates its gratitude to all those in the community that dedicate themselves in a privileged way to prayer, to those who have a particular religious vocation to the contemplative life. In the figure of the venerable Simeon, Jesus' presentation in the temple, also reminds us that prayer and contemplation are not just a waste of time or an obstacle to charity. On the contrary, time could not be better spent than in prayer as true Christian charity is a consequence of a solid interior life. Only those who pray and offer penance, like Simeon and Anna, are open to the breath of the Spirit. They know how to recognize the Lord in the circumstances in which He manifests Himself because they possess an ample interior vision, and they have learned how to love with the heart of the One whose very name is Charity.

At the end of the Gospel Simeon's prophecy of Mary's sufferings is emphasized. The archangel's announcement was a fount of incredible joy because it pertained to Jesus' messianic royalty and the supernatural character of His virginal conception. The announcement of the elderly in the temple instead spoke of the Lord's work of redemption that He would complete associating Himself through suffering to His Mother. Therefore, there is a strong Marian dimension to this feast and so in the Liturgical Calendar of the Extraordinary Form it is called the *Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary*. This refers to the other aspect of the presentation that consists of the ritual purification of Jewish women after they had given birth. In Mary's case this purification was not necessary, but it indicates the renewal of her total offering of herself to God for the accomplishment of His Divine Plan.

The faithful are sensitive to the actions of the Blessed Virgin in presenting her Son in the Temple, and to her submission to the Law of Moses, popular piety sees in the rite of purification the humility of Our Lady and hence, 2nd February has long been regarded as a feast for those in humble service. In some local Churches, certain elements taken from the Gospel account of the Presentation of the Lord (Lk 2, 22-40), such as the obedience of Joseph and Mary to the Law of the Lord, the poverty of the holy spouses, the virginity of Our Lady, mark out 2 February as a special feast for those at the service of the brethren in the various forms of consecrated life.

Christian mothers can easily identify with the maternity of Our Lady, the most pure Mother of the Head of the mystical Body — notwithstanding the notable differences in the Virgin's unique conception and birth. The revised *Rituale Romanum* provides for the blessing of women both before and after birth. It is a highly desirable thing for mothers and married couples to ask for these blessings which should be given in accord with the Church's prayer: in a communion of faith and charity in prayer so that pregnancy can be brought to term without difficulty (blessing before birth), and to give thanks to God for the gift of a child (blessing after birth).

The candles kept by the faithful in their homes should be seen as a sign of Christ '*the light of the world*' and an expression of faith.

Things to Do:

- ✓ Ask the Priest to bless the candles that you will be using on your home altar this year.
- ✓ Have family Candle prayer moments.
- ✓ Read Luke 2:22-35, the account of the presentation including the Canticle of Simeon, as a way of presenting yourself/family to God.
- ✓ Meditate on the constant *fiat* of Our Lady of Sorrows, who embraced the will of God even as Simeon predicted that a sword would pierce her heart.

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PALS - Our monthly meeting is this coming Friday **7th February** in our hall after morning Mass. We have to arrange our new future events etc. please bring your diary. Jane.

CAFOD Update Meeting - 8th February

You are invited to a CAFOD update meeting on **Saturday 8th February** at St Anne's Church, Rhinefield Road Brockenhurst SO42 7SR from 10:30am to 12:30pm. At the meeting Sarah Burrows CAFOD's Emergency Programme Officer will talk about our emergency work, and I will give an update on how your generous donations are making a difference to people's lives. Everyone is welcome so please let me know if you are coming by emailing portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or call 01252 329385 . Jo Lewry CPC CAFOD Portsmouth

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS ROTAS – I am happy to say that some 3 people have indicated their willingness to be enrolled in here, we are still looking for volunteers to join the Eucharistic Ministers & Readers Team here at OLOL. If you would be interested in taking on this role, please speak to Fr. George who will let you know what is involved. Your contribution can lessen the load of existing volunteers; Thank You!

READERS' DAY WORKSHOPS – 7th & 14th March 2020 at St. Dominic's, Sway - To mark the Year of the Word the diocese of Portsmouth is launching Readers' Training Workshops. Our Pastoral area has been booked in for the workshops at St. Dominic's Priory, Shirley Holms Road, Lymington SO41. The course is over 2 days – 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and Readers have to attend both sessions. The course finishes with commissioning and an award of a Diocesan Recognition. There are limited places, so to make sure you get a place, please email Chris Peacock: readers@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk as soon as possible. **All Readers – please find your personal envelope in the post box at the back of the Church. If anyone would like me to put their name down with Chris Peacock, please pop into the Office during Office hours. Lizzie.**

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN PILGRIMATE TO LOURDES - 15th to 19th July 2020. Bishop Philip has sent out an invitation to join him in Lourdes this year. The Pilgrimage will take place from 15th to 19th July flying by charter aircraft direct to Lourdes from Bournemouth Airport, the cost of the Pilgrimage is £695 per person for a shared room. For further details and video please visit <https://vimeo.com/367708674>.

This also includes a **Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes** and the costs for Youth Pilgrims is £545. The Catenians are offering a small bursary to those who participate in pilgrimages to Lourdes and all Youth Pilgrims are encouraged to apply. It would be wonderful if a young person (aged 16-25) or two or more from our Parish could attend this year's Pilgrimage. For further information, a video can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/lourdesvid> or contact Fr. P.J. Smith at Portsmouth Diocese on 07780 221 686.

RECORDINGS ON OUR LIVE STREAMING SITE As you may know Masses, weddings, funerals and other services taking place in our church can be recorded via our live streaming, recordings are held by Church Services TV who host our live streaming site. CSTV have advised us that they can now only store recordings for a maximum of one year and that any recordings made before 1st January 2019 will be erased on 31st March 2020. All future recordings will be erased automatically after twelve months.

If you have any favourite recordings made before 1st January 2019 which you would like to keep you can download them to your PC. Go to <http://www.churchservices.tv/newmilton>, scroll down to 'WATCH VIDEOS', locate your recording via 'SEARCH VIDEOS' and click 'DOWNLOAD'. If you would like any help with this, please contact Brian Dempster on 01425 611643.

MASS INTENTIONS If you would like a Mass Intention offered for a loved one, please complete an Intention Envelope at the back of Church. The Mass offered for your Intention will be the next available Mass but please check with Lizzie in the Office for availability for a particular date. Please note that the minimum Offering is £10. (cf. Handbook for Clergy) Thank you!

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD – YEAR “A” 2ND FEBRUARY 2020

Saturday	01	2020 Feb.	Vigil Mass of the Presentation of the Lord	18.00 VIGIL MASS of the Presentation of the Lord – <i>Emile & Joan Hamon (Wedding Anniversary – RIP)</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday	02	Feb.	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD -Year A	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Rosetta & Fred Vietro</i>	
Monday	03	Feb.	St. Blaise		
Tuesday	04	Feb.	Tuesday of the 4 th Week in Ordinary Time Year A	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass - <i>For the Wellbeing of the Homeless</i>	
Wednesday	05	Feb..	St. Agatha	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Talitha Rose Glazov (Safety, protection & renewed good health)</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	06	Feb.	St. Paul Miki	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Thanksgiving for blessings & help</i>	
Friday	07	Feb.	Friday of the 4th Week in Ordinary Time Year A	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>MPP</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	08	Feb.	Our Lady on Saturday	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Holy Souls</i>	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the 5 th Week in Ordinary Time Year A	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the 5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A – <i>Lisbet Hamon (Wellbeing during Cancer treatment)</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	09	Feb.	FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A	10.00 Holy Mass –	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass

IMPORTANT – MASS OFFERINGS/INTENTIONS. If you would like Holy Mass said for your Intention(s), then please take one of the envelopes on the shelf by the Confessional and fill in your details, add an offering and place it into the general collection at one of the weekend Masses. The next available day will be booked in the diary. If you wish a specific date, please give plenty of notice and phone the office during opening times or call in to check the date is available. Thank You!

Collections 25/26 Feb. 2020					
Loose	£365.09				
Envelopes	£199.94				
Thank you for your continued support					

	Sat. 01 Feb.	Sun. 02 Feb.	Sat.08 Feb.	Sun.09 Feb.
Reader	B.Dempster	S.Salinger	A.Nash	S.Salinger
	K.Dempster	S.Ramsay	C.d’Espagnac	S.Ramsay
EMHC	F.Fallon	Akhil Joseph	T.Gearey	A.Caneda
	J.Thomas	M.Tanner	B.Dempster	Joseph Kurian
	T.Gearey	S.Salinger	K.Dempster	M.Tanner

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa
 email: gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk emergency mobile: **07475753040**
Parish office: 01425 614968 Hall Booking via Parish Office ololnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Secretary: Lizzie Davies Wednesday 12.00h-16.00h & Friday 10.00h-14.00h
 Our Parish Live streaming: <http://churchservices.tv/newmilton> Website: www.nfwp.org.uk
Safeguarding Minister: Tony Harwood Tel: **01425 511 952** or email hughharwood314@hotmail.co.uk

Prayer to St Michael, said at the end of Masses. St Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen