

ENGLISH MARTYRS, Alvaston. Tel: 01332 574474 and St GEORGE's Derby . Tel: 01332 767038

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Brentnall

Assistant: Canon Alan Burbidge Emeritus

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2nd February 2025

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD. CANDLEMAS

4th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 01 Feb	5.30 pm	SG	Jimmy Murphy RIP
Sun 02 Feb	9.30 am	SG	Marie Fleming for good health
	11.15 am	HS	Marian Worthington RIP
Mon 03 Feb	9.30 am	SG	Donor's Intention, St Anthony
Tues 04 Feb	9.30 am	SG	Deceased clergy
Wed 05 Feb	9.30 am	SG	Josephine Jenning, for good health
Thu 06 Feb	9.30 am	SG	Dave Perry RIP
Fri 07 Feb	9.30 am	SG	For the victims of the Holocaust
Sat 08 Feb	9.30 am	SG	For priest's intention – for world peace
	5.30 pm	SG	For all in the parish who are not well
Sun 09 Feb	9.30 am	SG	People of the parish
	11.15 am	HS	Jim Murphy RIP
SG St George's		HS Holy Spirit	

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Under Jewish law a woman was required, after giving birth, to offer to the Lord in sacrifice a lamb, or if she could not afford it, two turtledoves or two young pigeons (Lev. 12:6-8).

Mary and Joseph, in bringing Jesus to the temple, fulfilled the legal requirement. At the same time they also consecrated Jesus to God (Exod. 13:12). In presenting Jesus, Mary and Joseph were returning to the Lord, with thanksgiving, the very gift that he had given them. Their offering expressed the depth of their devotion and love of God.

The Spirit rested on Simeon, preparing his heart for the Lord's coming and causing him to long to set his eyes on the Christ of the Lord (vv. 25-26). Delighting in Jesus, he declared: 'Mine eyes have seen thy salvation...a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to thy people Israel' (vv.30,32). Similarly Anna was seeking the Lord. She had been in the temple for years, longing and praying for the Lord's coming. Now, drawn by the Spirit, who had placed this longing in her heart, she blessed Jesus, the delight of her heart (vv. 36-38).

In Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna we see so much desire, longing and love for the Lord. They rejoice as they recognise that Jesus was the longed-for Christ. Their desire, longing, recognition and delight was the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. The spirit wants to give us a similar longing – no longer, of course, for the first coming of the Lord, but for his return. The Spirit wishes to purify our hearts from all dullness, indifference and apathy so that we may desire to see the light of Jesus' face and long to set our eyes on his glory. This longing for and delight in Jesus is a blessing and through it the Holy Spirit consoles and comforts us. (v.25).

Holy Spirit, purify my heart from all cares, anxieties and deadness. Delight my spirit by showing me the loveliness and goodness of Jesus. Make my heart long to see Jesus return in glory

THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025 officially opened in the Dioceses of Nottingham on Sunday, 29th December, the Feast of the Holy Family. Bishop Patrick celebrated Mass at 10 am in our Cathedral in Nottingham and open the Jubilee in the Diocese of Nottingham. A special prayer will be prayed in each of the other Jubilee churches in the Diocese and the Jubilee Prayer should be prayed at each Mass in the Diocese from 29th December onwards. Cards are available at Church.

CONFESIONS: SATURDAY ONLY: 10:15 – 10:45

ADORATION before the Blessed Sacrament daily before the 9.30 am Mass and then other times as announced.

SAINTS THIS WEEK:

Mon 3rd Feb: St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr
Tues 4th Feb: St Gilbert of Sempringham, Religious
Wed 5th Feb: St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr
Thurs 6th Feb: Ss Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs of Japan
Sat 8th Feb: Ss Jerome Emilianj & Josephine Bakhita (Virgin)

From Young to Old

Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel....LUKE 2:34

This past year, I've had the chance to live in an inter-generational religious community made up of active and retired religious clergy ranging in age from 25 to 95. There are ten of us. The grace of it has been to see the mutual enrichment of young and old sharing life.

The long experience of our two oldest brothers, their fidelity through long years of religious consecration, has anchored the community and offered our younger ones a lesson in seeing things through with hearts still open to life

These thoughts come to mind on this feast day when the lifelong, even generations-long, expectation of Simeon and Anna is fulfilled in seeing the Child Jesus being brought into the Temple. Promises made, hope sustained and a new light dawns on the world.

Now, master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation...(vv.29-30).

THE JUBILEE OF RELIGIOUS is celebrated in the Diocese of Nottingham this weekend. Also, we have the Bishop's Statement on Marriage. It begins, Marriage is a lifelong vocation of a man and a woman to a community of life and love open to children and between the baptised it is a sacrament. Aware of the many pressures today which can endanger family life, the church is constantly concerned to make sure that those planning to marry are prepared as well as possible.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Preparation will begin after Easter. Fr Mark Brentnall, Parish Priest, will take classes after Sunday Mass at St George's.