



St Mary's Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 2nd February 2020 THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (CANDLEMAS)

Psalter week 4

‘A Light for Revelation to the Gentiles’

Today, Sunday 2nd February, the Feast of the **Presentation of Our Lord** or **Candlemas**, is the fortieth day after Christmas and the traditional end of Christmastide. It was **forty days** after His birth into this world that Our Lord was presented in the Temple by His Mother, Mary, and where she also underwent the ceremony of ritual *purification*. For this reason, in the traditional Roman Rite, today's Feast is known as the **Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Of course, she needed no purification because she was a virgin before, during and after Our Lord's birth and she is also the **Immaculate Conception**. Neither did Our Lord need to be presented in the Temple to be consecrated to God, because He was the very Son of God by nature. But Our Lady carried out this ceremony as it would have given God infinitely more glory than all the sacrifices of the Old Testament put together, because it was His Divine Son Who was being offered as the Victim for our sins, the culmination of which would take place on Mount Calvary thirty-three years later.

The blessing and procession of lighted candles which takes place on this Feast represents Christ. Simeon proclaimed Him to be “*a light for revelation to the Gentiles.*” The **wax** of the candle represents **Christ's body** and the wick His **human soul**. Candles for liturgical use have a high percentage of **beeswax** in them. Bees for the early Fathers of the Church were seen as a representation of Our Lady, because worker bees are virginal in that they do not reproduce and are even referred to as the ‘virgin bees’. They produce the wax which is the flesh of the candle which represents the body of Our Lord. So this is symbolic of Mary ever a virgin giving Our Lord His human body. The **flame** of the candle represents the **Light of Christ** Who came to enlighten our darkness. So when we process into the church with our lit candles, we commemorate Christ coming into the Temple two thousand years ago. As we carry these candles in procession, may they also remind us that we were all enlightened by Him when we received the Faith at our Baptism, and that we are called to live in imitation of Him so that we become a light for others.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

MASS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	1 st	5.30-5.55pm	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		6.00pm	<i>Vigil Mass followed by blessing of the throats</i>
Sun	2 nd	<u>THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD – CANDLEMAS (FEAST)</u>	
		9.00am	<i>Parish Mass – followed by the blessing of throats</i>
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		11.00am	<i>Parish Mass – followed by the blessing of throats</i>
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
Mon	3 rd	9.15am	<i>St Blaise. Mass followed by the blessing of throats</i>
Tues	4 th	9.15am	St Gilbert of Sempringham
Weds	5 th	9.15am	St Agatha
Thurs	6 th	9.15am	NO MASS **
Fri	7 th	9.15am	First Friday of the Month For our Deceased Relatives and Friends
Sat	8 th	9.15am	Saturday Mass of Our Lady
		10.00-11.00am	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions</i>
		5.30-5.55pm	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	9 th	<u>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary time</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		11.00 am	Parish Mass

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Mon	3 rd	1.30pm	History Group – Hall
Tues	4 th	6.45-7.15pm	Holy Rosary – Church
Weds	5 th	2.00-4.00pm	Senior Citizens – Hall
Thurs	6 th	7.00pm	RCIA – Library

NB: Due to the government regulations regarding personal data (GDPR), we are only able to publicise the Mass intentions in the printed edition of the newsletter.

J S BACH - ST JOHN PASSION: Join Bishop Patrick in this Year of the Word event on **Saturday 7th March** beginning at 7.45 pm: "Experience the spiritual and artistic grandeur of Bach's great reading of Christ's passion in St Barnabas Cathedral". Tickets: £16, £12, £10 available online from www.nottinghamcathedralmusic.com or Nottingham Tourism Centre underneath the Council House. More information on our notice board at the back of the Church.

THE KWEDIBOMA HEALTH CENTRE: This weekend there will be a second collection for the Health Centre. The Sisters have sent the following message along with photos which you can see on the Catholic Social Action display board. "Hope you are all fine. Thank you very much for your perpetual help to our Centre, that is why it looks as you can see in the photos. Thank you very much, GOD bless you all." Please remember that you can use the yellow Gift Aid envelopes for your donation.
Terry Spicer

FREE FOOD FOR DISADVANTAGE PEOPLE: There is a leaflet available that gives up-to-date information on free food and meals available in and around Loughborough. There is one on the notice board at the back of church and some available in the parish office. Useful to give to homeless people and others who may need a hot meal. *St Mary's Catholic Social Action Team*

ROSMINI CENTRE: **Friday 7th February** 7-9 pm Healing Mass; **Saturday 8th** 2-4.30 pm. "*Praise to the holiest*" *Newman's struggle*. Rev Bill Myers.

LOURDES SALE: Weekend of **8/9th February** after all Masses in the hall. A sale of cakes, bacon & sausage sandwiches/cobs, fancy goods and a bottle stall. We hope that you will support this good cause. The monies raised will go into the Lourdes Fund, so that if anyone wishes to go to Lourdes and can't afford the money then this fund is available. Just speak to Fr Paul and let him know your circumstances in strictest confidence. Donations of gifts or bottles can be left in the Parish Office.
Bernie McEnery

DIOCESAN YOUTH SINGING DAY: The Diocesan Youth Singing Day is an exciting opportunity for children and young people aged 12-18 years to come together and sing at the Cathedral. **It's free!** You will have the chance to meet members of the Cathedral Youth Choir and the Kurczewski Girls' Choir who are travelling from Poland. The day will culminate in a free informal concert for family and friends at 6.00pm in Cathedral Hall. **Thursday 20th February, 2pm - 6.30pm Nottingham Cathedral Hall.** Please reserve places before 18 February 2020 or email alexpattersonmusic@gmail.com if you have any further queries about the day. More about this on our notice board.

LOURDES 2020: **Saturday 23rd to Saturday 30th May.** 37th Annual Pilgrimage from St Mary's. Cost £495 full board. Deposit £185 includes insurance. If interested contact Vera Hurry on 01509 231282.

PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died: Fr Thomas Hubbart IC, Gay Pepper. May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: baby William Street, Margaret Quilter, baby Eliza Aldiss, baby Cyril Norton, Adelaide Taylor, Paul Rose, baby Norman Musson, baby William Lallo, Gladys Orton, baby Arthur Holt, Marta Rebacz, Patrick Doyle, Anna King, baby Mary Johnson and Mary O'Neill.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

LEADER: Please kneel for our prayer for vocations. Let us ask God to give worthy Priests to His Holy Church and Brothers and Sisters to Religious Orders.

ALL: O God, we earnestly beseech You to bless this diocese with many priests, brothers and sisters, who will gladly spend their entire lives serving Your Church and making You known and loved.

LEADER: Bless our families. Bless our children.

ALL: Choose from our homes those who are needed for Your work.

LEADER: Mary, Queen of the Clergy!

ALL: Pray for us. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more. *Amen.*

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL: Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard 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 thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. *Amen.*

FROM THE SAINTS: Just as Mary had given her consent in the name of all humanity when the angel announced to her the mystery of the Incarnation, so also on this day Mary offers JESUS to the Father in the name of the whole human race. For she knows that her Son is “the King of Glory, the new light enkindled before the dawn, the Master of life and death” (*Blessed Columba Marmion, OSB, 1858-1923*).

CHRISTMAS CRIB: Today (Sunday) is the traditional end of Christmastide. It has been forty days since Christmas and so after today the crib will be taken down.

ROSMINIAN VOCATIONS: Is God calling you to the religious life or priesthood? The Rosminians invite any gentlemen to an open weekend for a time of prayer and reflection on "The Call of God in my Life." This will take place at the Rosmini Centre (about 20 mins from St Mary's) on the weekend of 22nd/23rd February. If anyone is interested please let me know.

Fr Paul

YEAR OF THE WORD 2020: Fine Artist Sheila Riste Clemerson (aka Leafe) will, along with another artist, be showcasing her Scripturally-based work at Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Newark NG24 4AU on **Saturday 22nd February**, 10.00am-4.30pm. This is part of the *National Scripture Tour*. Sheila will be available throughout the day to discuss her work.

ANNUAL (VALENTINE) MARRIAGE MASS: This Annual Diocesan Mass to celebrate the gift of Christian marriage, is where married couples are able to renew their vows before the Bishop, and receive his Apostolic blessing on their Marriages. This year, it will take place on **Sunday 16th February, 3pm at St Barnabas Cathedral**. This Mass is open to all married couples, but is especially appropriate to those recently married, or celebrating a significant anniversary. All are Welcome. (If you require more details please contact Fr. David Palmer: catholicdavid@mac.com)

This weekend's Second Collection is for the Kwediboma Mission.

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE	
First Collection: £ 833	White Flower Appeal: £400
Standing Orders: £ 635 @ 30/11	<i>Thank you</i>