

## GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD



### What Are We Waiting For?

If you were told you were going to die tomorrow, would you be ready to go? Young and old alike, the answer to this question is probably “no”! Being ready to leave this world demands tremendous clarity, and whilst some of us have achieved clarity in our lives, the rest stumble around confused and overly burdened. We go through the motions of living but all too easily we are living out a ‘ground-hog-day’ existence... running on the spot and repeating the same old mistakes, What we need is someone to tell us where we are going wrong, and gently put us on the right track. In short, what we need is someone to light our way.

In today’s gospel reading, Mary and Joseph present the Baby Jesus at the temple as Jewish law required. Here they meet the elderly Simeon and Anna. Simeon and Anna have been waiting for the promise written in scripture that a Saviour would come to light the world and bring salvation to the ends of the earth. Despite their great age, Simeon and Anna were living and praying in hope that they would see the fulfilment of God’s promise. When Simeon sees the Baby Jesus and recognises him as the Messiah, he is ready to die in peace because the fulfilment of scripture was his own personal fulfilment too.

So, what are we waiting for in our lives today? Are we able to recognise Jesus and the opportunities he gives us as Simeon did, or are we too busy running around like headless chickens looking for happiness and re-assurances in all the wrong places? How are we waiting? Are we waiting like the proverbial rabbit mesmerised by the fast approaching headlights, or are we waiting in constant preparation?

The time has come to stop flitting from one ambition to another and from one hollow goal to the next. The time has come to look for a genuinely important goal of God’s floodlit making.

**Bitesize** - “We are each gifted in a unique and important way. It is our privilege and our adventure to discover our own special light.” ~ *Evelyn Dunbar*



**PARISH PRAYER** – Father, pour out your Spirit upon our parish. Grant us a new vision of your glory, a new faithfulness to your Word and a new consecration to your service, that your love might grow among us and your kingdom come, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Useful links: Diocesan Safeguarding – <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/safeguarding/>  
 Diocesan Website – <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>  
 Notre Dame High School, Norwich – <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>  
 Daily Liturgy Website – [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)

### PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST. MARGARET MARY [Registered Charity 278742]

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Parish Music Leader: Michael King: Email: [michaeljwking@gmail.com](mailto:michaeljwking@gmail.com)

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### 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2020 – THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD – Year A

[4<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year, Weekday Year II, Psalter Week 4]

Mass Times for the Week			Intentions
Sat. 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb.	6.00 pm	The Presentation of the Lord ( <i>Candlemas Day</i> ) [Parish Mass Book p297]	Bill Sibley
Sun. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb.	9.00 am		Francis Lynch
	11.00 am		The People of the Parish
Mon. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb.	10.00 am	Feria	Janice Tinney
Tues. 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	-	Feria	<b>No Mass today</b>
Weds. 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	10.00 am	S Agatha	E. Maguire ( <i>Fdn.</i> )
Thurs. 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	10.00 am	S Paul Miki & Comps.	G. Maguire ( <i>Fdn.</i> )
Fri. 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	10.00 am	Feria	The English Family ( <i>Fdn.</i> )
Sat. 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	10.30 am	Feria	Mona Murphy ( <i>Fdn.</i> )
Sun. 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	6.00 pm	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ord. Time	Albert Foley ( <i>Fdn.</i> )
	9.00 am		Helen Coyne ( <i>Fdn.</i> )
	11.00 am		The People of the Parish

### Music for The Presentation of the Lord – Setting: New People’s Mass

**Entry:** 6pm – Angelus (said); Hymn 175 – In his temple now behold him ...

**Psalm: (11am sung) R:** *Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord.*

**Offertory:** Hymn 883 – Longing for light, we wait in darkness ... (Christ be our light)

**Memorial Acclamation: B (2)**

**Recessional:** 11am – Angelus (said); Hymn 177 – Now let your servant go in peace ...

### Confession/Reconciliation: Saturday at 5.30pm, or by request/appointment

The parish newsletter (incl. back copies) is available to view on the parish website from Friday onward each week.

**Anniversaries this week:** Alfred Edward Macdonald, George Maguire, Benjamin Wyand, Stanley Snellgrove, George Gay, Mary Hirst, Bernard O'Shea, Doris Marie (Babs) Dyer, Lynes Smith, Marian Longhorn, George Howell, Brenda Secker and Joan Rooney. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

**Hospital Visits:** If you or family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital (NNUH) or Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, King's Lynn (QEII), and would like a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain, please call either St. John's Cathedral, Norwich (01603 624615) for visits to NNUH, or call the NNUH Hospital Chaplaincy direct on 01603 287470 for people needing urgent spiritual attention, or for visits to QEII Hospital, call Fr. Peter Rollings on 01553 772220. If you would like to receive the Sacrament or Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

**Sick & Housebound** [with GDPR Permissions] – **Please pray for:** Janet Yardley, Jenny Rudd, Carol Whitesides, Robert Nicol, Eileen Brocklesby, Shirley Liebenhals, Catherine Carter, Alf Charlton, Frances Saville King, Una McWeeny, Derek Williams.

**Money Matters:** Thank you for your offering of £447.82 last weekend for the maintenance of our parish.

Diary Dates for this week -		
Mon. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb.	2.00pm	Mother Teresa's knitting group – Emmaus Room. New members always welcome to join us for a knit and natter over a cup of tea.
Tues. 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	7.30pm	Queen of Peace Prayer Group - Emmaus Room
Thurs. 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	6.30pm	Music selection & practice – Presbytery & Church. All volunteers welcome to make a joyful noise to the Lord!
Thurs. 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	7.30pm	Fabric Committee meeting – Emmaus Room
Fri. 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	10.30am	SVP 'First Friday' Coffee morning. After Mass. All welcome.
Fri. 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	7.15-8.15pm	Altar Servers meeting – Emmaus Rom
Sat. 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	11.00am	Saturday Club - Emmaus Room

**Candlemas Day: 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> February** - It is the official end of the Christmas Season when the Lord is presented in the Temple. This year because of the weekend, we will observe it with the Lighting and Blessing of Candles as Christ is recognised as the 'Light of the World.'



**Fr. Michael Stack** 'phoned to express this thanks to everyone for your kind welcome and support while he was here on supply. He enjoyed his stay in Norfolk and has now returned to Coventry.

**Celebration of Our Lady of Lourdes:** Solemn Mass of the Anointing of the Sick with Bishop Alan on **February 8<sup>th</sup> at 11.30am at St. John's Cathedral.** Prayers will be said for medical

staff during Mass. There will be light refreshments in The Narthex following Mass. Please see the poster in the church.

**Racial Justice Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>** - Next weekend, Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup>, the Catholic Church in England and Wales will celebrate Racial Justice Sunday. The theme is: 'You are at the heart of the Church'. It will celebrate the contribution travelling communities make to the Church in England and Wales. It is an opportunity for all Catholics to pray for, reflect on and respond to Racial Justice Matters within the Church and wider society. Racial Justice Sunday should encourage proactive discussions on overt and covert forms of racism experienced by fellow Catholics from the travelling communities. To support the Church and its work with Travellers, a second/retiring collection will be taken next weekend. Your contributions, however great or small, will help make a difference. Please see the cards on the table at the back of the church.

**Network for a Better World: Thank you** - On behalf of the people of Sitima Parish, Zomba, Malawi. Mary and Andy Clark, Angela Stone and the trustees of Network for a Better World would like to thank the people of the parishes of the Norwich Deanery for their generosity in response to the talks given in 2019, as part of the official Catholic Missionary Union annual appeals. You donated the magnificent sum of £5,370 between seven parishes, which will go a long way towards the building of a new three-classroom block in one of the primary schools in Sitima, complete with concrete benches and desks, as well as ramps for wheelchairs. This work will be carried out later this year, thanks to your wonderful response.

**Diocesan Retreat Day: Positive Penance for Lent** - A deeply personal approach Inspired by The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius at: **Our Lady of The Annunciation Church, Poringland beginning in The Thirkettle Room on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 10am –4pm.** Coffee available from 9.30 am. Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on the retreat day. Please bring a packed lunch and a notebook and pen. For further information contact: [mmmcfadyen@gmail.com](mailto:mmmcfadyen@gmail.com), Diocesan Representative for the Bishop's Conference spirituality committee. [www.sunflowerseedspirituality.com](http://www.sunflowerseedspirituality.com)

**Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust** - St Louis Catholic Academy, Head of School L8-L14, Full Time - Required for September 2020. For more details see <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/school-vacancies/> or [www.stlouisacademy.co.uk](http://www.stlouisacademy.co.uk). Closing date for applications Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 12 noon.

#### The Angelus

**V.** The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary. **R.** And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. *Hail Mary*  
**V.** Behold the handmaid of the Lord. **R.** Be it done unto me according to thy word. *Hail Mary ...*  
**V.** And the Word was made flesh. **R.** And dwelt among us. *Hail Mary ...*  
**V.** Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. **R.** That we may be made worth of the promises of Christ.  
**Let us pray:** Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ thy Son was made known by the message of an angel may, by his Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of his Resurrection, through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.