

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.*

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
we humbly implore your majesty
that, just as your Only Begotten Son
was presented on this day in the Temple
in the substance of our flesh,
so, by your grace,
we may be presented to you with minds made pure.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from the Prophet Malachi.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 24(23):7. 8. 9. 10. R. 10bc

R: The LORD of hosts, he is the king of glory!

1. O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! **R.**
2. Who is this king of glory?
The LORD, the mighty, the valiant;
the LORD, the valiant in war. **R.**
3. O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! **R.**
4. Who is this king of glory?
He, the LORD of hosts,
he is the king of glory. **R.**

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-18

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Luke 2:32

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

A light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

(for shorter form read between > <)

> 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.' <

And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed – and a sword will pierce through your own soul also – so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.'

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the Temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the offering made with exultation by your Church be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, for you willed that your Only Begotten Son be offered to you for the life of the world as the Lamb without blemish.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

By these holy gifts which we have received, O Lord, bring your grace to perfection within us, and, as you fulfilled Simeon's expectation that he would not see death until he had been privileged to welcome the Christ, so may we, going forth to meet the Lord, obtain the gift of eternal life.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Parish of St Anselm, Hayes

February 2nd, 2025

The Presentation of the Lord, also known as
Candlemass

Candlemass is traditionally the last moment of the Christmas season, when the infant Jesus is taken to



the temple to complete the Jewish rituals for the birth of a first-born son. Our readings today emphasise the continuity between the message of the prophets and

Jesus's ministry to come. There is also the recognition that Jesus will have to undergo great suffering, a suffering that his mother will also share as a "sword will pierce through [her] own soul also."

Entrance Hymn

443 Blest are the pure in heart

Offertory Hymn

209 Hail to the Lord who comes

Recessional

339 Christ, whose glory fills the skies

THIS WEEK

3rd: Monday of Week 4. Prayer 0945; Mass 1000; Evening Prayer 1700

4th: Tuesday of Week 4. Morning Prayer 0945; Mass 1000; Boys' Brigade 1700

5th: St Agatha, Virgin and Martyr. Morning Prayer 0945; Mass 1000; Warm Welcome Centre 1100-1400; Evening Prayer 1700; Pontifical Mass as St Andrew Holborn 1900

6th: SS Paul Miki and Companions. Morning Prayer 0945; Mass 1000; Evening Prayer 1700

7th: Friday of Week 4. Morning Prayer 0945; Mass 1000; Evening Prayer 1700

8th: Saturday of Week 4. Offices said privately.

NEXT SUNDAY: Sunday 9th February: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Mass at 1000 as usual. There will be a service of evening worship at 1730 at St Matthew's, Yiewsley (High Street, West Drayton UB7 7QH). This is one of a series Sunday afternoon services in South Hillingdon churches which you are encouraged to attend if you can.

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS

Kathyan Fenton.

(If you wish a name to be on the list, please give the details to Susan, Fr Josiah, or Fr Stephen.)

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

3rd: Madge Geake

5th: Eleanor Eades, Nellie Bennett, Maria Jones

7th: Elizabeth Ann Shackles, Jane Elizabeth Barnard, Lily Daniels, John Faithfull

8th: Beryl Colclough, Ada Mary Groves, Audrey Rymill

SPECIAL BLESSINGS: Please let one of the sidespeople or a churchwarden know before mass begins if you'd like a special blessing. If you have requested a blessing, please come up to the chancel step after the intercessions.

YOUNG CHILDREN IN CHURCH: Don't worry if they make a noise or move about! Young visitors to the sanctuary are always welcome, so no drama if they go for a walk! We'll have a look at the children's work after mass...

FINANCIAL POSITION: During December 2024, our income was £2,553.66, but our outgoings were £3,302.17. Please consider if you can increase your contributions to the church or set up a regular donation through the Parish Giving Scheme if you don't already do so.

SPONSORING CANDLES, ETC.: If you would like to help us by sponsoring votive candles, sanctuary lights, incense, or wafers for communion, please do sign up! A sanctuary light (the candles by the tabernacle on the altar and by the statue of the Virgin Mary) costs £3.50, votive candles (next to the statues of other saints) are £1.00 each, and 100 communion wafers are £1.50. Please talk to one of the clergy or to Susan. We'll be delighted to receive your sponsorship. The candles and other items for use in sacred worship will be blessed next week at Candlemass, but sponsorship of these items can be offered at any time during the year.

ELECTORAL ROLL: This year the roll must be started again from scratch, so everyone must make an application even if you have been on the roll until now. Greta and Susan will have forms for you to sign. Please join the roll as it determines how our parish is perceived, and how much support we get from the deanery and the diocese!

STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

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Fr Josiah: fr.josiah@stanselm.co.uk; 07597 701878
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PLEASE JOIN US IN THE HALL AFTER MASS FOR TEA AND COFFEE, AND BISCUITS OR CAKE!