



## 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY - THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (CANDLEMASS)

### COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,  
in substance of our flesh:  
grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### FIRST READING: Malachi 3.1-5

*A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed, 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 descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### PSALM 24.7-10

**The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory**

Lift up your heads, O gates;  
lift them high, O everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.  
'Who is this King of glory?'  
'The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle.' **R**

Lift up your heads, O gates;  
lift them high, O everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.  
'Who is he, this King of glory?'  
'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.' **R**

### SECOND READING: Hebrews 2.14-end

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.*

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
The light to enlighten the gentiles  
and give glory to Israel your people.  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: Luke 2.22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated 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; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Lord, accept the gifts your Church offers you with joy, since in fulfilment of your will your Son offered himself as a lamb without blemish for the life of the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

#### **POST COMMUNION**

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

#### **HYMNS**

Entrance: 439  
Offertory: 209  
Communion: 371  
Candlemass Procession: 211

Choir Anthem: *O Thou the Central Orb* by Charles Wood

#### **PRAYERS**

**Bishops in our diocese:** Martin, Will, Ruth.

**The Sick:** Chris Avery, Emily Brunsdon, Felicity Caperon, Sarah Cashmore, Jenny Chatterton, Laura Cooper, Barbara Dann, Tracey Divall, Anne Hawken, James Hawthorne, Chong Lin Khong, Alan Lockett, Philip Morris, Jane, Richard and Tim Mortimer, Tracey Norris, Paula Parsons, Peter & Cheryl Scrivens, Edward Sibley, Andrew.

**Recently Departed:** Peter Dann, Rob Penhaligon, Patricia Galbraith, Diana Jones.

**Year's Mind:** Bernard Sugden, Guy Leadbeater, Peter Brown.

#### **FORTHCOMING SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S**

##### **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

10am Said Mass  
11.30am Funeral – Peter Dann

##### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February – The Second Sunday before Lent**

8am Said Mass BCP  
10am Parish Mass

**PETER DANN'S FUNERAL** will be at St John's Church on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 11.30am**. The family have requested that members of the congregation are very welcome to attend if they are able to do so. This service will be followed by a family-only cremation at Tunbridge Wells.

**CONFIRMATION** – Fr Andrew is gathering names of those interested in being confirmed.

Also, those interested in Communion before Confirmation – 7/8-year-olds plus families who come to church. This will be a series of talks leading to a first Communion.

Please speak to Fr Andrew to register interest and for more information.

**THIS YEAR'S LENT COURSE** will take place on Wednesday mornings following 10am Mass and coffee - so 11am until noon followed by soup and a roll. We will be following the Diocesan Lent Course (on the Chichester Website). Starting on 25th February.

**BINGO NIGHT** in aid of church funds on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm**. Includes Fish and chip supper and dessert pancake for £16. Bring your own drink. Extra cash games and raffle (raffle prizes would be gratefully received) - a fun evening for Shrove Tuesday - all welcome. Sign-up sheet at the back of church or email [redingtonkathy@hotmail.com](mailto:redingtonkathy@hotmail.com)

**THE GATE** between the church and school is now locked to increase security, so you cannot walk through the school to School Lane.



*Now Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace*

**Priest in Charge:** Fr Andrew Hawken: (01892 357068) [vicarstjohns25@gmail.com](mailto:vicarstjohns25@gmail.com)

**Fr Andrew's rest days are usually Monday & Tuesday**

**Churchwardens:** Carol Brown: (01892 652310) [carol.brown@btinternet.com](mailto:carol.brown@btinternet.com)

Philip Morris: (07967 359599) [morrip57@gmail.com](mailto:morrip57@gmail.com)

**Hall Contact:** Please go the Church Hall section of the website: <https://www.stjohnscrowborough.co.uk>

**PCC Secretary:** Rita Burton: (01892 664071) [tylersrmb@gmail.com](mailto:tylersrmb@gmail.com)

**Safeguarding:** Carol Brown: (01892 652310) [carol.brown@btinternet.com](mailto:carol.brown@btinternet.com)