

ST LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH FELTHAM

The Green, Feltham, TW13 4AF



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The Presentation of the Lord

1st/2nd February 2020

Readings: Parish Mass Book Year A, Volume 1: Page 297: Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 23; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

Next Week: The Fifth Sunday of the Year: Page: 133: Isaiah 58:7-10; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5;
Matthew 5:13-16



Parish Team

Parish Priest:

Fr. John Byrne

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Assistant Priest:

Fr John Louis Tabor

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Deacon:

Rev. Colin Macken

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Parish Pastoral Assistant:

Dr. Jordan Pullicino

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Parish Secretary:

Florie Fernandes

(Office Open: Mon-Thurs 9am-1pm)

Mass Bookings: Mon-Thurs 10-11am only)

Parish Sisters:

**Sr. Katherine O'Reilly, Sr. Mary
O'Malley, Sr. Nora Gorman**

Protecting your Privacy:

In compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which became effective in May 2018, the Parish requires your permission to hold your data for Parish/Diocesan use. You can read our full privacy policy on www.rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy

Sunday Mass: 6pm (Vigil Mass), Sunday 9am, 11am, 1pm (Polish) & 6pm; Weekday Mass: Monday-Friday 9.30am; Saturday 12noon; Morning Prayer: Monday-Friday 9.15am, Novena to Our Lady: Tuesdays 10am; Exposition and Benediction: Saturdays 11am; Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession): Saturday 11am & 5pm

ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER

Please hand in your items **in writing** by Wednesday of each week. Verbal notices will not be accepted.

This Parish is part of Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (WRCDT) Registered Charity No: 233699

The Feast of the Purification

Christmastide ends this weekend. In purely practical terms, Christmas seems a very long time ago. It will in fact soon be the fortieth day after Christmas and it is this that marks the end of the Christmas period. Forty days after the birth of her child, a Jewish woman, such as was Our Lady, was expected to go to the Temple and give thanks to God for the birth of the child. Furthermore, she had to redeem the child – the child in theory belonged to God and so the family would offer a sacrifice of A Lamb, or in the case of poorer families, such as the Holy Family, a pair of turtle doves were offered instead. Why is this important? It shows that the Holy Family were observant Jews – that God and the practice of their faith was central to their family life – just as it should be for us.

The custom of carrying candles in procession developed a few centuries later in the East. It became a Roman custom in the latter part of the 7th Century. It is this aspect of the feast that I will consider here.

We are so used to living in a world of “standardised” light, with LED bulbs and neon strips that we have grown used to “conformity” of vision. Candle light – or perhaps more often in the ancient world, oil lamps – is a very different experience. Think of how different another person can look in candle light. We see their features in a different way; some parts are highlighted, other parts are hidden in shadow. Above all, I suggest there is an intimacy, a greater awareness of the other, precisely because of this different appearance. The person is the same, but what we seem to see is different somehow. In the Gospel the old man Simeon says that the “secret thoughts of many will be laid bare”. That is what happens when the Light of Christ shines into our hearts – our thoughts, hopes, fears, joys are all revealed. Truth, beauty and goodness are brought into a wonderfully gentle, yet bright light. I am sure we can think of people who simply radiate joy and happiness – it is a grounded fulfilment and awareness of the wonderful reality that the gift of life is given to us by God each day. Conversely too, we see people whose faces hold only emptiness and despair – the Light of Christ has yet to penetrate, to transform them – or they have chosen to reject His love.

The old man Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms and blessed God, saying those wonderful words of the Nunc Dimittis “*my eyes have seen the salvation which have prepared before the face of all nations*”. In that moment Simeon, seeing the light in the baby’s face, lights up himself and becomes a prophet. May we too, on this feast, respond to the light of Christ in our sacramental and daily lives, and so become prophets in our own time and be lights in our world, lights of Truth, Goodness, Beauty and Peace, which our world so needs today. That is the call to evangelisation, building up the Body of Christ, the Church of which we are all part.

Let’s pray for each other.

Father John Louis

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS – SUNDAY MEDITATION

Meditate

Christianity is better described as an encounter, a meeting with God. Today we are presented with a young couple meeting two elderly people. This meeting is possible because Simeon and Anna were waiting for God to act. Our God belongs to those who look for him.

Act

God is present in the people we meet. Perhaps you could greet someone in the parish you have never spoken to before.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

A warm welcome Asher Dias and Klara Bhaugerutty who were baptised at the weekend and our congratulations to their families.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION TUESDAY GROUP

We meet on **Tuesday 4th February** at 4.30pm in the Parish Centre.

SECOND CONFIRMATION GROUP

The next preparation session is on **Thursday 6th February** at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall.

The Mass for the Enrolment of Candidates takes place this **Sunday 2nd February at 6pm**. Please keep them in your prayers.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The next session will be on **Saturday 8th February at 10am** in the Presbytery.

PARISH NOTICES

TABLE TOP SALE

Sunday 2 February in the Parish Centre after the 9am and 11am Masses. Please drop in for a cuppa and have a browse.

THANK YOU

A huge big "THANK YOU" to Philomena Franklin, Patti Owen and their team of helpers for such a wonderful Senior Citizen's lunch and party on Sunday 12th January. It was a lovely way to end our Christmas celebrations here in the parish by honouring some of our senior parishioners in this way. A lot of work goes into making it happen but the reward is simply to make someone happy.

BLESSING OF THROATS

The Blessing of St Blaise on throats will be administered at the 9.30am Mass on **Monday 3rd February**.

UCM

The UCM will meet on **Monday 3rd February** at 7.30pm for a Bring & Buy Sale. All those Christmas gifts which are not needed can find another home. The evening will end with a game of Bingo.

GOSPEL CHOIR

We will be meeting on **Wednesday 5th February** at 6pm, singer and musicians welcome.

The London Gospel Choir sing-a-long is on **March 14**. Please contact Jordan for further details.

CAFOD COFFEE MORNING

The First Friday CAFOD Coffee morning will take place after the 9.30am Mass on **Friday 7th February**.

SACRED HEART DEVOTION

The Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus will take place on **Friday 7th February** from 10.30am. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed until 3.30pm to give time for all parishioners to drop in at their leisure to have an hour or two with our LORD.

BALKAN DANCE GROUP

The next meeting is on **Friday 7th February** from 8-10pm in the Parish Centre.

MASS FOR OUR LADY OF LOURDES

The annual Mass for Our Lady of Lourdes takes place on Saturday **8th February at 2pm** at Westminster Cathedral.

ZIMBABWEAN ORPHANS COFFEE MORNING

Helen Hurley will be travelling to Zimbabwe shortly and will be holding a Coffee morning to raise funds for the Zimbabwean orphans. This will be on **Sunday 9th February** after the 9am and 11am Masses. Offers of help and donations of cakes would be most welcome.

ANOINTING DURING MASS

On **Tuesday 11th February** the Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the 9.30am Mass

PARISH PASTORAL COMMITTEE

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 11th February** at 7pm in the Presbytery

BIBLE STUDY – PRAYING THE PSALMS

This exciting course starts on **Wednesday 19th February** at 7pm in the Parish Centre. Please contact Jordan for details.

DIOCESAN JOB VACANCIES

For details of all the Diocesan Job vacancies please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS – YEAR OF THE WORD

For details of talks, workshops on the above please see the notice board.

FAMILY HOLIDAY CLUB, FEBRUARY HALF TERM –

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! - On **Friday 21st February**, from 11am-2pm Caritas Westminster will be running the Feltham Family Holiday Club. The club will include lots of fun activities for families to enjoy, followed by a hot nutritious lunch and food to take home all for free. Caritas rely on volunteers to make the clubs happen, so to make sure they can run again in February they really need your help! If you would be able to volunteer on **Friday 21st February, between 9am-3pm** here at St Lawrence's please email cfc@rcdow.org.uk or call 020 7931 6077 to let us know. Please register your interest on the sign-up sheet at the church and hand to the Parish Office. You can also get in touch if you would like to attend the club with your children.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY – WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL, SATURDAY 30TH MAY 2020 AT 3PM

The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their **5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2020. If you are celebrating the anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, church and place of marriage, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the souls of **Elizabeth Gallego RIP and Patrick Foley RIP** who died recently. Please also keep in your prayers their families and all who mourn them. May they rest in peace.

ELIZABETH GALLEGO RIP - Her Requiem Mass will take place here on **Wednesday 5th February** at 10.00am. That will be the Parish Mass that day. **PLEASE NOTE THE CAR PARK WILL BE CLOSED**

PATRICK FOLEY RIP – His funeral will take place on **Thursday 6th February** at Hanworth Crematorium at 3.40pm.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 1	11.00 11.00 12.00 12.45 17.00 18.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Sr Katherine O'Reilly (Intentions) Baptism of Asher Dias & Klara Bhaugerutty Sacrament of Reconciliation Mildred nee Lawlor RIP
Sun 2	09.00 11.00 13.00 18.00	Martin & Nicholas Lambert RIP (Anniversary) Katherine Soares RIP Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) Tony & Jill Smith RIP (Anniversary) (Mass of Enrolment for Confirmation Candidates)
Mon 3	09.30	Minguel Menezes & Piedade Fernandes RIP
Tues 4	09.30	Florence RIP
Wed 5	10.00	REQUIEM MASS – ELIZABETH GALLEGO RIP
Thurs 6	09.30 18.00	Velit & Alisha D'Costa in Thanksgiving (First Wedding Anniversary) Baptism of Adalie Velisha D'Costa Sacred Heart of Jesus devotions
Fri 7	09.30 10.30- 15.30	May Marks RIP Sacred Heart of Jesus Devotion with Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Sat 8	11.00 11.00 12.00 12.45 17.00 18.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Katherine & Alex Soares RIP Baptisms of Akira Thirugnanam & Carlston Crasto Sacrament of Reconciliation People of the Parish
Sun 9	09.00 11.00 13.00 15.00 18.00	Josephine Gibbons RIP Breda Roche (Intentions) Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) Mass in Ukrainian Ona Janaviciene RIP
Sanctuary Lamp: Paula Wilson (Intention)		

Thank you for your generosity in collection last week:

25-26 January: Envelopes £747.71 Loose £970.56
Standing Orders £594.00 **Total £2,312.27**