

This week at St Lawrence's



1st/2nd February 2014

The Presentation of the Lord
(Missal Page 297 – YEAR A)



Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 23; Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40
Fifth Sunday of the Year (Missal Page 133); Isaiah 58:7-10; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5;
Matthew 5:13-16

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, Sunday 2nd of February 2014, is the 40th Day after Christmas, **Candlemas Day**, also known as 'The Presentation of the Lord,' or formerly, *The Purification of Our Lady*. This beautiful feast opens the transition from Christmas to Easter, from the crib to the cross. The small child is still in his mother's arms. But already she is in the Temple in Jerusalem, with Joseph, and together, in fulfilment of the Law of Moses, they offer their son in sacrifice. Some thirty-three years later she will hold him in her arms again. Then the sacrifice will be complete. Today she holds the living body of her child. Then she will hold the dead body of her grown son. The mother of Christ is the mother of every Christian, and the image of the Church - our mother who accompanies each one of us from our birth, through all the events of our life, to our death.

Traditionally on this day candles are blessed and carried in procession in honour of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the 'Light of the World'. In the past, these blessed candles were taken home and were lit when any kind of darkness or trouble descended on the home or the family. They were lit at times of sickness or death; at moments of crisis or danger; during the labour pains of childbirth; when children had nightmares or during terrible and frightening storms. It is said that some couples used to light them during matrimonial arguments! (This could certainly invite some choice comments about the need for very long-burning candles, in some of our homes perhaps, if this tradition was revived among us today!)

But now this light is placed in the hands of each one of us, so that we may carry it to the darkest places of our world, near or far, and some of these places are very dark indeed. This same light must also shine into the dark corners of our hearts; into the shadowy areas of our inner world; into all the places of our moral and personal lives and relationships. It must light up the murky places of sin and guilt, of shame and remorse, of doubt and cynicism, of fear and anxiety, so they can be healed, together with all that is wounded, sick, and hurt in our lives.

This light, which is Christ, can outshine all the fake, sham and bogus lights that first attract us, then dazzle us, and then finally blind us, plunging us into groping darkness and confusion. Come! The Church says. Come! Receive this light for your own life. Come! Welcome this light especially if your life is touched by tragedy, by bereavement and loneliness; or your life seems marred by complex relationships, by failure, by unhappiness, by despair. Come! Welcome this light, a light that no darkness can overcome: **our Lord Jesus Christ**.

May God bless you all.

Fr Fortunato.

Sunday Mass Times

Saturday 6 pm (Vigil Mass), Sunday 9 am, 11 am & 6 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) - Saturday 11am & 5pm

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

We extend a warm welcome to Chloe Anna Jeanne Blackford de Azevedo who will be baptised this weekend and offer our warmest congratulations to her family.

CONFIRMATION

The second Confirmation group will meet on **Thursday 6th February at 7.00pm** in the School Hall.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

If you are an adult who for whatever reason has not received the sacrament of Confirmation please contact Bridget regarding our Lenten preparation programme.

RCIA

Please continue to pray for our adults who are exploring the Catholic faith in our Monday evening group.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The next Parents Session will be on **Tuesday 4th February** at 2.00pm or 7.00pm.

PARISH NOTICES

UCM

The UCM will meet on **Monday 3rd February** at 7.30pm for their Mass for this terms. Members, please make every effort to attend.

FIRST FRIDAY

Our early bird Mass will take place at 6.45am on **Friday 7th February**.

The First Friday CAFOD Coffee morning will take place after the 9.30am Mass.

MASS OF HEALING FOR THE SICK

Our Annual Mass of Healing for the Sick will take place on **Saturday 15th February** at 12.00noon. If you require a lift or know of someone who would benefit from attending who would like a lift please put your name on the list in the porch. There is also a list for volunteers to help with transport and catering, if you are able to help please put your name on the appropriate lists.

BARN DANCE

The Social Committee will be hosting a Barn Dance in the School Hall on **Saturday 1st March** at 7pm. Tickets on sale in the repository.

SCRAP BOOK

In the Font area, there is on display a Scrap Book, beautifully created, capturing moments of our Parish Mission in 2012. Do take a moment to have a look. Thanks to Patti Owen and Kirsty.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

CAR PARK

From **2nd February** onwards the barrier in the school car park will be lowered down once the car park spaces have been filled, before the Sunday 9am and 11am Masses. The barrier will be raised again before the end of each Mass. There will be volunteers patrolling the car park. Pedestrians will still have access to the Church from the car park. Once again we would strongly recommend that alternative car parking is sought – the easiest place, especially for the 9am and 11am Masses would be the Feltham Leisure West car park.

NURSERY ADMISSIONS 2014 - FORM SIGNING

Fr Chris will be available Nursery Form signing at the following times for St Lawrence's School:

Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm: February 4th, 11th; March 4th, 11th; April 1st, 22nd

Please come with your child and wait in Church.

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Michael Rivers RIP** and keep his families in your prayers. His funeral will take place at Hanworth Crematorium on **Wednesday 5th February at 12noon**.

OTHER

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR ARCHBISHOP VINCENT NICHOLS

Following the announcement that Archbishop Vincent Nichols will be made a Cardinal, it has been suggested that the parishes in the Diocese of Westminster may make a gift to him as a sign of our congratulation and affection. There will be a retiring collection after all Masses this weekend for "A Gift for Cardinal Vincent for the Church in the Holy Land" (the gift will be offered in his name to the suffering Church in the Holy Land through the charity he helped found, the **Friends of the Holy Land**).

SPECIAL NEEDS AFTERNOON, 2ND FEBRUARY 2014

This Hounslow Deanery Event takes place in SS Michael & Martin, 94 Bath Road, Hounslow TW3 3EH and is open to anyone who has special needs, their families and friends. Times: 1.30pm – Creative activities in the Parish Centre; 3.30pm – Mass in Church followed by refreshments (bring and share) in the Parish Centre.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

This year's Mass will take place at **2pm on Saturday 8th February**. Archbishop Vincent Nichols will preside, and as in previous years, the Mass will include the Sacrament of the Sick. All are welcome, no seat reservations or tickets

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

The Archbishop (newly created Cardinal) will be inviting to this Mass on **Saturday 7th June at 3pm** at Westminster Cathedral all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their **10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2014. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) as soon as possible.

MAGNIFICAT – SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER

Some of you may be familiar with the *Magnificat* – a monthly prayer book containing morning and evening prayers and Mass readings for each day of the week. The Catholic Herald are doing a special introductory offer for three issues for only £9.00. If you would like to take up the offer take a form from the back of church, complete and send off.

HCPT THE PILGRIMAGE TRUST

Over the past 30 years students from Allen Hall Seminary have travelled to Lourdes during the Easter break with HCPT – The Pilgrimage Trust caring and journeying with children, some of whom have significant needs. They hope to take a group of 10-12 children to Lourdes this year and the cost per child is £750 and are seeking help in raising funds. If anyone would like to support the seminarians, please hand in any donation to the Parish Office in an envelope marked "HCPT".

PILGRIMAGES 2014

PARISH PILGRIMAGE - MALTA

All those booked to go to Malta, please note your final payment is due to Tangney Tours by **Monday 3rd March**. There will be no reminder sent by Tangney so please make a note of this date.

LOURDES 2014

Fr Chris will be leading a pilgrimage to France by coach for the parishes of Feltham, Heston and Cranford from **19th July to 27th July**. The price is £699 per person based on two people sharing and includes overnight stays in Paray Le Monial, Poitiers and Lisieux including half board accommodation and visits to local Shrines/Cathedrals. 5 Nights stay in Lourdes on a full board basis, joining the Westminster Lourdes Pilgrimage. *Supplementary charges: Single supplement £230.00 per person, Travel Insurance: £34.00 per person*. Booking forms available from the Parish Office. Completed booking forms with deposit should be returned as soon as possible to the Parish Office. Early booking essential.

There will be a meeting to go through the itinerary on **Sunday 16th February** in the Parish Centre after the 6pm Mass.

Mass intentions and other services this week:

Saturday 1st Feria	11.00 11.00 11.45 12.00 12.45 17.00 18.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Benediction Eric Brumwell RIP Baptism of Chloe Anna Jeanne Blackford de Azevedo Sacrament of Reconciliation Deceased members of the Gill Family RIP
+ Sunday 2nd THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	09.00 11.00 13.00 18.00	Cirilo Rodrigues in Thanksgiving Odette Yongue in Thanksgiving Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) People of the Parish
Monday 3rd Sts Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore	09.15 09.30	Morning Prayer Adela Almeida RIP
Tuesday 4th Feria	09.15 09.30 10.00	Morning Prayer Castelino & Francisca Fernandes RIP Novena to Our Lady
Wednesday 5th St Agatha	09.15 09.30	Morning Prayer Celebrant's Intention
Thursday 6th St Paul Miki & Companions	09.15 09.30	Morning Prayer Jim Fitzpatrick RIP
Friday 7th Feria	06.45 09.15 09.30	Veronica Mwaura RIP Morning Prayer Maurice Walsh RIP (Anniversary)
Saturday 8th Feria	11.00 11.00 11.45 12.00 12.45 17.00 18.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Sacrament of Reconciliation Benediction Roma Preston RIP (Anniversary) Baptisms of Tiah Summer Stewart and Deon Paul Sacrament of Reconciliation People of the Parish
+ First Mass of Sunday	18.00	People of the Parish
+ Sunday 9th 5th Sunday of the Year	09.00 11.00 13.00 18.00	Adelaida Cabading RIP Ndangang Family in Thanksgiving Mass in Polish (Msza sw.) Fr Clement RIP

Sanctuary Lamp: For the people of Syria

Thank you for your generosity in last week's Offertory Collection:

26th-27th Jan: Envelopes £1084.20, Loose £668.79, Standing Orders £420.00 Total: £2172.99

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees: Registered Charity No. 233699

Contact us:

9 The Green, Feltham, TW13 4AF
www.saintlawrences.org.uk

020 8890 2367

feltham@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Chris Vipera

Assistant Priest: Fr Fortunato Pantisano

Parish Sisters: Sr. Katherine O'Reilly, Sr. Monica Killeen, Sr. Nora Gorman

Catechetical Co-ordinator: Bridget Brinkley

Parish Secretary: Florie Fernandes