



Parish of St Peter and St Paul

ARCHDIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER

THE PRESBYTERY
Fr. Ivano Millico, Parish Priest
5 AMWELL STREET
LONDON EC1R 1UL

PARISH OFFICE
Mon, Tue, Fri: 10AM - 3PM
Tel. 020 7837 2094

email: clerkenwell@rcdow.org.uk

webpage: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/clerkenwell/>

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 29th January 2023

SUNDAY MASS: 9:45am & 12noon

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday & Friday 12.30pm; Tuesday & Wednesday 8am

CONFESSIONS: (on request)

Thursday of this week, **2nd February**, is the 40th day after Christmas.

It is the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**. Candlemas Day, meaning "**Light Mass**".

Traditionally on this day, candles were blessed in church and then taken home. They were lit when any kind of darkness descended on the home or family; they were lit during storms and gales. They were lit during times of sickness and depression; when there was a great family crisis; during the labour pains of childbirth; and when young children had terrible nightmares.

In some sense Candlemas is the completion of the Christmas Feast. On the first Christmas night, the light appeared in our midst. But only Mary and Joseph, and the shepherds of Bethlehem saw it. At Epiphany the light spread. It shone out over all Jerusalem. At Candlemas this light is placed in the hands of each one of us, so that we can carry it to the darkest corners of our world. And we know that some of those corners are very, very dark indeed.

Corners made dark by injustice and poverty; by violence and abuse; by racism and by sexism; Corners made dark by our own sins, especially our sins of omission - things we leave undone. At Christmas this light is held in the arms of a very young mother. And this light is CHRIST! At Candlemas this child, this light, is held in the arms of a very old man, the Prophet Simeon.

Mary. Simeon. Young. Old. They span the whole of humanity. They span all the ages even to our own. Come! the Church says, and receive this light that is Christ. Receive for your own life.

May it enlighten our family life; our moral and sexual life; our work; our career; all our relationships. Come! **Mass will be celebrated at 12:30pm**. Especially if you are in the darkness of a life without love or hope..... a life marred by loneliness, by failure, by remorse, by despair....

Come! Receive the LIGHT that no darkness can overpower. The Light that is CHRIST.

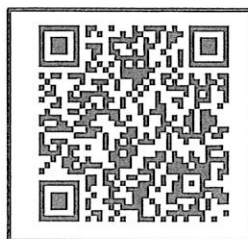
SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

- **First Holy Communion:** The preparation is over two years. Parents & children are expected to come to Sunday Mass at 9:45am, followed by class.
- **Marriage Course** starts next month. Fridays (February 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24) and Saturday 25 March afternoon.
- **Baptism Course.** It is essential for parents to come to Sunday Mass regularly.

NOTE: the meeting scheduled on Saturday 28th Jan is cancelled. All those who wish to have their child baptise should approach Fr. Ivano in person and he will set up a one-to-one meeting.

STANDING ORDERS ?

If possible, instead of giving your offertory in cash, consider the possibility of a bank transfer.



SCAN to GIVE
You can scan this QR
code for your weekly
Sunday donation.
Thank you.

milk-sisters & blood-brothers



Emerentiana and Saint Agnes were "milk-sisters". Emerentiana's mother was the wet nurse and nanny of Agnes. A slave by birth, Emerentiana, attracted by the way of life of Agnes, asked to be baptized a Christian and entered the catechumenal way but she never entered the baptismal font. Still a catechumen, she was discovered by a pagan mob praying at the tomb of her recently martyred sister and was stoned to death, baptised in her blood.



Paul was not only present at the stoning of Saint Stephen but he fully approved of it.

But the blood of Stephen, Christian blood, shed out of forgiveness, made two enemies into "brothers". Slowly slowly, the wolf turned into a shepherd, the enemy of Christ became a christified man.

Emerentiana and Agnes, "milk-sisters" become twin-martyrs. Paul and Stephen, executioner and victim become "blood-brothers".

Blessed stones that made such a transformation...

Last Monday 23rd January was the memory of Saint Emerentiana. Last Wednesday 25th the feast of the conversion of Saint Paul. Have a good 'Christian week', full of stones!!

In manus.

Father Ivano