Our Faith on Sunday

LITURGY

The Presentation Of The Lord (A)

THE BLESSING OF CANDLES AND THE PROCESSION

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Cf. Ps 47:10-11

**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.**

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

The Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple.

PSALM: Ps 23:7-10.R.v8

**R) Who is the king of glory?
It is the Lord.**

O gates, lift up your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! **(R)**

Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war. **(R)**

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! **(R)**

Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory. **(R)**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:14-18

It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Lk 2:32
**The light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

My eyes have seen your salvation.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Lk 2:30-31

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

VOCATION

PRAYER FOR MARRIAGE:

Lord God you call many of us
to be husbands and wives, parents,
and children, in youth and old age,
in sickness and in health.
You call us to love and holiness.
Help us be a living image of you,
and bring life to the world.
Amen.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



At first sight it seems that God intends his Son, the Son of Mary, to keep a very low profile. Only shepherds greet the birth and when the Child is taken for the first time to the Temple, the Temple which is rightfully his and is the focus of the worship of his people, two only of the worshippers recognize and greet him. How few are those who believe his claims and accept his call! Yet as we know, anonymity, 'low key', was not God's intention. The birth of his Son was prepared for over hundreds of years; the "Chosen People" were chosen precisely to be those prepared, those ready to welcome the Messiah with open arms. Yet, as God deals with us all, so he dealt with his people: he recognized and respected them as intelligent free agents, not coerced but invited. Should not the scribes and Pharisees, steeped as they were in the teaching and revelations of God, been flocking to Bethlehem in the footsteps of the wise men? Or joining Simeon and Anna in the Temple itself? Certainly, 'low key' was not of God's choosing.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



III. THE COMMON GOOD AND PEACE IN SOCIETY

TIME IS GREATER THAN SPACE

222. A constant tension exists between fullness and limitation. Fullness evokes the desire for complete possession, while limitation is a wall set before us. Broadly speaking, "time" has to do with fullness as an expression of the horizon which constantly opens before us, while each individual moment has to do with limitation as an expression of enclosure. People live poised between each individual moment and the greater, brighter horizon of the utopian future as the final cause which draws us to itself. Here we see a first principle for progress in building a people: time is greater than space.

The Sacrament of the Present Moment*

THE EXAMPLE OF MARY (2)

The grace of God overshadowed Mary. And that shadow was nothing other than acceptance of the demands, duties and sufferings of each moment. Just as a shadow can hide things from clear view, so God's will is not always clearly visible. We have, like Mary, to know God present in faith, and accept the Divine Will as it comes to us, often in shadow and darkness.

The angel may have left Mary, but the Holy Spirit never left her. And apart from this exceptional moment the gospels show Mary's life as ordinary. Nothing marks her out from other women of her own time and place. She visits her relative, Elizabeth, as others do. Like others, she goes to Bethlehem for the census where she gives birth to Jesus in poverty. She lives quietly with her husband and son in Nazareth, working for a living.

But what is the real bread that nourishes Mary and Joseph? It is the bread of faith in God's will, hidden under the ordinary events of every day. What is seen is ordinary. What is unseen is the fact that God is fulfilling the Divine purpose in and through their lives.

*Jean Pierre de Caussade's Self-Abandonment to Divine Providence for everyone by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard and published by New City ISBN: 978-1-905039-11-1

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S. JOHN FISHER, REDBOURN with FLAMSTEAD AND MARKYATE.

PARISH PRIEST: Father Michael Mannion. Telephone 01582 792270

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD – 2ND FEBRUARY 2020

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday (Saturday)	5.30pm	Martin Abbot (RIP)
Sunday	9.00am	
Monday 3rd February	11.45am	Ss. Laurence, Dunstan & Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury
Friday 7th February	11.45 am	feria
Sunday 9th February	**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**	
(Saturday)	5.30pm	Eric Hopkins (RIP)
Sunday	9.00am	

Feast Days This Week: 5th February – St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr
6th February – St. Paul Mike & Companions, Martyrs

Confessions are available after Saturday evening Mass and on request.

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of Eric Hopkins who died last week.
The funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday 18th February at 12.00pm at St. Thomas More Church, Wheathampstead

Please remember in your prayers: Sick; Nigel Clark, Judy Atkins, Sofia Mayorga, Una Hewitt, Mary Jones, David Ruth, Maria Maynard, Liz Mevin and Diane Boba.

Please remember in you prayers this week in The Churches Together List the residents of:
Ben Austins, Totton Mews, Coopers Meadow, Saberton Close, New Forge Place, Gertrude Peake Place, Buckwood Road, Cowper Court, Half Moon Lane, North Lodge, Saddlers Mews, Beechwood Park, High Street, Pietley Hill and Windmill Road.

St. Albans Abbey Gateway Orchestra will be performing a charity concert at St. John Fisher Church, Redbourn, on Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm. Tickets, adults £10 and children under 16 £5, are available after all Masses.

Coffee Morning Rota for 2020. This is a once a month community gathering.
We need more volunteers, please add your name to the list on the table at the back of the Church.

World Day of Prayer takes place on 6th March at 11.00am at the Methodist Church.
This year the service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Zimbabwe.