

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the **Presentation of the Lord** which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in today's liturgy. Before the revision of the General Roman Calendar this marked the end of the Christmas season. The feast was first observed in the Eastern Church as "The Encounter." In the sixth century, it began to be observed in the West: in Rome with a more penitential character and in Gaul (France) with solemn blessings and processions of candles, popularly known as "Candlemas." The Presentation of the Lord concludes the celebration of the Nativity and with the offerings of the Virgin Mother and the prophecy of Simeon, the events now point toward Easter.

"In obedience to the Old Law, the Lord Jesus, the first-born, was presented in the Temple by his Blessed Mother and his foster father. This is another 'epiphany' celebration insofar as the Christ Child is revealed as the Messiah through the canticle and words of Simeon and the testimony of Anna the prophetess. Christ is the light of the nations, hence the blessing and procession of candles on this day. In the Middle Ages this feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or 'Candlemas,' was of great importance.

"The specific liturgy of this Candlemas feast, the blessing of candles, is not as widely celebrated as it should be, except of course whenever February 2 falls on a Sunday and thus takes precedence.

**Pope Francis February Intentions: Listen to the Migrants' Cries.**

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

**Prayer for Vocations**

Almighty and eternal God,  
 in your unfailing love you provide ministers for your Church.  
 We pray for those whom you call to serve the Church of as priests.  
 Inspire in them a generous response. Grant them courage and vision to  
 serve your people. May their lives and service call your  
 people to respond to the presence of your Spirit among us  
 that, faithful to the Gospel and hope of Jesus the Christ, we may:  
 announce glad tidings to the poor proclaim liberty to captives,  
 set prisoners free and renew the face of the earth.

Amen

	<p><b>Mother of God</b>  <b>Greencoat Road</b>  <b>Leicester</b>  <b>LE3 6NZ</b></p> <p>☎(0116) 287 5232          ✉<a href="mailto:mogparish@gmail.com">mogparish@gmail.com</a>  <a href="http://www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk">www.motherofgodleicester.co.uk</a></p> <p><i>NRCDT- Registered Charity</i></p>	<p><b>Parish Priest:</b>  <b>Fr. George Thomas</b>  <a href="mailto:gchelackal@gmail.com">gchelackal@gmail.com</a></p> 
<p>Our Schools:                  Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - <a href="http://www.ctlk.org/p_Home.ikml">www.ctlk.org/p_Home.ikml</a>                  English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - <a href="http://www.emschool.co.uk/">www.emschool.co.uk/</a></p>		
<p><b>Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914</b></p>		



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>  
**February 2020**

**The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)**  
**World Day for Consecrated Life**

Sunday 2.02	10.30am 4pm	People of the Parish Malayalam Mass	Malachi 3:1-4 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40
Monday 3.02		No Service	
Tue 4.02		No Service	
Wed 5.02		No Service	
Thu 6.02		No Service	
Friday 7.02		No Service	
Sat 8.02		No Service	
Sunday 9.02	10.30am 4pm	People of the Parish Malayalam Mass	Isaiah 58:7-10 1 Corinth 2:1-5 Matthew 5:13-16

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 1 hour each day before weekly Mass.**  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation after Mass on Saturday, or whenever required.**

**Feast of the week:** Wednesday, St. Agatha, virgin and martyr.  
 Thursday, SS Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs of Japan.

**SECOND COLLECTION TODAY FOR POOR AND NEEDY PARISHES**

**Margaret Sutton RIP.** Funeral Service at 3pm on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February. Our deepest and sincere condolences to her family and friends.

**The World Day for Consecrated Life** is celebrated this year, on Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 where we are asked to thank and pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life.

**32nd Anniversary Mass for the Venerable Mary Potter.** Bishop Patrick will be presiding to pray for the beatification of the Venerable Mary Potter at the Cathedral on Saturday 8th February at 11.30am. All are invited to come along to this event. Light refreshments will be available afterwards.

**ROSMINI CENTRE:** Friday 7th February Healing Mass at 7pm. Saturday 8th February "Praise to the holiest" Newman's struggle by Rev Bill Myers at Rosmini Centre 2pm - 4.30pm.

**The documentary about the monks of Mount St Bernard Abbey,** Leicestershire, which, as you know, is a community in our Diocese has received excellent reviews with further showings at Leicester, Phoenix Cinema, 7th-11th February. More information from: [www.facebook.com/outsidethecityfilm](http://www.facebook.com/outsidethecityfilm) [www.outsidethecityfilm.com](http://www.outsidethecityfilm.com)

**40 Days** is a peaceful and prayerful way to work for an end to abortion. In Nottingham, with the support of Bishop Patrick, we have prayed outside the abortion facility at the QMC during Lent over the last few years: routine abortions no longer take place there. This year we will be at the Stapleford Care Centre, which contains a BPAS abortion clinic. You're invited to stand and peacefully pray for an hour or two during a 40-day vigil running for 12 hours daily during Lent. Please **sign up now** to pray with us at [40daysforlife.com/Nottingham](http://40daysforlife.com/Nottingham), or come to our **information evening on 13 February**. Contact us at [40daysforlifennotts@gmail.com](mailto:40daysforlifennotts@gmail.com).

**Annual (Valentine) Marriage Mass:** This Annual Diocesan Mass to celebrate the gift of Christian marriage, is where married couples are able to renew their vows before the Bishop, and receive his Apostolic blessing on their Marriages. This year, it will take place on **Sunday 16th February, 3pm** at **St Barnabas Cathedral**. This Mass is open to all married couples, but is especially appropriate to those recently married, or celebrating a significant anniversary. All are Welcome. (If you require more details please contact Fr. David Palmer: [catholicdavid@mac.com](mailto:catholicdavid@mac.com))

**Another Day for Catholic Women** on Saturday 29th February St Joseph's, Leicester. Catholic Women share their experience, understandings and vision for our Catholic Church through interviews representing the diverse cultures that make up our universal Church and are currently living here in the United Kingdom. The day is open to all women who identify as Catholic, whether or not they are still actively involved in parish life, and we also welcome those who no longer practice their faith and perhaps feel the Catholic Faith is no longer relevant to them. There is no charge for the day although lunch (soup, rolls, cakes, etc.) is available at £3.50. To book a place telephone 0116 220 7881 or email Alison.CWS@outlook.com or [CatherineMaryBrady@gmail.com](mailto:CatherineMaryBrady@gmail.com)

**Join Bishop Patrick** in this Year of the Word event on Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7.45 pm: "Experience the spiritual and artistic grandeur of Bach's great reading of Christ's passion in St. Barnabas Cathedral". Tickets: £16, £12, £10 available online from [www.nottinghamcathedralmusic.com](http://www.nottinghamcathedralmusic.com) or Nottingham Tourism Centre underneath the Council House. **See poster in church porch.**

**Year of the Word: National Scripture Tour.** The Tour arrives in the Diocese of Nottingham on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020 at Holy Trinity Parish Centre Newark NG24 4AU between 10 am and 4.30 pm. Pete Codling, the artist for the year, will be showcasing his artwork so please do try and pop in during these times and take a look. Other Scripture tents to inspire us are; Mary and the Word, Seeing the Word, Exploring the Word, Sharing The Word, Living The Word. All Welcome, plus, there will be a family competition to enter on the day. **See poster in church porch.**

**FAITH INTO ACTION:** A day to build social action in the Diocese of Nottingham on Saturday 28 March 2020, Cathedral Hall, Nottingham. Nottingham Diocese is joining Caritas, the Church's worldwide ministry of charity. Soon our parish will be part of one of the biggest humanitarian organisations on the planet - and you are invited to be part of it. Join Bishop Patrick, Caritas Social Action Network, the diocesan Justice & Peace Commission and Catholics from all round our diocese. 'Faith into Action' is a day to take practical steps, in parishes and chaplaincies across the diocese, to bring the Gospel to life, locally and globally. For details and booking visit [dioceseofnottingham.uk/faithintoaction](http://dioceseofnottingham.uk/faithintoaction), or call 07470 907656 for further information.

**AFTERNNOON TEA - COME AND SHARE WHAT YOU WANT TO DO WITH YOUR ONE WONDERFUL LIFE,** for women 18 + at Nottingham on Saturday, 14th March 2020 2.30 - 4pm at The Old Friary Gordon Road; St. Ann's; Nottingham; NG3 2LG. More information available from Sr Maureen or Sr Susan OR the Vocation Office at the Old Friary [nottinghamvocations@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nottinghamvocations@hotmail.co.uk)

**Financial details:** Loose Plate £202. Envelopes £140.71. Thank you very much for your generous donations.

**300 Club:** 26<sup>th</sup> January £100 M Shaw (106). £50 Miss S Peoples (118). £25 A Fox (264), R Ashley (239).

**300 CLUB DIVIDEND:** The 300 Club committee is delighted to announce a dividend for the year ending October 2019 of £8,100 to be shared equally between our parishes of Mother of God, Blessed Sacrament and St Peter's - at £2,700 per parish. Thank you to all members for their generous contributions to make this fantastic result possible. Any queries, or if you would like to join this valuable fund-raising for our parishes for only £5 per month, please contact one of the collectors or call Marian on 0116 2246 258. Good luck with the future draws.

**Thought for the week:** "Never trust your tongue when your heart is bitter or broken. Hush until you're healed." ~ **Samuel Johnson**

**Mass Intentions.** One of the great gifts we can give to someone is to have a Mass offered for their intention or for the repose of their soul. To request a Mass please use the envelopes found at the back of the church. Please state if the Mass is for a deceased person, birthday or any special intentions. **Thank you.**

**Please keep in your prayers all the sick and housebound people of the parish. If you know of anyone who would like a visit from Father George, please let him know.**