

Candlemas Day - the feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

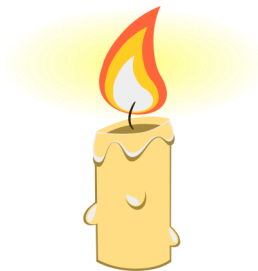
Forty days after His birth, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple for the rites of purification and dedication as prescribed by the Torah, which included the offering of a sacrifice — a lamb for a holocaust (burnt offering) and a pigeon or turtledove for a sin offering, or for a poor couple who could not afford a lamb, two pigeons or two turtledoves.

He is the light who came into this world to dispel sin and darkness. For this reason, traditionally at least since the seventh century, candles have been blessed at Mass this day that will be used throughout the year, hence coining the term “Candlemas.”

We remember that our parents presented us at church for our baptism. We were dedicated to God, and given the name, “Christian.” We received a lit candle from the paschal candle, at which the priest said, “You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as a child of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in your heart. When the Lord comes, may you go out to meet Him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom”. Therefore, as a light, each of us must bear witness to Our Lord.

Two other interesting facts: First, in many Eastern European countries, the feast of the Presentation officially closes the celebration of Christmas. For this reason, Blessed John Paul II began the custom of keeping the Nativity scene in St. Peter’s square until Feb. 2. Second, Candlemas Day also was important in the lives of farmers. An old English song went as follows:

“If Candlemas be fair and bright, Come, Winter, have another flight.
If Candlemas brings clouds and rain, Go, Winter, and come not again.” (*Catholicstraightanswers.com*)



Catholic Parishes of St Mary’s and Our Lady of Lourdes

St. Mary's Brierley Hill and
Our Lady of Lourdes, Kingswinford
Parish Priest: Fr Shanju John
The Presbytery, Summerhill,
Kingswinford, DY6 9JG.
01384 274520



Email: stmarylol.blackcountry@rcaob.org.uk

Website: www.stmaryladyoflourdes.co.uk

Deacon John Brindley (*Retired*)

Convent - Daughters of Divine Love 01384 380155

St Mary’s Primary School 01384 985005

Part of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham: Reg. Charity No. 234216

SAFEGUARDING - The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Mrs Epi Pfunde and Mrs Lilli Brice-Bateman. They can be contacted at sg.olol.kingswinford@racob.org.uk or sg.stmary.brierleyhill@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 / safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD YEAR C

CANDLEMAS

2ND FEBRUARY 2025

PSALM RESPONSE

The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A light for revelation to the gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.

Alleluia, alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

Ordinary C1		Intention/Info
Sunday 1st /2nd Presentation of the Lord	5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH	John and Christina Coyle David Horner
Monday 3rd	10am Mass KF	People of the Parish
Tuesday 4th	7pm KF	Novena
Wednesday 5th St Agatha	10am Mass BH 10.30am-11am BH	Jaison Josph Adoration and Confessions
Thursday 6th	9am Mass School	School intention
Friday 7th	10am Mass KF 10.30am-11am KF	Paddy Murphy Adoration and Confessions
Saturday 8th	5pm Mass KF	Sutton family
Sunday 8th/9th 5th Sunday of the Year	5pm Mass KF 9.45am Mass BH	Sutton family People of the Parish

Please pray for all those whose have died recently especially those on our February deceased lists and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they all rest in peace.

Please pray for all those who are sick including Sheila Jelf, Beryl Backler, Ed Benedict, Melina Simpson, Joyce Southall, Fr Cecil, Irene Brown, Christine Holding, Christine, Marlene and Tony Lyons, Ian Manley, Noel O'Reilly, Georgina Czuk, Martha Jones, Mavis Geach, Sheila Rowley, Roger Ward, Pauline Bant, Dorothy West, Kath Emery, Patricia Smith, Chris and Tony Rylands, Margaret List, Ken Lowe, Rob Bryan, Betty Storey and Connie Birch May the Lord grant them hope and healing.

Collections

BH GA £48.00 Loose £174.93 Lepra £84.85 Teas £19.45 Bring and Buy sale £105.00
KF GA £155.00 Loose £152.30 Lepra £121.25 Funeral £150.00

SECOND COLLECTIONS - This week for Life next week for our Sisters

BRIERLEY HILL: Craft Group Mon 10th February 2pm to 4pm in Parish Centre
KINGSWINFORD: Friday 9.30 - 11.30am **Foodbank** .

FOODBANKS - If you are able to donate to them they will be happy to accept your donations as the need is growing.

Today is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, or Candlemas. At our Masses Fr Shanju will bless the candles we will be using throughout the year.

Tea/coffee after Mass - Please join Fr Shanju and stay for tea and coffee after Mass on Sunday morning at BH for a chat and a catch up.

Walsingham Pilgrimage There will be a meeting at 4pm on Saturday 1st March at Kingswinford for all those who would like to join the Walsingham Pilgrimage.

Church cleaning KF - Tuesday 4th Feb at 9.30am. All helpers welcome.

Bring and buy sale - Thank you to all those who donated and bought items for our bring and buy sale last week. We raised £105.00 towards a new Nativity set for Church. Ours is very distressed and broken and some figures are beyond repair.

Parish Council - The Archdiocese has instructed that each Parish has a Parish council to help the growth of the Parish. There will be a separate council for both Our Lady of Lourdes and St Mary's. Please add your name to the list at the back of Church if you are willing to help.

Visit from Bishop Timothy Menses - Bishop Timothy will be coming to visit the Parish on the weekend of the **8th and 9th of March**. It is an official Parish visit by the Bishop so it is necessary to attend the Mass and the meeting that will take place after. Kindly try to be present on those days. Thank you.

Mass intentions there are plenty of spaces available for Mass intentions during the week. Weekends can take a little longer as generally one Mass has to be offered for the People of the Parish so only one Mass is available for your intention. If you want a Mss offered on a particular date please give as much notice as possible especially for a weekend Mass. Please put your intention in an envelope with your offering and give it to Fr Shanju or Stephanie. Thank you.

Pope's prayer intention for February For vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Let us pray that the ecclesial community may welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life. Amen.