



TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Purification of the BVM	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish
Monday <i>St Blaise</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Thanksgiving
Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Madden)
Wednesday <i>St Agatha</i>	NO MASS	
Thursday <i>SS Paul Miki & Companions</i>	6.00pm	Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
	7.00pm	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Briggs)
Friday <i>Feria</i>	9.00am	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Newton)
Saturday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – Int. Foundation Mass (Searle)
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confession
SUNDAY 9th Feb. Septuagesima	8.00am	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00am	Mass – Int. People of the parish



LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN

During the 10am Mass, we invite our younger children (approx. aged 3 to 7) to attend their own Liturgy of the Word in the Guild Room. Parents are encouraged to join their children. We welcome more help from those who seek to be leaders and support in this ministry to the children of our parish.

Today's feast recognises the Lord has come before us. We now wait to see him in our coming into heaven. While we wait, we are to help others know that the Lord has come.

Connections to Church Teaching and Tradition

In the Gospel, we hear that Simeon had long waited for God to send his Son. Today, members of the Church look to Christ as their head and realise that Christ dwells within them, the Body of Christ. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: "As Lord, Christ is also head of his Church, which is his body. Taken up to heaven and glorified after he had thus fully accomplished his mission, Christ dwells on earth in his Church" (CCC, 669).

For Simeon, the child Jesus was a sign of the work of God in the world. God has always used what is visible to reveal the invisible. The *Catechism* notes that God speaks through "the visible creation" (1147). Continuing, the *Catechism* states: "Inasmuch as they are creatures, these perceptible realities can become means of expressing the action of God who sanctifies men, and the action of men who offer worship to God. The same is true of signs and symbols taken from the social life of man: washing and anointing, breaking bread and sharing the cup can express the sanctifying presence of God and man's gratitude towards his Creator" (1148).

CANON DAVID OAKLEY APPOINTED BISHOP OF NORTHAMPTON

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has appointed Canon David Oakley, a priest of the Archdiocese of Birmingham and currently rector of St Mary's College, Oscott, to be the thirteenth Bishop of Northampton. Pray for God's blessing for Bishop Peter as he continues his ministry, and for our bishop-elect, Canon David Oakley

O Lord, who for the feeding of your flock have chosen your servant David as our bishop elect, grant him, we pray, a spirit of counsel and fortitude, a spirit of knowledge and piety, so that, by faithfully governing the people entrusted to him, he may build up in the world the sacrament of the Church.

Frank Pace and Joe Tavernier will represent our parish at the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Elect David Oakley on **Thursday 19 March at 11.00am at the Cathedral in Northampton.**

Lectionary for Mass

The Eastern Church celebrate this feast as "The Meeting," a reference to the long-awaited meeting of the Messiah with his people, represented by Simeon and Anna in the Temple. The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is rooted within the Old Testament traditions. The Book of Exodus stipulates that every firstborn Israelite male, human or animal, belongs to God. When Pharaoh would not allow the Israelites to leave Egypt and slavery, God saved the people. Consequently, the firstborn; whatever opens the womb among the Israelites, whether of human being or beast, belongs to me" (Exodus 13:2). The Israelites carried out this instruction by presenting their firstborn to God in the Temple: the firstborn of their animals was sacrificed to God while their firstborn sons were bought back by substituting animal sacrifice in their place to God.

Mary and Joseph fulfil this law by presenting Jesus in the Temple and making an offering. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Simeon recognises Jesus as the Messiah, prophesying, "My eyes have seen your salvation / which you have prepared in the sight of all the peoples." He stresses that this revelation is for everyone: pagans and Jews alike. Jesus' life will involve rejection and suffering, while his mother will experience tremendous sorrow: "And you yourself a sword will pierce" (Luke 2:35). Simeon is ready to die, while Anna will live to spread the good news of the Messiah.

Liturgy and Life

(1) How do you see God revealed in the actions during Mass? (2) Through what things and beings is God revealed in your daily life? (3) How did the Mass celebrate Christ as the King of glory, as the Responsorial Psalm proclaims?

RECENTLY DECEASED: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Frederick Turner** who died recently. His funeral will take place at **11am on Thursday 13 February** at Our Lady's Church, Chesham Bois. We extend our sympathy to all his family and friends.

PASTORAL AREA MISSION PLAN

Last September representatives from the five parishes in our Pastoral Area came together, as directed by Bishop Peter, to reflect prayerfully on the needs and opportunities within our community and to identify a number of local projects.

Getting a real "grass roots" perspective on our strengths and needs as well as hearing from a wide range of voices with local knowledge and experience enabled us to explore ideas from different perspectives. Four areas of focus were identified and prioritised: Liturgy, Welcoming & Social Community, Children & Youth and Communications.

Working groups need to be quickly established for each of these projects. If you feel passionate about any of these areas, have an open heart about new ways of working and have some time and energy to support us, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact Fr Andy if you would like to be involved.

The reflections, findings and initiatives identified during the Reflection Day will be used to produce a Mission Plan for our Pastoral Area. This needs to be ready by mid-March, ahead of a gathering of all Pastoral Areas on 28 March with Bishop Peter and Bishop Elect David.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Next Sunday 9th February 2020 the Catholic Church in England and Wales will celebrate Racial Justice – The theme is: "You are at the heart of the Church" It will celebrate the contribution travelling communities make to the Church in England and Wales. It is an opportunity for all Catholics to pray for, reflect on and respond to racial justice matters within the Church and wider society. Racial Justice Sunday should encourage proactive discussions on overt and covert forms of racism experienced by fellow Catholic from the travelling communities. To support the Church in its work with travellers, a second collection will be taken next weekend. Your contributions, however great or small will help to make a difference.

Catholic Basics Part 2 "The Church" on February 15 at the Diocesan Centre, Luton, LU4 8JD. Come and join us from **10am to 3pm (arrive 9.30 for refreshments)** for an engaging and informative day. Course pack and sandwich lunch provided in £15 cost. This is the second year of this successful course. For details and booking: Tel 01582 723312 or admin@nores.org.uk.

Money Matters

Last Sunday's Offertory Collection - £374.97

CAFOD Emergency Appeal - £305.44

SECOND COLLECTION:
NEXT SUNDAY: Racial Justice Sunday

Thank you for your generosity

The February 2020 edition of The Vine
The Diocese of Northampton newspaper is now available. **It's free of charge!**

Are you new to the parish?

If so, you are very welcome! Do introduce yourself to Father Andy after Mass, and please complete a parish registration form.



Tea, coffee and cold drinks are served in The Guild Room after both of our Sunday Masses.
All are welcome!

Infant Baptism and Marriage. By appointment with Fr Andy after completing the necessary preparation. **The Church requires** notice of at least six months prior to the Sacrament of Matrimony being celebrated.