

THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, LAVENDER HILL

Sunday 2 February 2025
The Presentation of the Lord

11.00am Blessing of Candles, Procession & Solemn Mass

*A very warm welcome to everyone especially if this is your first visit.
Please join us for refreshments following the service.*

Please take this order of service away with you

THIS WEEK

Observances	Monday:	<i>St Blaise</i>
	Tuesday:	<i>Feria</i> Low Mass: 6.30pm <i>PCC follows</i>
	Wednesday:	<i>St Agatha</i> Mass: 7.30pm
	Thursday:	<i>St Paul Miki & Companions</i> Low Mass: 10.00am
	Friday:	<i>Feria</i> No Mass today
	Saturday:	<i>Of Our Lady</i> Low Mass: 10.00am
	Sunday 9 th :	5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Solemn Mass: 11.00am

Website:
ascensionlavenderhill.org.uk

Email:
ascensionsw11@gmail.com

Phone:
020 7228 5340

A warm welcome to the Ascension, Lavender Hill. We are a Parish of the Diocese of Southwark and under the Episcopal care of the Bishop of Fulham. If you would like to know more about the Ascension, have queries about baptisms, weddings and funerals, or any questions about the Christian Faith, please speak to the Parish Priest, Fr Philip, who will be pleased to assist you:

Fr Philip Kennedy

tel: 020 7228 5340

email: ascensionsw11@gmail.com

We are a registered charity, and rely principally on donations to sustain our work. Please give as generously as you are able, either at the Offertory or by scanning the QR code below.

If you are a taxpayer and are able to gift-aid your donation please do so by either placing your cash donation into a blue envelope and filling in your details on the front, or ask one of the Churchwardens for a Gift Aid form.

Thank you for your support.



*Our **Churchwardens** are the Bishop's representatives in the Parish (elected by the parishioners) and work together with Fr Philip to ensure the smooth running of the Parish. They can be contacted as follows:*

MRS ANN WARWICK
annwarwick1@aol.com

MS CHERYL HARPER
cherylharper1964@hotmail.com

*We take the **safeguarding** of children and vulnerable adults very seriously. Here are the details of our **Parish Safeguarding Officers**, who should be the first point of contact for any concerns:*

MS RUTH CANSDALE
07737 116364

MR ALEX BANSON
020 7738 1916

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

The congregation assembles in front of the Font. Candles should be lit immediately before the Mass begins.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Dear brothers and sisters, forty days have passed since we celebrated the joyful Feast of the Nativity of the Lord.

Today is the blessed day when Jesus was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. Outwardly he was fulfilling the Law, but in reality he was coming to meet his believing people.

Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the Temple. Enlightened by the same Spirit, they recognized the Lord and confessed him with exultation.

So let us also, gathered together by the Holy Spirit, proceed to the house of God to encounter Christ. There we shall find him and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, until he comes again, revealed in glory.

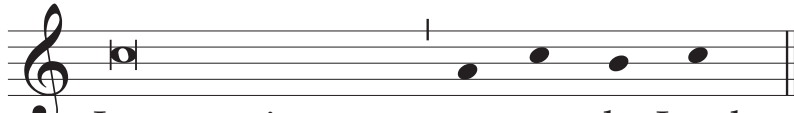
BLESSING OF CANDLES

The people hold up their candles for the prayer of blessing.

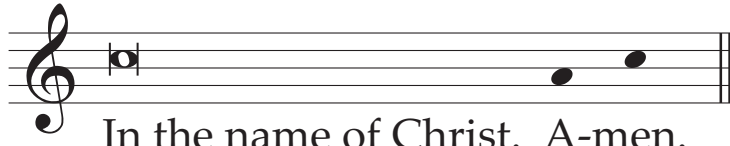
Let us pray.
O God, source and origin of all light,
who on this day showed to the just man Simeon
the light for revelation to the Gentiles,
we humbly ask that,
in answer to your people's prayers,
you may be pleased to sanctify with your blessing + these candles,
which we are eager to carry in praise of your name,
so that, treading the path of virtue,
we may reach that light which never fails.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The priest sprinkles the candles with holy water, and then blesses incense.

HYMN OF THE PROCESSION



Let us go in peace to meet the Lord.



In the name of Christ. A-men.

Of the Father's heart begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;
He commanded and 'twas done;
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
Universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,
All that breathes beneath the sun,
Evermore and evermore.

He assumed this mortal body,
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,
That the race from dust created
Might not perish utterly,
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced
In the depths of hell to lie,
Evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday,
When the Maid the curse retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,
By the Holy Ghost conceived;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
In her loving arms received,
Evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sibyl
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealèd
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

Let the storm and summer sunshine,
Gliding stream and sounding shore,
Sea and forest, frost and zephyr,
Day and night their Lord adore;
Let creation join to laud thee
Through the ages evermore,
Evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,
we humbly implore your majesty
that, just as your Only Begotten Son
was presented on this day in the Temple
in the substance of our flesh,
so, by your grace,
we may be presented to you with minds made pure.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

All sit for the readings. Hand candles extinguished.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: MALACHI 3: 1-4

Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his Temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 24

Verses sung by the cantor. We sing the Response together.

Response:

The LORD of hosts, he is the king of glo - ry!

The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins with a common time signature (C) and a circled 8 below the staff. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final measure containing a whole note and a fermata.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 2: 14-18

Since the children share in flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All stand to welcome the Gospel.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 2: 22-40

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord') and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves, or two young pigeons'.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the Temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

'Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.'

And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed — and a sword will pierce through your own soul also — so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.'

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the Temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All sit

HOMILY: Fr Philip Kennedy, *Vicar*

All stand

THE NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
All bow at the memorial of the Incarnation:
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became
man. *All rise*
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds
from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is
adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one
Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

All stand

At the end of the intercessions we pray together:

**Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among
women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary,
Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY

All stand to sing the offertory hymn as the altar is prepared.

**Sing how the age-long promise of a Saviour
Spoken through lips of prophets by the Spirit,
In blessed Mary, Mother of the Christ-child,
Finds its fulfilment.**

**Virgin most pure, and wondrously conceiving,
Bearing incarnate God in awed obedience,
Now she presents him for a spotless offering
Unto his Father.**

In God's high temple, Simeon the righteous
Takes to his loving arms with holy rapture
That One for whom his longing eyes had waited,
Jesus, Messiah.

Where now his Mother next her Son is seated,
In those fair mansions of the heavenly kingdom,
May Christ our Saviour grant to us his servants
Life everlasting.

Father eternal, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Trinity blessed, Maker and Redeemer,
Giver of life, and Author of salvation,
Thine be the glory. Amen.

When the altar is prepared the Priest says:

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be
acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

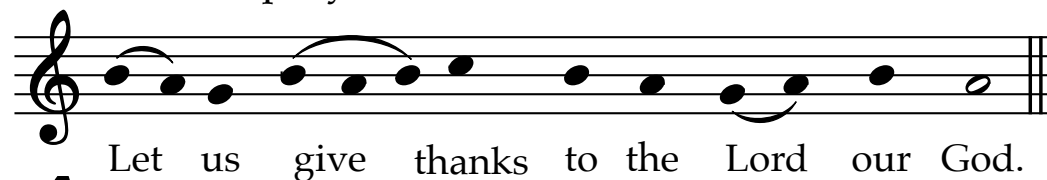
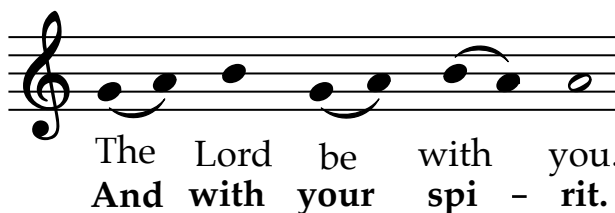
**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and
glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the offering made with exultation by your Church
be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray,
for you willed that your Only Begotten Son
be offered to you for the life of the world
as the Lamb without blemish.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PREFACE



The priest sings the Preface, after which we sing:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

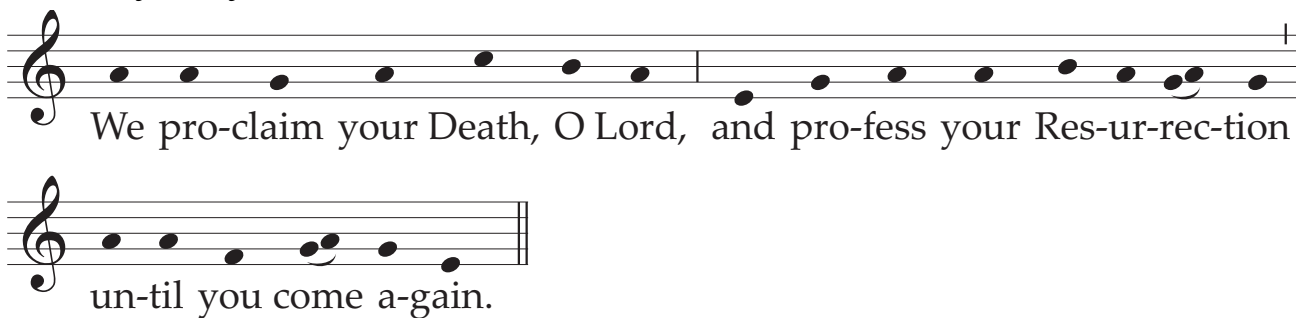
**Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth, are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

All kneel or sit as the Eucharistic Prayer continues:

The mystery of faith:



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G-clef. The first staff contains a melody for the words "We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Res-ur-rec-tion". The second staff contains a melody for the words "un-til you come a-gain.".

We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Res-ur-rec-tion

un-til you come a-gain.

The prayer concludes "...for ever and ever" to which all reply:
Amen.

COMMUNION RITE

All stand as the priest invites the people to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may always be free from sin and safe from all distress as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.**

THE PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace, I give you: look not on our sins but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The priest and ministers receive Holy Communion.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

HOLY COMMUNION

If you are baptised in the name of the Trinity and normally receive Holy Communion in your own Church, you are welcome to receive the Sacrament here today. If you wish to receive the Precious Blood, please make your way, after receiving the Host, to the chalice-bearer.

If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please come to the altar rail and cross your arms or bring this order of service with you as a sign to the priest.

MUSIC DURING HOLY COMMUNION

Nunc dimittis Geoffrey Burgon (1941 – 2010)

COMMUNION HYMN

All for Jesus--all for Jesus,
This our song shall ever be;
For we have no hope, nor Saviour,
If we have not hope in thee.

All for Jesus--thou wilt give us
Strength to serve thee, hour by hour,
None can move us from thy presence,
While we trust thy love and power.

All for Jesus--at thine altar
Thou wilt give us sweet content;
There, dear Lord, we shall receive thee
In the solemn sacrament.

All for Jesus--thou hast loved us;
All for Jesus--thou hast died;
All for Jesus--thou art with us;
All for Jesus crucified.

All for Jesus--all for Jesus--
This the Church's song must be;
Till, at last, her sons are gathered
One in love and one in thee.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All stand.

Let us pray.

By these holy gifts which we have received, O Lord,
bring your grace to perfection within us,
and, as you fulfilled Simeon's expectation
that he would not see death
until he had been privileged to welcome the Christ,
so may we, going forth to meet the Lord,
obtain the gift of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BANNS OF MARRIAGE & NOTICES

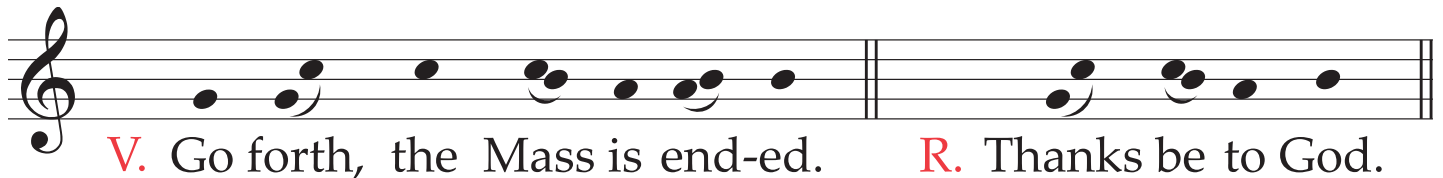
All sit.

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

All stand.

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit
Amen.



FINAL HYMN

**In His temple now behold Him,
See the long expected Lord;
Ancient prophets had foretold Him,
God has now fulfilled His word.
Now to praise Him, His redeemèd
Shall break forth with one accord.**

**In the arms of her who bore Him,
Virgin pure, behold Him lie,
While his aged saints adore Him
Ere in faith and hope they die.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Lo, th'incarnate God most high.**

**Jesus, by thy presentation,
Thou, who didst for us endure,
Make us see our great salvation,
Seal us with thy promise sure.
And present us in thy glory
To thy Father, cleansed and pure.**

**Prince and author of salvation,
Be thy boundless love our theme!
Jesus, praise to thee be given
By the world thou didst redeem.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Lord of majesty supreme!**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY: *Finale Jubilante*
Healey Wilan (1880 – 1968)

*You are warmly invited to join us after Mass for
refreshments at the back of the church.*

CCLI REGISTRATION NO: 1405641

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Those in need

Elly Kostur, Jean Tester, Cath Papangelou, Maureen Papangelou, Shabnam Mehdi-Poor, Alvin Rhodon, Andrew Woods, Carol Farley, Luke Guthrie, Alan, Roy Norton, Robin Farquhar-Thomson, Victoria, Tina Guthrie, Vicki Guthrie, Becky Saint, Joanne Donaghy, Joan Aubee, Peggy Ossawy, Roberto Guiffrida.

Recently departed

Brooke Lunn (pr), David Rumsby, Hugh Moore (pr)

Anniversaries of death

2: Dorothy Ross Mackenzie, Dorothea Neil-Smith

4: Frank Hugo Harrison (pr)

5: William Phipps, Ivor Davies

6: Lincoln Wainwright (pr), His Late Majesty King George VI, Ernest Gillgrass

7: Mary Jane Pipe, George William Buckley, Eva Baker

10: Patrick Brown (pr)

NOTICES

CHRIST CHURCH, BATTERSEA: CHORAL EVENSONG

We are invited to join Fr Geoffrey and the people of Christ Church, Battersea for Choral Evensong for the Feast of Candlemas **tonight** at 6.00pm. Canticles: Stanford in G; anthem: Charles Wood, *O thou the central orb*

NEXT PCC MEETING: TUES 4 FEBRUARY 2025

The Parochial Church Council will meet next in Church on Tues 4 February at 7pm, preceded by Mass at 6.30pm. Papers available today.

WALSINGHAM CELL MEETING: WED 12 FEBRUARY

Rosary at 7.00pm, Mass at 7.30pm followed by the half-yearly meeting

CONFIRMATION 2025

Bishop Jonathan has indicated that he will confirm any candidates from Fulham parishes in Southwark this year at a special Festival Mass at Southwark Cathedral on Sat 31 May at 11.00am. Please have a word with Fr Philip if you are interested in preparing for Confirmation this year.

DEANERY SYNOD

The next Deanery Synod meeting will take place here on Thursday 13 February at 7.30pm. There will be a Mass at 6.30pm that evening, and tea and coffee available from 7.00pm

LOURDES 2025: 18-22 AUGUST

Bookings are now open for the Society of Mary pilgrimage to Lourdes. Adults: £745; Children (11-17): £100; flights from and to Heathrow. Contact Tangney Tours for more information: 01732 886666 or visit the website: www.tinyurl.com/lourdes25

KEY UPCOMING DATES

Tues 4 March	7.00pm	Shrove Tuesday: service & pancakes
Wed 5 March	10.00am 7.00pm	Ash Wednesday Mass (Said) Solemn Mass
Wed 12 March	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Wed 19 March	7.00pm	Sung Mass (St Joseph)
Tues 25 March	7.00pm	Sung Mass (Annunciation)

Pope Benedict XVI on the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple:

In his account of the infancy of Jesus St Luke emphasizes how faithful Mary and Joseph were to the Law of the Lord. They fulfilled with profound devotion all the prescriptions prescribed following the birth of a firstborn male. Two of them were very ancient prescriptions: one concerns the mother and the other the newborn child. The woman was required to abstain from ritual practices for forty days, after which she was to offer a double sacrifice: a lamb as a burnt offering and a turtle-dove as a sin offering; but if she were poor, she could offer a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons.

It is important to note that these two acts — the purification of the mother and the redemption of the son — did not require a visit to the Temple. However, Mary and Joseph wished to fulfil all the prescriptions in Jerusalem, and St Luke shows us how the entire scene converges on the Temple and thus focuses on Jesus who enters it. And it is here, precisely through the prescriptions of the Law, that the principal event is transformed, namely, it becomes the “presentation” of Jesus in the Temple of God, which means the act of offering the Son of the Most High to the Father who sent him.