



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 2 February 2025 – The Presentation of the Lord

Readings: Year C

Dear Parishioners

The 2nd February is "The Presentation of the Lord", or to give it an older title "The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary". It is known popularly as "Candlemass" as the theme of Light is central and candles are blessed and sprinkled at the beginning of Mass. It falls on a Sunday every 6/7 years so 2025 is a special occasion, a good start to this Jubilee Year!

February 2nd is halfway between the Winter solstice and the Spring equinox and is held to be the "turning point" of Winter gloom. Certainly this January has been hard work with driving rain alternated by freezing cold and lots of grey skies. In Ireland it is "St Bridget's day", traditionally the herald of Spring and of course in the States it is "Groundhog Day".

What does it mean? Quite simply, Candlemass marks 40 days since the Nativity and is another Theophany, a manifestation of the Divine hidden under Jesus' humanity. Mary and Joseph are doing their Jewish duty presenting the firstborn in the Temple as all were required to do under the Mosäic Law,,and redeeming him with the sacrifice of turtle doves or pigeons, permissible for those unable to afford a lamb. Scooping up the baby,mSimeon proclaims the "Nunc Dimittis"... "Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace..." (sorry but I do prefer the older translation). What the parents thought of all this is not recorded, but the chilling words that follow must have struck some fear into Mary's heart..."And a sword shall pierce your heart..." What sword and why? Mary would discover in time the pain of watching her son betrayed, humiliated, scourged and then crucified...but the Light did come back, from an empty tomb, abandoned grave clothes, a Risen Lord.

Our lives can be dark and painful, and confusing. With Mary we need to hang on to the promise that Jesus made to be with us, even to the end of time, even when we cannot understand or see what is happening. At times this is difficult, humanly impossible, but He will give us the strength if we turn to Him. May Mary, Mother of God, help us with her prayers.

God bless everyone as we head into Spring Fr Clive

Parish Notices

Today we have a Second Collection for Life the charity that works for the unborn and helps pregnant mothers.

At St Teresas we are welcoming James Whybrow, one of our own Holy Trinity school teachers and a senior Cricket coach at Charlbury Cricket club, into full membership of the Church with his Reception and Confirmation. We wish him and his wife Harriet all the very best!

**Masses next week Holy Trinity: 915am Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (School Candlemass)
Rosary for Peace on Friday**

Masses at St Teresa's next week: 915am Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

This week: all classes are up and running. Mary Prior and Nareen Bowers are doing a wonderful job with a parish room full of First Communion children and Mums. Soon we will be celebrating with them and their families in both churches as they receive the Lord sacramentally in Holy Eucharist for the very first time. What a joy for all!

Please take a Jubilee booklet home with you. There are plenty in both churches!

Looking ahead...in February we will be receiving and confirming in both parishes. This is the end of a long process of discernment and instruction and I hope that everyone will support our new members and congratulate them.

The licence for the Film Club has been applied for and as soon as it is granted we can publish the programme. My thanks to Ben Dytor at St Teresas and Declan Soper at Holy Trinity for taking this on.

In January we pray with Pope Francis for the right to an education: Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes.
In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones: The repose of the souls of those who have died: People whose anniversaries occur at this time: The people of the Middle East, Morocco, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Tammy Lawson**. Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

