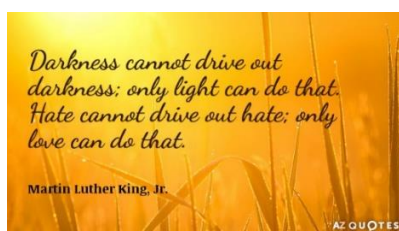


St Anne's Parish, Wappenbury
with
Our Lady of the Angels', Princethorpe
Sunday 2 February 2025 Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
Fr Teddy O'Brien MSC - Parish Priest
The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham
(Registered Charity Number: 234216) and is conducted, on behalf of the Archdiocese
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Candlemas Day, Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple



Five years ago, the pandemic was knocking on our door. No one had an answer. We lived in trepidation whether to shake hands or not, whether to wear masks or not. We were approaching lockdown. We listened to others hoping for an answer, an answer that would not come. As we saw lockdown imposed in Japan, we said *"that won't happen here"*. And it did. We had to do something. We could not continue as we were and hope to avoid grave consequences. And lockdown was imposed.

Now we listen as Governments change, leaders promise and do not deliver. Francis invokes a Year of Hope. Dreadful news – from anywhere and in so many forms – shocks us but momentarily, reaching a stage where it almost fails to shock us anymore. Headlines change so quickly as if to protect us from too much shocking news. A world population cries out for peace, and no one seems wise enough to bring this about.

Gaza and Israel are fragile; Ukraine is on the brink; USA is confused; UK is unsure; Africa and elsewhere are terribly hungry for so much of life. We listen and no one offers an answer.

Today, we celebrate Candlemas Day. *"I am the light of the world"*, Jesus declared. *"Whoever walks in this light will not get lost"*. This was Jesus' answer, not a theory but a way of life, modelled by Himself. As we dismantle, and put away for another year, the last vestiges of the Christmas Crib, I wonder whether, with that, we lock away, also, the message that Christmas brought us?

We can shout out that Jesus is the light, but then who is listening anyway? *"Always preach the Gospel and, if you must, use words"* (attributed to St Francis) challenges us. Marshall McLuhan (1964) suggested that *"the medium is the message"* which might suggest that our medium, our way of living life, is lacking. The message is solid, yet our culture seems not to be paying attention. We must do something, must we not? Staying as we are, seems not to be an option. What do you think?

Today, 2 February, signposts a day highlighting Jesus as the light of and to the world, a human being who knew His origin and His destiny, and how to move from one to the other. Our next signposts will be Ash Wednesday, then Easter, then Pentecost, then Advent, again. Can we not rest where we are at present and not wait to be invited again? Must we always move on? After all, the snowdrops have been still all winter – look at them now! Soon the daffodils, and then the bluebells, and then all those shrubs that have rested during winter. A restless heart makes noise, while power emanates from a restful heart.

In Ireland tomorrow, St Brigid's Day, in Ireland folk are fortunate to have the day off. People are invited to *"make Space for Peace"* at 12noon, a peace wherever it is wanted or needed. What better time for us to join in: whatever you are doing and wherever you are and with whomsoever you are spending time, working or resting, can we each take a little time to be still (please ignore for now, at least, *"time poverty"*)! and just stop for a moment.

How really is your heart right now?

Diary Dates for Week Beginning Sunday 2 February 2025

Sunday 2 February	8.30am 10.30am	Wappenbury Princethorpe	Feast of the Presentation of The Lord Refreshments after both Masses David McLoughlin, Parish Council Member to speak about our Jubilee Year Loretta Curtis, Parish Council Member to speak about our Jubilee Year
Monday 3 February	8.30am Mass	Wappenbury	Private Intention
Tuesday 4 February	No Mass		
Wednesday 5 February	8.30am Mass	Wappenbury	Memorial of St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr
Thursday 6 February	No Mass		Memorial of St Paul Miki, and Companions, Martyrs
Friday 7 February	8.30am Mass	Wappenbury	
Saturday 8 February	5.00pm Mass	St Peter's, Leamington Spa	
Sunday 9 February	8.30am Mass 10.30am Mass	Wappenbury Princethorpe	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C Refreshments after both Masses

Sunday Collection – 26 January 2025

Date	Wappenbury Offertory	Second Collection	Princethorpe Offertory	Second Collection
26 January 2025	£37.64	Pax Christi £24.01	£253.80	Pax Christi £30.21 Piety Stall £31.00

Jubilee Year 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope

A small group of parishioners will meet again this week to organise events for this Jubilee Year of Hope 2025 in St Anne's parish. You will hear more about this in the next week or two.

In the meantime, check again, please: what can you offer to this parish community this year? Everyone has something valuable to contribute – what you can offer is really needed this year.

Safeguarding Information From The Archdiocese of Birmingham Office

The Archdiocese of Birmingham has approved the appointment of Andy Rogers as the Parish Safeguarding Representative for St Anne's Parish, Wappenbury. Contact details for Andy are sg.stanne.wappenbury.org.uk This email is for safeguarding matters only.

The St Anne's Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance, and the National and Archdiocese policies & procedures always.

The Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

In The Event Of Unsafe Driving Conditions – Urgent Message

In consideration of the recent inclement weather, it may be necessary on future occasions to celebrate both Masses at St Anne's, Wappenbury.

Should this occasion arise, I will send an **URGENT** email to everyone on the Saturday evening prior to Mass on Sunday. This will only happen in **exceptional circumstances**. Please try to read your emails in good time.

Cleaning St Anne's – Asking For Help Again, Please

St Anne's is our parish church, and it is only with the support of a few that it is kept in such wonderful condition. Please let Loretta or me know when you can come and clean the church. There is a calendar in the porch at St Anne's – the door is always open for you to pop down and add your name.

It usually takes a couple of people a couple of hours to clean thoroughly. Tea and coffee on hand to keep you going!

I just need to be told when you are coming so that you have access for hot water etc.

Cards for Various Occasions

There will be a box of miscellaneous cards for various occasions at Princethorpe tomorrow. Please feel free to take one or more. A donation of £1.00 per card would be appreciated.

There is also the Piety cupboard in the Prayer Room at Princethorpe. Please take time to see Fergus if you would like to have a look. All items are £1.00.

New Missals – A Few Still Available – These Will Be Available At Princethorpe Tomorrow With Loretta

The last few available Missals can be bought from Loretta at both 8.30am and 10.30am Mass tomorrow. Please pay in cash £13.00. This is a discount on the usual price of £18.95.

Do You Have Any Upcoming Anniversaries In Your Family? Special Birthdays or Wedding Anniversaries?

It is always a treat to have news of family celebrations. Please let Loretta or me know if you would like something added to the newsletter. A picture or two is always welcome.

Pretty Tea Sets Required!

If you have any pretty tea sets at home that you no longer want to keep, please bring them to St Anne's. We are also looking for any tiered cake stands you might have.

If you don't have any at home to donate, could you take a moment next time you walk past a charity shop to buy anything – even odd pretty cups and saucers will do.

All will become clear why St Anne's will need them in the next few weeks!

All donations can be left in the porch at St Anne's. Many, many thanks.

Responding To The Call Of Creation - January 2025 A Year of Extreme Weather

2024 was a year full of extremes. Climate change increases the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events, and we saw lots of them in 2024.

Last year the world experienced an additional 41 days of dangerous heat due to climate change which brought health risks and saw the **Amazon River** levels dropping by 90%.

Elsewhere, the **Philippines** experienced six typhoons in a single 30-day period, triggering landslides and floods. Unfortunately, these events are becoming increasingly common, and they highlight the urgency of climate action to reduce the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable people in the world. Source: *BBC*

News, Events, Opportunities - Upcoming events for 2025

Global Climate Summit 2025 4-7th June 2025, University of Oxford

This will include local activities themed around climate justice in partnership with UN Human Rights. Look out for talks, exhibitions, concerts and more. **Earth Day 2025 Tuesday 22nd April 2025** This year's theme is *Our Power, Our Planet*. Its goal is to unite the collective global commitment to renewable energy, to generate clean electricity for everyone.

COP 30 10th-21st November 2025

The 30th Conference of Parties on Climate Change will take place in Brazil in November.

Live Simply Be still. After the busyness of the festive period, take some time to just be still and to sit in God's presence in his creation.



Whether it's looking out of a window with a cup of tea, watching your favourite nature documentary or going outside, build in time for stillness into your routine.

Live Sustainably

As the new year begins, how can you live sustainably? Pick one, simple, achievable action that you can complete this year to make a positive impact. For example, buy in bulk to reduce packaging ratios, or eat seasonal food, or make sure you actually turn devices off at the wall, or only boil the amount of water you need.

Live in Solidarity

Nelson Mandela once said: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". This year, why not show solidarity to those facing the brunt of the climate crisis and to future generations to come, by learning more about this planet: its wonders and the threats it's facing. Be curious, ask questions and look for answers. Useful starting points are: The Royal Society: <https://royalsociety.org/news-resources/projects/climate-change-evidence-causes/basics-of-climate-change> The UN: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change>

For more information or to get involved in climate action in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, please contact climateaction@rcaob.org.uk

Especially In Your Prayers This Week – For The Living

Fr Gerry Daly MSC whose grandniece, Eva, died in a tragic climbing accident in Malaga recently.

Mary and Kathy Watkins, whose mother, Caroline (70), died unexpected recently. Pray for Caroline's husband, for Mary, Kathy and her brother.

Maura, sister-in-law of Marie Kerrigan, who is receiving chemotherapy for lung cancer.

Carole Rogers, Andy Roger's mother, who is suffering from breast cancer.

Cathy Rogers, Andy Rogers wife, who is undergoing treatment for her brain AVM in the New Year.

Sue Kimberley. We give thanks to God this week for Sue's healing. She has been, last week, declared free of cancer at present. Sincere thanks to you all for your continued prayers.

The Cotterill Family (Kenilworth and USA) on the death of their father, Tony, on 30 December 2024.

Lisa McGowan, sister-in-law of Helen, Lisa is out of hospital and recuperating at home with plenty of physio.

John Warner, the builder who refurbished St Anne's in 2014, as he endures cancer treatment.

Stefan Goodman whose father died recently.

David McLoughlin as he mourns the death of his cousin, Tommy.

Fr Michael White, Parish Priest in Tamworth, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Mac, who is unwell at the present time and waiting for a major operation.

Benedict who is experiencing personal difficulties currently. He really asks for your prayers.

Martha, Karen Walls mother-in-law. Martha is extremely ill in Antrim hospital. Hold them in your prayer during these difficult days.

Meabh Barratt (3) lives with her family in Ireland. She is undergoing tests in Ireland and the results will be sent to Alder Hay Children's Hospital, Liverpool. Please pray for this young child and her family.

Francesca who begins ongoing chemotherapy. Pray for her husband and family.

Rachel who is quite ill at present.

Sonia and Alice who are struggling at present.

Di Downes and family, whose husband, Jonathan last year.

John, brother-in-law of Veronica, recently diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Johnny Stott (20s), younger brother to Melody Kerrigan. Continue to hold the Stott and Kerrigan families in your prayers.

The O'Keeffe family as they grieve for Dermot's mother, Maureen.

Patrick who is suffering from cancer. Latest news has been discouraging.

Patrick's son (40) who suffered a stroke recently. Hold his wife and family in your prayers.

Mary Owen whose mother, Gaby, died recently in Rugeley, Staffs. Hold Mary and family in your prayers.

Paula Loveitt whose sister, Denise Harris (50), died recently. Pray for Paula's three sisters, her mum, and her wider family.

David Scannell's cousin, whose funeral was held recently.

Florence Thomas whose cousin, Tommy (69), died unexpectedly recently in Ireland.

Paul and Sandra Waddoups ask for your prayers.

Josh's family who are experiencing family difficulties currently. You may recall Josh died recently in a car accident.

Sonia is awaiting further news on her health issues.

Roy Pendleton who is currently residing in Galanos House, Southam.

Peter Power who is recovering at home from recent medical treatment.

Ed Hester's father who is ill at home.

Samantha and Peter Swann. Please continue to hold Samantha and Peter in your prayers.

John and Caroline. John (major surgery for a tumour, Caroline's friend). **Noah aged 4**, in Birmingham Children's Hospital with a rare brain tumour.

Carl, son in law to Elizabeth Wilson, diagnosed with a lifelong, exceedingly rare condition. Please pray for Carl and all the family.

Tianna, who has had a grade 3 brain tumour removed and has begun Proton treatment. Please pray for Tianna's family

Con (Marie Malin's father) who is now at home with carers.

Ian Milligan, and Ian's wife Julie, Basil's sister, still fragile and unwell. Thank you for your continuing prayers.

John (18yrs) who has been diagnosed with life changing cancer. Please hold John, his family and friends, and the medical profession dealing with this and similar situations, in your prayers.

Yve and Sean Butterfield, friends of Marie Kerrigan. Please pray for all the family at this very difficult time.

Sophie (22)

Heather, who experienced her treatment recently. She is recovering at home at present.

Frances, friend of Marie Kerrigan who has received good news that her sight has been saved. Prayers greatly appreciated.

Sally who welcomes your prayers.

Jenny who is having treatment for cancer.

Irene with her continuing health difficulties. Hold Liam and Irene's parents in your prayers.

Elizabeth who is waiting for a serious operation.

Anthony Platt, friend of Kathy Bond

Paul, a paramedic friend of Kathy Bond, Stretton on Dunsmore.

John, Pray for Clare and family.

Veronica and Paul, please continue your prayers for them.

John (75) diagnosed with bladder cancer.

Frank

Carolyn, who is ill with breast cancer.

For Those Who Have Died and For Their Families In Our Prayers This Week

Tony Cotterill RIP (Kenilworth) who died on 30 December 2024.

Eve McCarthy (21) who died in a tragic climbing accident in Malaga on 10 January. Eve is grand niece to Fr Gerry Daly MSC in Cork.

Caroline RIP (70), mother to Mary and Kathy Watkins, who died recently.

Tommy McLoughlin RIP (50s) who died recently. Tommy is cousin to David McLoughlin

Michael Goodman RIP, 77 (parish groundsman), who died recently.

Tracey RIP, not a parishioner, friend of Julie Satchwell, who died recently. Prayers for all Tracey's family and friends, please.

Isobel O'Hara (nee Kealey) RIP

Kathleen O'Brien OP 94yrs (Sr Laetitia OP) RIP Fr Teddy's sister, who died earlier this year.

Jonathan Downes RIP, who died at home last year.

Emma RIP, a friend of Mary Owen. Hold Emma, her family and friends in your prayers.

Allan Stewart RIP, a friend of Pam Hopwood, whose wife, Moira and family, who do a lot for the shoe-box team.

Raymond Heald RIP, friend of Patsy Monahan.

Maureen O'Keeffe RIP who died recently. Hold the O'Keeffe family in your prayers.

Gaby Owen RIP, Mary Owen's mother who died recently. Please pray for Mary and all the family.

Denise Harris (50) RIP, who died recently. Hold Alexandra and Denise' sisters and family in your prayers.

Tommy (69) RIP, first cousin of Florence Thomas.

David Scannell RIP, cousin of Sean Kerrigan. Prayers please for his wife, Monica and all David's family.

John O'Brien RIP, brother-in-law of Liz Bates. Please pray for Maria and all the family.

David Maceluch RIP, please pray for Sonia, Alice, James and Lily.

Celia Dupre RIP, friend of Jane and Tony Phayer.

Bridget Mernagh RIP, aunt to Peter Power. Please pray for Bridget's family.

Cissie Power RIP, Peter's mother

Bernard Gallagher RIP, brother to Fr Frank Gallagher MSC (retired)

Stacy Busby RIP, Bill's niece

Paul Gandy's sister who died earlier this year.

Ellie Taylor RIP, please pray for Ellie's family.

Judith Roberts RIP (70s)

Mary McKeown RIP

Paul Spencer RIP

Margaret Huett RIP

Bill and Yvonne Busby RIP

Jean RIP, aunt to Tim Malin. Pray for Tim and Maria and all the family.

John RIP Remember Clare in your prayers.

John Dobie RIP

Myrtle Forster (64) RIP Remember Marie in your prayers.

Mont RIP Remember Roy in your prayers.

Vacancy At The Princethorpe Foundation

Head of Music – Crescent School, Rugby To start in September, we are seeking a motivated and energetic Head of Music to lead this key element of the school's holistic educational and co-curricular provision. You will be responsible for the teaching and learning of Music as a curriculum specialist, and also for leading musical contributions to whole school events such as concerts and performances. We also run a peripatetic one-to-one music teaching programme, and the Head of Music would be expected to coordinate this, working with other music specialists and our Co-Curricular Coordinator.

This is a part-time role, which is equivalent to approx. 0.5 of a full-time role, with hours and days to be discussed. The successful applicant may wish to supplement their income by providing one-to-one lessons as part of the peripatetic teaching programme.

Salary is by negotiation, depending on qualifications and relevant experience.

Potential candidates are strongly encouraged to visit the school's website www.crescentschool.co.uk for more information about our thriving School, which offers a rich curriculum and strong sense of community. Continuing Professional Development is encouraged and personal visits to the school are welcome.

This is an excellent opportunity to join a Foundation that values its staff and offers a rewarding benefits package including discounted places for staff, a pension scheme and a cycle to work scheme.

Closing date Wednesday 12 February 2025. Further information [here](#)