



THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF *St Thomas More* and *St Joseph the Worker*



working in partnership with the Catholic Chaplaincy of Warwick University

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both parishes are part of the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Reg Charity No 234216

2nd February 2025

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (Candlemass)

Psalter Week: 4
Weekday Cycle: Year 1
Sunday Year: C

Saturday 1st	CANDLEMASS	4.15pm	STM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions		
		5.00pm	STM	Vigil Mass	Francis Hughes (RIP)	
		Sunday 2nd	9.00am	STM	Mass	James Valentine Brennan (Anniv)
			11.00am	SJW	Mass	Joan Kendall (RIP)
			12.45pm	SJW	Mass (University)	Pro Populo
Monday 3 rd	St Blaise			No Mass		
Tuesday 4 th	Feria	10.00am	SJW	Mass	Dolores Connolly (3 rd Anniv)	
Wednesday 5 th	St Agatha	11.00am	STM	Mass 'n' Mingle	Joyce Tenn-Lyn (RIP)	
Thursday 6 th	St Paul Miki	10.00am	STM	Mass (School)	Ellen and Joseph Bell (RIP)	
Friday 7 th	Feria	10.00am	STM	Mass	Veronica Hammond (Ints)	
Saturday 8th	Our Lady	10.00am	SJW	Mass	Keelin Trehane (Ints)	
		followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions				
	FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	4.15pm	STM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions		
		5.00pm	STM	Vigil Mass	Gabrielle Haughey (RIP)	
		9.00am	STM	Mass	Mgr Tom Gavin (Anniv)	
Sunday 9th	11.00am	SJW	Mass	Pauline Simons (Ints)		
	12.45pm	SJW	Mass (University)	Pro Populo		

Welcome to Mass today. We extend a special welcome to anybody joining us for the first time.

Please introduce yourself, and if you are able, stay for refreshments after the Mass.

The Gospel of Luke tells the story of Jesus being presented in the Temple when He was just a baby. Mary and Joseph took Him to Jerusalem to fulfil a requirement of the Jewish law. This law said that every firstborn son should be offered to God. At the same time, the parents were to make a small sacrifice. For Mary and Joseph, this was an offering of two doves, showing their humility. In the Temple that day, two holy people, Simeon and Anna, were there. Simeon was a righteous man who had been promised by God that he would see the Messiah before he died. He was waiting and praying for this moment. When he saw Jesus, he took Him in his arms and praised God. He called Jesus a "light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to Israel." Simeon knew that Jesus was the Saviour sent for all people.

Anna was a prophetess, an elderly widow who spent her days in the Temple, worshipping God through fasting and prayer. She also recognised Jesus as the Messiah. When she saw Him, she began to give thanks to God and spoke about Jesus to everyone around her. Anna's joy and faith show her love for God and her understanding that Jesus would bring salvation. Simeon also had a message for Mary. He said that Jesus would be a "sign that would be opposed," meaning that many people would not accept Him. Simeon also told Mary that a sword would pierce her own soul. This meant that Mary would suffer as she witnessed the struggles and suffering of her Son. This prophecy prepared Mary for the difficult road ahead.

This encounter fulfilled several Old Testament prophecies. In the Old Testament, God promised to send a Saviour to His people. Simeon's words echo these promises and show that God was faithful. Jesus came not only for the Jewish people but for the whole world. This is why Simeon called Him a light for all nations. The faith of Simeon and Anna reminds us to watch and wait for God's work in our lives. They recognised Jesus because they were close to God in prayer and worship. Through them, we see the joy of knowing and serving the Lord, even if it requires patience.

STM and SJW Website: stmcov.org/wp/

Facebook: Catholic Parishes of St Thomas More and St Joseph the Worker

Livestream webcam: <https://www.youtube.com/@stmandsjtw-cov>

Coventry Catholic Deanery: www.coventry-catholicdeanery.org.uk

SUNDAY OFFERTORIES

STM: £830.50

SJW: £196.00

Thank you for your continued generosity

FEBRUARY is the month dedicated to the Holy Family. The special devotion which proposes the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the model of virtue of all Christian households began in the 17th century. It started almost simultaneously in Canada and France: the Association of the Holy Family was founded in Montreal in 1663, and by the Daughters of the Holy Family in Paris in 1674. Paul VI, in 1964 said, 'the home of Nazareth is the school where we begin to understand the life of Jesus—the school of the Gospel. First, then, a lesson of silence. May esteem for silence, that admirable and indispensable condition of mind, revive in us...a lesson on family life. May Nazareth teach us what family life is, its communion of love, its austere and simple beauty, and its sacred and inviolable character...A lesson of work. Nazareth, home of the Carpenter's Son, in you I would choose to understand and proclaim the severe and redeeming law of human work.'

TODAY is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord or Candlemass. In the Jewish custom, a firstborn son was taken to the Temple on the fortieth day following his birth when the parents would present their son before the Holy of Holies and offer sacrifice in thanksgiving. At the Temple Mary and Joseph are met by Simeon and Anna. These two biblical characters, Simeon and Anna see what many eyes seem to miss – the presence of God in Christ among them. Simeon speaks to Mary of the sorrows that will come to her because of her son. Candlemas, then, is a last look back towards the crib before embarking on the Lenten journey to the Lord's passion, death and resurrection. Simeon calls Jesus 'the light to enlighten the gentiles.' The Liturgy of the Word culminates in the Gospel - describing the wonderful events in the Temple commemorated this day – for on this day the Lord, to whose glory the Temple was built, enters its gates in the flesh. Finally, we come to the Eucharistic Liturgy where Christ, that same Lord, comes seeking his altar throne, and where we welcome him with joy, as did Simeon and Anna on that first Candlemas Day. After this feast, the cribs are traditionally taken down, and any remaining Christmas decorations (though most seem to have been already!) are removed.

The 9.00am and 11.00am Masses will begin with the Blessing of Candles and Procession. With the procession we recall and accompany Our Lady, St. Joseph, Simeon and Anna in bringing Christ, the 'light to the revelation of the Gentiles,' into the Temple.

IF YOU ARE A VISITOR to our Masses and not a Catholic, or a Catholic unable to receive, you are very welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. As you approach, please have your arm crossed over your chest, so that the minister knows to give a blessing. If you require a celiac host, please let us know before Mass.

ORDER OF MASS CARDS: If you require a card with the Order of Mass text, please ask one of the welcomers for a copy. The readings for Sunday Mass can be found on the back of this newsletter. Please do take them home with you for private prayer and reflection.

WE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF Deacon Paul Hender, John Lucas Martha Grimes, Denis Twigg and Richard Healey together with all who have died recently. We pray for them and their families at this time. May they rest in peace.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND UNWELL: Angie Browne, Judith Cuninghame, Peter Cunningham, Frank Cunningham, Elaine Fossett, Margaret Eason, Madge Ward, Heather Walton, Jay Veeman, Pat Farr, Phil Sands, Margaret Kelly, Joanna MacKinnon, Hilary Hanson, Debbie Colby, Monika Tokarska-Hosoi, Joan Theaker, Veronica Hammond, Alice Rowland, John Walker, Pauline Cullinane, Beatrice Upham, Peter Carvell, Sheila Jenkins, Lillian Chapman, Irena Bienek, Josie McElroy, Georgina Brannigan-Smith, Ann Kenny, Rose Warburton, Keelin Treharne, David O'Grady, Joan O'Leary, Thomas Weatherstone and Clare Oliver.

PRAYERFUL CONGRATULATIONS to Cruise Sanchez son of Jason Sanchez and Ellena Doyle and to Luke Anthony Byrom son of Alan and Theresa Byrom who were baptised at STM in January.

JUBILEE VIDEO SERIES: In the first episode of a new video series exploring the Jubilee themes, Fr Rob Taylerson (Spiritual Director at Oscott College) focuses on Care for Creation. Hear how he 'wanted to help feed the world' and advises 'our lives must be simplified'. The video series can be accessed via the Birmingham Archdiocese website.

SVP BRANCH: At all Masses next weekend there will be an appeal to see if anyone would be interested in starting a new SVP branch for STM and SJW. The essence of the SVP is person-to-person contact and spending time with people; giving them a sense of belonging to a wider community.

BLESSING OF THROATS after Mass on 4th February. The tradition of Blessing of the Throats is attributed to St Blaise (3rd Feb) because a mother, whose child was choking on a fish bone, threw herself at his feet and implored his intercession. Touched by her distress, he offered up his prayers, and the child was cured. The blessing is given by two candles being held in the form of a cross by a priest across throats of the faithful.

YEAR OF JUBILEE: Pope Francis has declared that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee. The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope' and is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. The Jubilee Year is a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. The concept of Jubilee or 'Holy Year' was used to declare special years for forgiveness and reconciliation.

Intended as a time of conversion and emphasis on God's mercy and forgiveness of sins, Jubilees begin with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica. Holy Doors at each of the four papal basilicas in Rome are destination points for pilgrims, who pass through seeking special graces.

The Jubilee Year began on Tuesday 24th December 2024 to the Feast of Epiphany 2026.

JUBILEE COMPANION BOOKS are available at the back of church and are contain numerous articles on being a Jubilee pilgrim, about the Jubilee Icon, reflections, prayers and hymns. Please do take a copy with you.

JUBILEE MASS on Thursday 6th February at 10.00am. In this Jubilee Year a special Mass with its own Prayers and Readings has been made available. All are welcome to join this Whole School Mass in the Jubilee Year.

'LITTLE CHURCH' at STM is the Liturgy of the Word with children, offering them the opportunity to listen and respond to the Sunday Gospel at an age-appropriate level during the 9.00am Mass. The Children and a Prayer Leader are called forward at the beginning of Mass and process to their sacred space where the scriptures are explored through reflection, discussion, song and other appropriate activities. An adult may accompany a very young child until they are settled. All return to Mass at the Procession of Gifts for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

CRAFT AND CHAT will meet on Tuesday 4th February from 10.30am – 12noon in the MRR. If you sew, knit, paint or have another craft hobby, you are more than welcome to come. The idea of the group is for people to be able to come together for a chat, whilst spending an hour or so on their particular craft. Please bring everything you need with you.

LECTIO DIVINA GROUP will begin on Wednesday 12th February at 6.00pm in the MRR and will become part of our weekly schedule. This time of reflection will alternate between in person and online, so will hopefully be accessible to different people. Lectio Divina is the ancient practice of slow, conscious reading of a biblical or sacred text with contemplation and silent prayer. Lectio Divina helps to promote communication with God and a deeper knowledge of Christ, in our lives today.

CONFIRMATION MASS will take place on Thursday 13th February, during which several of our children from the parish and school will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is an important moment for them in their lives and we pray with them and for them as they make this step. We look forward to welcoming Archbishop Bernard Longley to this Mass.

MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK will take place at SJW on Saturday 15th February at 10.30am. During the Mass, the Sacrament of the Sick will be offered for those in need of healing. We also remember in our prayers, those who are sick but cannot attend the Mass. If you are scheduled for surgery or to go into hospital, please do come along to the Mass. The Mass will be followed by tea and coffee in the Parish Hall.

KINGDOM OF GOD PRAYER GROUP on Mondays from 7.00pm – 8.45pm in the MRR. All are welcome to come along for a time of prayer, praise, reflection and refreshments.

PARISH CHARITY: As part of our outreach and in order to be able to support the many Catholic Charitable Organisations, it has been suggested that at the start of Lent each year, both STM and SJW adopt a named and suitable charity for the coming year. This would mean that the monies taken at refreshments after our Saturday and Sunday Masses, together with a voluntary collection once a year, would be donated to their work and outreach. As Lent is the season of almsgiving, it seems an appropriate time to launch this. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

LOURDES 2025 will take place from Saturday 24th to Friday 30th May 2025 under the title of 'with Mary, Pilgrims of Hope.' In this Year of Jubilee, Lourdes has been designated as a particular place of pilgrimage, so if you haven't been, this Year of Jubilee might be the ideal time to go. If anyone would like to join the parish group on the Pilgrimage the group will be staying at the Hotel Padoue. You can book your place and get more information by calling the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office on 0121 230 6288 or emailing admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk.

THANKSGIVING MASS FOR MARRIAGE: Anyone who is due to celebrate a significant wedding anniversary, is engaged to be married this year or who would you simply like to give thanks to God for their marriage is invited to a Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday 3rd May at St Chad's Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Richard Walker. Please email marriage.mass@rcaob.org.uk for more information.

PILGRIMAGES TO MEDJUGORE from 4th – 11th May and 16th – 23rd October. For more information, please see the posters at the back of church or contact Deacon Keith Millage at Christ the King, Coventry.

BRING AND SHARE MEAL on Tuesday 4th March at SJW. Shrove Tuesday comes from an old English word meaning 'to confess,' since it was customary to go to confession before the beginning of Lent. It was also traditional to use up meats, fats, and dairy products before entering the Lenten period of fasting. Our bring and share meal will be an ideal time to feast before the fast! More details to follow.

FR SIMON'S parents would like to thank all the parishioners at STM and SJW for their kindness, help and support during the last six months. A Mass of thanksgiving will be offered in the coming weeks.

BIBLE ALIVE is a great way to get to know the Scriptures. Each day there is a reflection which is both informative and encouraging. If you would be interested in having a regular subscription to Bible Alive, please contact Clive Robinson on 024 7650 1579.

SUNDAY MISSALS can be ordered through the Piety Stall priced at £20 per copy. We are still waiting details regarding the Daily Missals.

NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE NETWORK invite you to their online event on Thursday 6th February from 7.00pm – 8.30pm. 'Opening the Doors to Freedom from Human Trafficking' with Brian O'Toole, who is a member of the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), Act to Prevent Trafficking (APT Ireland) and the Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking in Europe (RENATE) and Talitha Kum. You will learn a little more about the insidious issue of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery in the UK and importantly what we can do during this Jubilee Year to help victims of Human Trafficking as we shine a light on this important issue. You can register for this event via the Diocesan website.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP will meet at 7.00pm on Tuesday 25th February at St Osburg's Church. The group is aimed at adults aged between 18 and 35 years old, with a purpose to create a community of young people, enabling them to learn about the Catholic Church, strengthen their faith and friendship, as well as organise and participate in various deanery-level youth activities. For more information, please contact Fr Benedict Skipper at Christ the King or email fr.benedict.skipper@rcaob.org.uk

CHEYLESMORE FOODHUB: It is now possible to support the work of the Foodhub through financial donations. It allows for more flexibility for the Trust to purchase foods. The required information is Cheylesmore Food Hub CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code: 40-52-40 and the Account no: 00034145.

UNIVERSITY MASSES are held on a Sunday at 12.45pm in St Joseph the Worker and on campus at 12.30pm on a Thursday during term time.

OUR JOINT FACEBOOK PAGE can be found by searching for 'Catholic Parishes of St Thomas More and St Joseph the Worker.' If you are a user of Facebook and haven't already, please do 'like' our page and share with your family and friends.

MASS 'N' MINGLE takes place every Wednesday at 11.00am in STM. This is a lovely opportunity for people to come together over a drink and some homemade cakes. If you haven't been, please do consider coming along.

KNITTED BABY CARDIGANS are required by the University Hospital for premature babies. If you, or any friends can knit any, they can be given in at church, so that the Knights of St Columba will pass them to the Coventry Clothing Charity.

SINGING FOR FUN will take place in the Parish Hall at SJW on Monday 10th and 24th February. If you would like to learn some of the music that will be sung at the 11.00am Mass, please do come along.

WORD OF GOD: 'When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel.' (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no.29)

UNIVERSALIS APP is available to download on your phone. The app includes readings for daily Mass, Morning and Evening Prayer, private meditations and much more. A useful app to have for private devotion!

SEVEN DAY CANDLES can be sponsored in both STM and SJW for a donation of £5 per candle. These are lit on a Sunday and burn for the following week. At STM candles are available for Our Lady, St Joseph, Sacred Heart and St Thomas More and at SJW they are available for Our Lady, Sacred Heart, St Anthony, and St Joseph. Please note only one intention per candle can be booked. To sponsor a candle for a particular intention, please bring your donation to the sacristy.

MASS INTENTIONS The Mass is the greatest prayer we can offer as Catholics since it is the 'source and summit' of the Christian Life. An individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person or as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. Mass offering envelopes are available at the back of both churches. Please fill in the required information and hand it to Fr Simon or push through the Presbytery letterbox. The Mass will then be offered, and you'll see the details on the front page of this sheet. We ask that Masses be booked three months in advance of your re-quired date. Please remember that preferred dates cannot be guaranteed—someone else might have asked for a particular day before you, but the nearest date will be offered.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT is a wonderful opportunity for us to be still and quiet in the presence of the Lord. In both STM and SJW there is a weekly opportunity for this, so please do consider coming along. St Alphonsus Liguori once wrote, 'know also that you will probably gain more by praying fifteen minutes before the Blessed Sacrament than by all the other spiritual exercises of the day. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is held on Friday morning after the 10.00am Mass and on Saturday evening from 4.15pm – 4.45pm at STM and on a Saturday morning after 10.00am Mass at SJW.

HOUSE VISITS to the sick and housebound are an important part of the life of the church. Those who would like a visit, are asked to contact Fr Simon or Deacons Leo and David. A visit can be arranged by themselves or by the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

COVENTRY NEWMAN CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday 25th February at 7.30pm for a talk entitled 'The Icon in Eastern Spirituality' given by Theodorus Polyviou. All are welcome to attend.

LENT READING AND REFLECTION GROUP will be starting on Thursday 27th February and will continue on Thursday evenings throughout Lent. This year, we shall be looking at the Encyclical Letter by Pope Francis entitled *Dilexit Nos*. Whilst the world is in the midst of significant global crises – grappling with conflicts, deep social and economic inequalities, unchecked consumerism, and technologies that pose risks to human dignity. In this encyclical, Pope Francis seeks to inspire a shift in perspective, encouraging humanity to reconnect with what truly matters – the heart. Cardinal Nicholas said, 'the invitation of this letter is clear: let anyone who is broken-hearted, or feeling empty of heart, or yearning for love, or filled with the joy of a loving heart, come and read this Letter. It is, quite simply, addressed to us all.' Like last year, the group will alternate between STM and SJW. More details to follow.

GOING INTO HOSPITAL: Anyone going into hospital, needs to be sure to tell the ward staff they are a Catholic and would like to see the Catholic Chaplain. Please also notify the Parish Clergy, so a visit, either by them or the Chaplain can be arranged.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION COURSES are held on the first Saturday of every month in the MRR. To book a place, families are asked to contact Deacon Leo by emailing dcn.leo.poole@rcaob.org.uk

LGBTQ+ CATHOLIC MEETING will not take place in February due to the half term break. Details of the March meeting will be available in the coming weeks. For more information, please email Deacon Leo at dcn.leo.poole@rcaob.org.uk

READINGS FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

READERS FOR FEBRUARY	STM	1 st	5.00pm	Ashford and Quinita
		2 nd	9.00am	Sonia Carvell
		8 th	5.00pm	Clare Staines
		9 th	9.00am	Kris Pears
		15 th	5.00pm	Mandy Crilly
		16 th	9.00am	Catherine Smith
		22 nd	5.00pm	Janet Ward
		23 rd	9.00am	Rohini Rasquinha
	Mar	1 st	5.00pm	Quinita Coloco
		2 nd	9.00am	Lanzo Amirtharaj
SJW	2 nd	11.00am	Claudia	
	9 th	11.00am	Lorraine	
	16 th	11.00am	Maria	
	23 rd	11.00am	John	
	Mar	2 nd	11.00am	TBC

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES: Teresa Shami, Jeanne Gould, George Hornibrook, Marjorie Vincent, Mary McQuade, Margaret Jenkins, Thomas Brogan, Kenneth Baimbridge, Margaret Gavin, Elene Gunn, Joyce Tenn-Lyn, William O'Mahoney, Daniel Whelan, Edith Wright, Edna Lewis, Mary Waring, Valentine Keane, Ivy McCarthy, Nora McHale, Charles Murphy, Sheila Coogan, Kathleen Simpson, Peter Widdison, Lily Carpenter, Myra Thomas, Tenny Nkhoma, Betty Wainwright, Maureen Chamberlain, Sarah Hill, Julia Malone, Peter Browne, Ignatius Hynes, Marie-Therese Magee, Joseph Durkin, Monica Sargent, Mary McKenzie, Alice Murphy, Thomas O'Sullivan, Susan Kelly, Saveris 'Franco' Berlen, Catherine Fellows, Samuel Darby, Mary Turner, Robert "Bobby" Doyle, Cornelius O'Callaghan, Martin Dillon, John Errington, Marie Shildauer, James Hobbins, Catherine Gill, Catherine Scott, Anthony Miller, Mary Brogan, Bridget Breen, Della Glynn, Elizabeth Nash, Irene O'Brien, Agnes Stanley, Thomas McNally, Frederick Chantrill, Vincent Lane, Richard O'Connor, Charles Cullinane, Patrick O'Kane, Martin O'Halloran, Victoria Perkins, Kathleen Day, Daniel Quinn, Bridget Rogers, Diane Sharpe, Irene Hammond, Ethel Jones, Kathleen Gaught, George Smith, Margaret McCormack, Daniel Lee, Philip Cairns, Antanas Kuscenas, Patrick Martin, Maureen Newcome, Dolores Connolly, Declan Conway, Margaret Carr, Bridget McParland, Joan McEntee, Ella Perdue, George Stanners, Stephen Whelan, Honarah McKenzie, Elizabeth Price, Bernadette Dooley, Patrick McCormack, Martha Brady, Catherine Ewing, Danny Mullen, Patrick Hughes, Kathleen College, Ruby Clarke, Eddie Kelly, Margaret Kennedy, Alice McConway, Hugh Rowan.

PARISH OFFICE (for both STM and SJW) is open on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am – 4.00pm. If you have any general enquiries, please do try and call during these hours.

SECOND COLLECTIONS: 9th February Church Flowers
2nd March Cathedral Maintenance

GIFT AID GIVING: If you are a UK Taxpayer and would like to increase your weekly giving, at no extra cost to yourself, please consider Gift Aiding your donation. Through this scheme we are able to claim 25p on every £1 donated. More information available from Tony Curristan at STM and June Palmer at SJW.

ONLINE GIVING: If you were unable to give via the Offertory Collection at Sunday Mass, you can give online to either parish by scanning this QR code and following the instructions on the website.



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 Claire Rutter and Amanda Kelly at STM and Henry Whitney at SJW. They can be contacted using the emails below or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or email safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

Parish Administrator and Room Bookings
Amanda Kelly admin.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk

Safeguarding Representatives

Claire Rutter and Amanda Kelly (STM) sg.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk
Henry Whitney (SJW) sg.stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk

Giving and Gift Aid

Tony Curristan (STM) ga.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk
June Palmer (SJW) ga.stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 24(23):7. 8. 9. 10. R/8a

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

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! **R**

Who is this king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant;
the Lord, the valiant in war. **R**

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! **R**

Who is this king of glory?
He, the Lord of hosts,
he is the king of glory. **R**

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

GOSPEL

Luke 2: 22 – 40

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.