



SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Fourth Sunday, Feast of the Presentation of the Lord 2nd February 2025

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL & ST SIMON STOCK, CARMELITE CHURCH

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Mass Times Sundays: Vigil (Sat.) 6.00 p.m., 8.30 a.m., 10.00 a.m., 12.15 p.m. & 6.00 p.m.

Weekdays (including Bank Holidays): 8.00 a.m., 12.15 p.m. & 6.00 p.m.

Livestream (All Masses): www.carmelitechurch.org & YouTube: "Kensington Carmelite Church"

Confessions: Sat: 11.30 a.m. – 12.15 p.m. & 5.00 – 5.50 p.m. Weekdays: 5.40 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Priests in the Parish: Fr Thaddeus Ekuma, Fr Matt Blake, Fr John Williamson, Fr Joseph Odiahi

Safeguarding Rep: Franca Bren (Email: kensington2sg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

Reflection

Let us receive the light whose brilliance is eternal

A Sermon by Saint Sophronius

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, an event recounted in Chapter 2 of St Luke's Gospel. We celebrate it 40 days after Christmas in keeping with a long tradition that dates back to the 4th Century in the Eastern Church. By the middle of the 4th Century, it was regarded as the 'Feast of the Meeting of the Lord' since it celebrates the entry of Jesus into the Temple where he encountered priests as well as the prophet Simeon and Prophetess Anna. However, this feast also marks the dedication of Jesus to the Lord as prescribed by the Mosaic Law – that every first-born male was to be dedicated to the service of the Lord in the temple. But at the time of Jesus, the descendants of Levi, the Levites, had assumed this service in the temple, therefore, the prescription was no longer enforced. Every first-born son, however, had to be presented in the temple together with a prescribed

offering for the maintenance of the priests and to symbolize God's ownership of the child. By the middle of the 5th Century, this Feast was widely celebrated in Rome. And in the 8th Century, a candlelight procession was inaugurated to mark the feast and to this day, the blessing and distribution of candles have become part of the celebration, for which reason it is sometimes referred to as Candlemas.

What follows below is a sermon by St Sophronius – a 7th Century bishop of Jerusalem – on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

In honour of the divine mystery that we celebrate today, let us all hasten to meet Christ. Everyone should be eager to join the procession and to carry a light.

Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendour of the one who comes to expel the dark shadows of

evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal light. Our candles also show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ.

The Mother of God, the most pure Virgin, carried the true light in her arms and brought him to those who lay in darkness. We too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet him.

The light has come and has shone upon a world enveloped in shadows; the Dayspring from on high has visited us and given light to those who lived in darkness. This, then, is our feast, and we join in procession with lighted candles to reveal the light that has shone upon us and the glory that is yet to come to us through him. So let us hasten all together to meet our God.

The true light has come, the light that enlightens every man who is born into this world. Let all of us, my brethren, be enlightened and made radiant by this light. Let all of us share in its splendour, and be so filled with it that no one remains in the darkness. Let us be shining ourselves as we go together to meet and to receive with the aged Simeon the light whose brilliance is eternal. Rejoicing with Simeon, let us sing a hymn of thanksgiving to God, the Father of the light, who sent the true

light to dispel the darkness and to give us all a share in his splendour.

Through Simeon's eyes we too have seen the salvation of God which he prepared for all the nations and revealed as the glory of the new Israel, which is ourselves. As Simeon was released from the bonds of this life when he had seen Christ, so we too were at once freed from our old state of sinfulness.

By faith we too embraced Christ, the salvation of God the Father, as

he came to us from Bethlehem. Gentiles before, we have now become the people of God. Our eyes have seen God incarnate, and because we have seen him present among us and have mentally received him into our arms, we are called the new Israel. Never shall we forget this presence; every year we keep a feast in his honour.

*To follow the
Mass Readings
on your phone,
please scan the
QR Code:*



NOTICES

2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

As you may know, the Holy Father has proclaimed 2025 as a Jubilee Year, a sacred time of renewal, reflection, and grace celebrated every 25 years. With the theme "Pilgrims of Hope," this Jubilee invites all Catholics to embark on a journey of faith and transformation. At the beginning of Lent, various events to mark the Jubilee Year in our church will be announced.

ANNUAL MASS FOR THE SICK

Mass for the Sick, will take place at the Cathedral on Saturday 8th of February 2025 at 2pm. If you would like to attend, please request a ticket at the reception or speak to one of the priests.

There are three categories of tickets:

1. Wheelchair users who require anointing
2. Walking sick who require anointing
3. Those assisting the sick, who do not require anointing.

FLAME 2025

Flame takes place on Saturday the 15th March 2025 and is the largest Catholic youth event in England and Wales. Filled with inspiring speakers, incredible live music, prayer, adoration and young people from across England and Wales it's an event like no other!

Booking for Flame 2025 is almost full!

Don't miss out.

Booking url: <https://cymfed.org.uk/product/2025passes/>

RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH AND ADULT CONFIRMATION

Registration is open for any adult who wishes to become a Catholic or be received into the Catholic church. Also any adult Catholic who is not yet confirmed and wishes to receive the sacrament of Confirmation should make contact through

enquiries@carmelitechurch.org

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT COURSES

Our Centre for Applied Carmelite Spirituality in Oxford has a number of spiritual enrichment courses being offered this January. If you would like to sign up to one of these courses please see the poster on the notice board or pick up a leaflet at the back of the church which has useful information.

**You may make your offering or donation by scanning this
QR Code with your mobile phone
Thank you and God bless!**



Collections Last Sunday:

Offering	£1260
Gift Aid Envelopes	£148
Santo Niño	£1220

Thank you for your generosity!

Fr Thaddeus