

LIVINGTHEWORD

- ❖ The Feast of the Presentation is an ancient festival of the early Christian community in Jerusalem that can be traced back to writings in the year 300AD. A special part of the celebration was the lighting of candles to celebrate Jesus being 'presented in the Temple' as the 'light to enlighten the Gentiles' (Luke 2:32). Today, many parishes have a special ceremony of blessing prayer candles and baptismal candles. Religious renew their vows and consecration. Some countries also have the custom of blessing new mothers, re-enacting the blessing of Mary presenting her child in the Temple.
- ❖ The Prophet Malachi (meaning 'my Messenger') is an interesting Prophet – as he speaks to a community that has a beautiful and newly rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem – but the priests and the people are lax / lazy, not celebrating and worshipping with much effort. What does the image of a *refiner's fire* and a special ingredient to cleanse and make gold and silver pure mean for you?
- ❖ 'Free from the fear of death' is a special phrase. Fearful of death, so many people worship the body and the world and live as if this is all there is. As a consequence, they are subject to 'slavery' all their life. The flesh (sensual pleasure) and the spirit of the world (greed) trap people. How might the fear of death trap you? Knowing of eternal life, what is there really to fear? What is your response?
- ❖ According to Jewish custom, mothers were required to be ritually purified 40 days after birth. As part of the ceremony of cleansing and new life, two offerings were made. A lamb and a dove / pigeon. If the family was poor they could offer two doves / pigeons. It is recognised that Mary and Joseph offered two birds, which is evidence that they were poor. It is also recognised that a further sacrifice could have been offered to 'buy back' the first-born from God. Mary and Joseph did not do this. As a parent, do you offer your children to God and help them seek God, or do you 'buy them back' and direct them only in the ways of the world?
- ❖ The great moment foretold by the Prophet Malachi, of God coming into the Temple – his home – is only acknowledged by a faithful few. The repetition of the Holy Spirit reminds us that it is really the Spirit that helps us see and understand God. If you were to say to someone 'my favour rests on you', what would that mean for you? Do you recognise at baptism that the spirit *rests on you* and God *favours you*?

Feast of Presentation of the Lord

Forty days after Christmas, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, an event that the evangelist Luke recounts in Chapter 2 of his Gospel. In the East, the celebration of this Feast dates back to the 4th century. By the year 450, it was called *The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord*, because Jesus enters the Temple and "meets" the priests, as well as Simeon and Anna, representatives of the people of God. Around the middle of the 5th century, we know the Feast was also celebrated in Rome. At a certain point, the blessing of candles was added to this Feast to recall that Jesus is the "light to the gentiles". Thus, this Feast is also sometimes referred to as *Candlemas*.

In Luke's gospel, the child Jesus was first visited by shepherds, the marginalised of society, however much they are lauded in the earlier Scriptures. Here, in the story of the Presentation, Jesus is warmly received by the Israelites. Yet, we know that that point will not persist as the Gospel unfolds, since he will be rejected by at least the leaders of his people. Perhaps that point is that he is received by those who are attentive to the Scriptures, seekers after God and seekers of wisdom. Those who yearn for him do recognise him when he comes.

Aren't we all searching for God on our journey? So, we too are involved in this "vision", because all who live the Gospel are and will be signs of contradiction. Courage is required to take a stand before the Lord Jesus, the "*Light for revelation*". Even more so, this requires first of all being "of God", like Simeon and Anna. Furthermore, it requires an awareness that everything will not always be completely clear. After all, Joseph and Mary were "*amazed*" by what was said. But, as we know, before this difficulty, Mary "*kept all these things, pondering them in her heart*".

At Mass this day, we will celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – thus initiating Joseph and Forrest into the Universal Church. Through our baptism, we together are "lights to all people", showing the light of Christ. We welcome Forrest and Joseph in joining us, in our shared journey in faith, searching for the way to God shown us by Jesus, our companion and Lord. Let us ever journey joyfully, in love and hope.

John P. Murray osa



CALENDAR

MONDAY

February 3
Weekday
Heb 11:32-40
Mk 5:1-20

TUESDAY

February 4
Weekday
Heb 12:1-4
Mk 5:21-43

WEDNESDAY

February 5
*St. Agatha, Virgin
and Martyr*
Heb 12:4-7, 11-15
Mk 6:1-6

THURSDAY

February 6
*St. Paul Miki
and Companions,
Martyrs*
Heb 12:18-19,
21-24
Mk 6:7-13

FRIDAY

February 7
Weekday
Heb 13:1-8
Mk 6:14-29

SATURDAY

February 8
Weekday
Heb 13:15-17,
20-21
Mk 6:30-34

SUNDAY

February 9
*Fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*
Is 6:1-2a, 3-8
1 Cor 15:1-11
or 15:3-8, 11
Lk 5:1-11

COMMUNION

We are the Body of Christ. This is who we are as Church. It is our profound mystery that we take and eat, take and drink at Communion. In doing so, we give expression to our identity.

If we are not in communion with the Catholic Church, it makes no logical sense for those to receive because simply, it is not their identity.

If you are Buddhist, from another Christian tradition or just our welcome guest, please feel free to come forward, not to receive communion but to ask for a blessing.

The simple practice of asking for a blessing is through the bodily posture of bowing one's head and crossing one's arms across one's chest when before the minister distributing communion.

If you are a parent with a child not receiving Communion, please take personal responsibility in asking the minister for a blessing for your child.

*John P. Murray osa
Pastoral Leader, 10 am Mass Community*

Our website:
www.assumptioncathedralbkk.org

ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL

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PASTOR:

Rev. Ignatius Adisak Somsaengsuang

ASSISTANTS:

Rev. Peter Booncharat Suksawang
Rev. Francis Xavier Akranon Kitcharoen

MASS SCHEDULE:

Mon-Fri : Thai 06:00 and 17:15 hrs.
Sat : Thai 06:00; 17:00 novena followed by
mass
Sun : Thai 07:00; 08:30 and 17:00 hrs.
English 10:00 hrs.

BAPTISM:

Thai : **First Sunday** during 8:30 am mass.
English : **Second Sunday** during 10:00 am
mass.

CONFESSION:

Sundays : Before all masses (Thai).
English before 10:00 am mass.

CATHOLIC CENTER:

For religious articles, please visit the center opposite
the entrance of the Cathedral.

Opening Hours:

Mon-Fri : 08:30 – 17:00 hrs.
Sat, Sun : Closed
& public holidays

Dear Padre

February 2, 2025

What happened to Candlemas? When I was a child, there was one day when everyone brought candles to church to have them blessed. At the end of Mass, the priest would bless everyone's throats with the candles.

Candlemas is another name for our celebration of the Presentation of the Lord: the day Mary and Joseph presented their child to God in the Temple at Jerusalem in accordance with the law of Moses (Luke 2:22-38). We remember how the elderly believers Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus as their longed-for Messiah and how, addressing God in a canticle, Simeon proclaimed Christ to be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel" (Luke 2:32).

Mass on this day often begins with the blessing and lighting of candles, which the priest and people carry into the church. The name Candlemas springs from this ritual blessing.

The day after the feast of the Presentation is the memorial celebration of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr. According to tradition, St. Blaise was instrumental in healing a person who was choking. The Church remembers this encounter and celebrates the intervention of the Spirit of God through the blessing of throats, using the blessed candles from the feast of the Presentation. It is a wonderful and very practical spiritual practice that is much appreciated and anticipated each year. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

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PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS PLEASE STAND

Priest: Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
All: 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.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY (No. 263)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest. **PLEASE KNEEL**

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (No. 264)

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

DOXOLOGY PLEASE STAND

Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

GREAT AMEN (No. 374)

COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (No. 387)

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.

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

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.

LAMB OF GOD (No. 391)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. (Repeat)
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace. **PLEASE KNEEL**

Priest: 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.

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

COMMUNION: BEHOLD THE LAMB (No. 939)

FINAL: PILGRIMS OF HOPE PLEASE STAND

Refrain: Like a flame my hope is burning, may my song arise to you.
Source of life that has no ending, on life's path I trust in you.

1. Ev'ry nation, tongue, and people, find a light within your Word.
Scattered fragile sons and daughters, find a home in your dear Son. (R)
2. God, so tender and so patient, dawn of hope, you care for all.
Heav'n and earth are recreated by the Spirit of Life set free. (R)
3. Raise your eyes, the wind is blowing, for our God is born in time.
Son made man for you and many who will find the way in him. (R)

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

ENTRANCE HYMN: O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING (No. 598) PLEASE STAND

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Priest: I confess to almighty God,

All: and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do;

– and, striking their breast, they say –

Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

Therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever-virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

KYRIE / LORD HAVE MERCY

*Kyrie, eleison, Lord, have mercy on us. Christe, eleison. Christ, have mercy on us.
Kyrie, eleison. Lord, have mercy on us.*

GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,

We give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;

You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy, have mercy on us.

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, amen.

FIRST READING: Mal 3:1-4

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Malachi:

Thus says the Lord GOD: Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; And suddenly there will come to the temple the LORD whom you seek, And the messenger of the covenant whom you desire. Yes, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who will endure the day of his coming? And who can stand when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire, or like the fuller's lye. He will sit refining and purifying silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi, refining them like gold or like silver that they

may offer due sacrifice to the LORD. Then the sacrifice of Judah and Jerusalem will please the LORD, as in the days of old, as in years gone by.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 24: WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY?



1. Lift up, O gates, your lintels; reach up, you ancient portals, that the king of glory may come in! (R)
2. Who is this king of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle. (R)
3. Lift up, O gates, your lintels; reach up, you ancient portals, that the king of glory may come in! (R)
4. Who is this king of glory?
The LORD of hosts; he is the king of glory. (R)

SECOND READING: Heb 2:14-18

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

Since the children share in blood and flesh, Jesus likewise shared in them, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the Devil, and free those who through fear of death had been subject to slavery all their life. Surely he did not help angels but rather the descendants of Abraham; therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God to expiate the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (No. 326) PLEASE STAND

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (Repeat)

All: A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.

GOSPEL: Lk 2:22-40

Priest: The Lord be with you.
Priest: A reading from the Good News according to Luke

All: And with your spirit.
All: Glory to you, Lord.

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the

Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Priest: The Good News of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES PLEASE STAND

The Priest addresses the Community, who make their responses together.

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| Priest: Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God's children? | All: I do. |
| Priest: Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin? | All: I do. |
| Priest: Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness? | All: I do. |
| Priest: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth? | All: I do. |
| Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father? | All: I do. |
| Priest: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting? | All: I do. |

The priest concludes:

Priest: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.
We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord. **All: Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**RESPONSE TO THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:
“Lord of glory, hear our prayer.”**

PLEASE BE SEATED

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY: LAUDATE DOMINUM (No. 623)

Pilgrims of Hope

Hymn for the Jubilee Year 2025

Original text: Pierangelo Sequeri

English translation: Andrew Wadsworth

Music: Francesco Meneghello

With Confidence (♩ = c. 69)
INTRODUCTION

Organ

REFRAIN

Like a flame my hope is burn - ing, may my song a - rise to you: Source of

life that has no end - ing, on life's path I trust in you.

Pilgrims of Hope

VERSES

1. Ev - 'ry na - tion, tongue, and peo - ple find a light with - in your Word. Scat - tered
2. God, so ten - der and so pa - tient, dawn of hope, you care for all. Heav'n and
3. Raise your eyes, the wind is blow - ing, for our God is born in time. Son made

to Refrain

1. frag - ile sons and daugh - ters find a home in your dear Son
2. earth are re - cre - a - ted by the Spir - it of Life set free
3. man for you and man - y who will find the way in him