

eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and He was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with Him.

◆ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Communion Antiphon: My eyes have seen Your salvation, which You prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible

A reflection by the Venerable Servant of God, Archbishop Fulton J Sheen

Forty days after His birth, which was the appointed time for a male child according to the Law, Jesus was brought to the temple. Exodus decreed that the firstborn belonged to God. In the Book of Numbers, the tribe of Levi was set apart for the priestly function, and this priestly dedication was understood as a substitute for the sacrifice of the firstborn, a rite which was never practiced. But when the Divine Child was taken to the temple by Mary, the law of the consecration of the firstborn was observed in its fullness; for this Child's dedication to the Father was absolute, and would lead Him to the Cross.

We find here another instance of how God in the form of man shared the poverty of mankind. The traditional offerings for purification were a lamb and a turtledove if the parents were rich, and two doves or two pigeons if they were poor. Thus the mother who brought the Lamb of God into the world had no lamb to offer—except the Lamb of God. God was presented in the temple at the age of forty days. About thirty years later He would claim the temple and use it as the symbol of His Body in which dwelt the fullness of Divinity. Here it was not the Firstborn of Mary alone Who was presented, but the Firstborn of the Eternal Father. As the Only Begotten of the Father, He was now presented as the Firstborn of a restored humanity. A new race began in Him.

Simeon was like a sentinel whom God had sent to watch for the Light. When the Light finally appeared, he was ready to sing his Nunc Dimittis. In a poor Child brought by poor people making a poor offering, Simeon discovered the riches of the world.

After his hymn of praise he addressed himself only to the mother; Simeon knew that she, and not Joseph, was related to the Babe in his arms. He saw furthermore that there were sorrows in store for her, not for Joseph. Simeon said: *Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and for the rise of many in Israel, and for a sign that shall be contradicted.* It was as if the whole history of the Divine Child were passing before the eyes of the old man.

Every detail of that prophecy was to be fulfilled within the lifetime of the Babe. Here was a hard fact of the Cross, affirmed even before the tiny arms of the Babe could stretch themselves out straight enough to make the form of a cross. The Child would create terrible strife between good and evil, stripping the masks from each, thus provoking a terrible hatred. He would be at once a stumbling block, a sword that would divide evil from good, and a touchstone that would reveal the motives and dispositions of human hearts. Men would no longer be the same once they had heard His name and learned of His life. They would be compelled either to accept Him, or reject Him. About Him there would be no such thing as compromise: only acceptance or rejection, resurrection or death. He would, by His very nature, make men reveal their secret attitudes toward God. His mission would be not to put souls on trial, but to redeem them; and yet, because their souls were sinful, some men would detest His coming.

It would henceforth be His fate to encounter fanatical opposition from mankind even unto death itself, and this would involve Mary in cruel distress. The angel had told her, "Blessed art thou among women," (Luke 1:28) and Simeon was now telling her that in her blessedness she would be the *Mater Dolorosa*. One of the penalties of original sin was that a woman should bring forth her child in sorrow; Simeon was saying that she would continue to live in the sorrow of her Child. If He was to be the Man of Sorrows, she would be the Mother of Sorrows. An unsuffering Madonna to the suffering Christ would be a loveless Madonna. Since Christ loved mankind so much that He wanted to die to expiate its guilt, then He would also will that His mother should be wrapped in the swaddling bands of His own grief.

After saying that He was a sign to be contradicted, Simeon turned to the mother, adding: *As for thy own soul, it shall have a Sword to pierce it.* She was told that He would be rejected by the world, and with His Crucifixion there would be her transfixion. As the Child willed the Cross for Himself, so He willed the Sword of Sorrow for her. If He chose to be a Man of Sorrows, He also chose her to be a Mother of Sorrows! God does not always spare the good from grief. The Father spared not the Son, and the Son spared not the mother. With His Passion there must be her compassion. An unsuffering Christ Who did not freely pay the debt of human guilt would be reduced to the level of an ethical guide; and a mother who did not share in His sufferings would be unworthy of her great role.

Simeon not only unsheathed a sword; he also told her where Providence had destined it to be driven. Later on, the Child would say, "I came to bring the sword." Simeon told her that she would feel it in her heart while her Son was hanging on the sign of contradiction and she was standing beneath it transfixed in grief. The spear that would physically pierce His heart would mystically be run into her own heart. The Babe came to die, not to live, for His name was 'Saviour.'

(Life of Christ)



THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (CANDLEMAS DAY)

2 FEBRUARY 2025

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - "PILGRIMS OF HOPE"



"For our sake He was presented to the Lord that we may learn to offer ourselves to God."

- St Thomas Aquinas

Entrance Antiphon: Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of Your temple. Your praise, O God, like Your name, reaches the ends of the earth; Your right hand is filled with saving justice.

First Reading Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from the prophet Malachi

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send My messenger to prepare a way before Me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter His Temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of His coming? Who will remain standing when He appears? For He is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take His seat as refiner and purifier; He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old .

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14

R: Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

1. O gates, lift up your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let Him enter, the king of glory! **R.**
2. Who is the king of glory? The Lord, the mighty, the valiant, the Lord, the valiant in war. **R.**
3. O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let Him enter, the king of glory! **R.**
4. Who is he, the king of glory? He, the Lord of armies, He is the king of glory. **R**

Second Reading Hebrews 2:14-18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Hebrews

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by His death He could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all

those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that He took to Himself; He took to Himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that He should in this way become completely like His brothers so that He could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because He has Himself been through temptation He is able to help others who are tempted.

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

Gospel Acclamation Luke 2:32

Alleluia, alleluia! This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Luke 2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for Him what the Law required, he took Him into his arms and blessed God, and he said:

'Now, Master, You can let Your servant go in peace, just as You promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of Your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about Him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, 'You see this child: He is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now



Sacred Heart Parish

(Canonically Erected 1868)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas Day)

February 2, 2025

81 Vivian St. Inverell, NSW 2360
(P. O. Box 107)
Phone 67221103
Email: inverellparish@armidale.catholic.org.au or
frpchandler@armidale.catholic.org.au
Website: www.sacredheartinverell.org.au
Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic Church Inverell
Holy Trinity School Ph: 02 6722 4066
Parish Office Hours:
Monday 3 Feb & Friday 7 Feb - 8am to 1pm
Tuesday 4 Feb - 8am to 12pm
Administrator: Fr Paul Chandler
PPC Chair: Mr David McMahon
Holy Trinity Principal: Mrs Jillian Rainger
Parish Secretary: Peter Turner



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

We pray for: Repose of all those whose death anniversary occurs at this time, especially Phil Harris, Ruth Michael, Laurel King; Repose of all souls in Purgatory.

the Recently Deceased:

Maureen Rolfe, Mervyn Burdekin, Colleen Bourke, Jim Hanlon, Shirley Thom.

the sick:

Stephen Tubb, Straton Kennedy, Tony King, Sue O'Brien, Julie Daley, Pat Gurr, Peter Moroney, Christopher Pay, Neville Barwick, Fr Barry Leech, Lara Bentley, Elizabeth Albany, Fr David Crabb, Rebecca Lane, Brian Barker, and all the sick members of our parish.

Please contact the priest on 67221103 for home visits to the homebound and the sick.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY AND THE PARISH

1st Collection: Presbytery (for support of priest)

BSB 082105 Account No. 001023550

Account Name: Sacred Heart Presbytery Inverell Savings Ac.

2nd Collection: Church upkeep, maintenance, expenses

BSB 082105 Account No. 001013072

Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Inverell

For those on the Planned Giving Program could you please quote your surname and envelope number for the reference.

Planned Giving Program: If you wish to join the planned giving program, please contact the parish office.

FEBRUARY - THE MONTH OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

MONDAY 3rd

Feast Day of St Blaise, bishop, martyr & St Ansgar, bishop

Church open from 8am to 1pm

TUESDAY 4th

Weekday of 4th week of Ordinary Time

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Holy Hour - 4.30pm to 5.30pm

WEDNESDAY 5th

First Wednesday in honour of St Joseph

Feast Day of St Agatha, virgin, martyr

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Home Rosary - 4.30pm, 11 Diamond St, Tingha

THURSDAY 6th

Feast Day of St Paul Miki and companions, martyrs

Rosary - 11.30am

Holy Mass - 12 Noon

Adoration - 12.30pm to 1.30pm

FRIDAY 7th

First Friday

Rosary - 11.30am

Holy Mass - 12 Noon

Adoration - 12.30pm

Benediction - 1.20pm

Funeral of Maureen Rolfe—2:30pm

SATURDAY 8th

Feast Day of St Jerome Emiliani & St Josephine Bakhita, virgin

Holy Mass of Sunday—3:30pm at Bundarra

Rosary - 5.30pm

Holy Mass of Sunday - 6.00pm

SUNDAY 9th

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Sacrament of Confession

Sunday: 8.00am to 8.30am

Tuesday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm

Thursday: 1.00pm to 1.30pm

Friday: 5.00pm to 5.30pm (except First Fridays)

Saturday: 5.15pm to 5.45pm (and at any time upon request)

OTHER MASSES:

McLean Village Each 4th Thursday - 10.00am

2nd Saturday - *Bundarra*, St Mary of the Angels - 3.30pm

3rd Saturday - *Ashford*, St Patrick's Church - 3.30pm

4th Saturday - *Tingha*, St. Francis' Church - 3.30pm

5th Saturday - *Yetman*, St Joseph the Worker - 3.00pm

Baptism - Saturdays & Sundays at 10.30am

Marriages and Funerals by Appointment

ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER FOR FEBRUARY

Melissa Newham & Hugueth Rossel

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Finance Committee - Wed 5 Feb 2025, 5.00pm

Sunday Morning Tea - Sun 9 Feb 2025, after Mass

Pastoral Council - Wed 12 Feb 2024, 5.00pm

Liturgy Committee - Sat 15 Feb 2025, 9.00am

Mary MacKillop Today Mission in Peru: The Sisters of Saint Joseph extend their heartfelt thanks to all parishioners who have donated their used postage stamps. In the past year they have raised approximately \$37,900. From 2001 till now the total raised is \$557,500. For those who wish to contribute, simply tear off the envelope corner containing the stamp and put it in a small sandwich bag. The stamps can be left at the back of the church at the table near the priest sacristy.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Father in heaven, may the faith You have given us in Your Son, Jesus Christ, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of Your Kingdom...(Jubilee Prayer)

The theological virtues of faith, hope and charity are above our nature and direct us to supernatural happiness.

Faith goes before hope and charity because our intellect, assisted by grace, helps us to understand the object of our hope and love. Yet, charity arouses faith and hope. (Saint Thomas Aquinas)

Hope is not pure individualism, a way of abandoning the world to its misery and taking refuge in a private form of eternal salvation. No, salvation has always been considered a social reality. Our eternal home has been likened in the Book of Revelation to a "city", a place where many souls are alive. The place to which we are "pilgrims of hope" is a community of the blessed. (Pope Benedict XVI)

As Pope Francis says, in the Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025, hope does not disappoint. These are the words of St Paul to the Romans (Rom 5:5). The Pope says, "In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty

about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope..."

Prayer in Honour of the Passion of Our Lord

Hail, sweet Jesus! Praise, honour, and glory be to You, O Christ, Who of Your own accord did embrace death and yielded Your spirit to Your heavenly Father. Truly You have shown Yourself to be the good shepherd. By Your bitter death and Passion, give me grace and pardon. Grant to the faithful departed rest and life everlasting. Amen.

Candlemas Prayer

All-powerful Father, Christ Your Son became man for us and was presented in the temple. May He free our hearts from sin and bring us into Your presence. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

New Saint Joseph Weekday Missal

Missionary Religious Order Special Collection:

For a number of years the diocese has taken up a special collection in support of the missionary work of the La Salette Missionaries in the Philippines, and the Rogationists of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in India; both Orders have priests ministering here in the Diocese of Armidale.

The funds from these appeals have helped to support the marginalised people in the local areas where the La Salettes and Rogationists minister.

Our Parish is asked to contribute \$909 to this collection. Your assistance in reaching this target will be greatly appreciated. Whatever shortfall from that amount is paid from the Parish bank account. The Missionary Orders Special Collection will be held on Sunday 9th February. Envelopes will be provided. Please donate generously.

If you are using a Sunday Missal: (Year C cycle)

- * Proper of Mass is on Page 1014
- * Preface of the Presentation of the Lord Page 48
- * Eucharistic Prayer No. 1 Page 61
- * Daily Missal uses Year One (Weekday Mass)

MASS ROSTER	01Feb-Sat 6.00pm	02Feb-Sun 9am	08Feb-Sat 6pm	09Feb-Sun 9am
Projector	Sr Coral	H Rossel	S Szumowski	P Girle
Reader 1 (1st R. & Ps)	S Szumowski	G Johnson	J Monie	G Taveira
Reader 2 (2nd R.)	J Kelly	M Robinson	M Casey-Ransom	J Rainger
Reader 3 (Intercessory Prayers)	J Harris	G Taveira	M Gaukroger	M Robinson
Offertory	-	S Kenny & volunteer	J Kelly & volunteer	M Robinson & volunteer
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	J Monie	R Johnson	P Moroney	G Johnson
Counters		N Turner		R & G Johnson