

PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Reg. Charity 242380

Parish Priest: Fr Cenydd Marrison: 01432 265177 or olqm@talktalk.net

Emergency Number: 07785583013

Parish Website: www.olqmhereford.org.uk

Our Lady's Primary School: 01432 274814

The Presentation of the Lord, Year A – 2 February 2014

Entrance: *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*

Responsorial psalm: *Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord*

Gospel: *Alleluia, alleluia! The light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel, your people. Alleluia!*

Communion: *My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples*

Known originally as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is a relatively ancient celebration. The Church at Jerusalem observed the feast as early as the first half of the fourth century, and likely earlier. The feast celebrates the presentation of Christ in the temple at Jerusalem on the fortieth day after His birth. According to the Mosaic Law a mother who had given birth to a boy was considered unclean for seven days; moreover she was to remain thirty three days "in the blood of her purification"; for a girl the time of exclusion of the mother from sanctuary was even doubled. When the time (forty or eighty days) was over the mother was to "bring to the temple a lamb for a holocaust and a young pigeon or turtle dove for sin"; if she was not able to offer a lamb, she was to take two turtle doves or two pigeons; the priest prayed for her and so she was cleansed" (Leviticus 12:2-8). Our Lady and Saint Joseph kept this law, even though, since Our Lady remained a virgin after the birth of Christ, she would not have had to go through ritual purification. In his gospel, Luke recounts the story in chapter 2:22-39. Originally, the feast was celebrated on 14th February, the fortieth day after Epiphany, because the Nativity, Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord, and the feast celebrating Christ's first miracle at the wedding in Cana, were all celebrated on the same day. By the last quarter of the fourth century, however, the Church at Rome had begun to celebrate the Nativity on 25th December, so the Feast of the Presentation was moved to 2nd February, forty days later. When Christ was presented in the temple, "there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel" (Luke 2:25) When Our Lady and Saint Joseph brought Christ to the temple, Simeon embraced the Child and prayed the what is now know as the Canticle of Simeon: "Now thou dost dismiss thy servant, O Lord, according to thy word in peace; because my eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples: a light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). Inspired the words of the canticle, by the 11th century the custom had developed in the West of blessing candles on the Feast of the Presentation. This custom, though somewhat reformed over the centuries, continues to this day. After the blessing, the congregation, with lit candles, processes from a suitable place into the church while the Canticle of Simeon and various antiphons are sung. (Because of this procession with candles, the feast also became known as *Candlemas*.) While the procession and blessing of the candles is not often performed today in our country, Candlemas is still an important feast in many European countries. On 2nd February 1559, the new queen, Elizabeth I, went to Westminster Abbey to attend the Mass before the opening of Parliament. Seeing the Benedictine monks standing with lighted tapers, waiting for the procession into the abbey church, she dismissed them with contempt, saying that she had "enough light to see by" – no doubt referring to her preference for Protestant teachings. The abbey was suppressed for a second time shortly thereafter.



Dates for Your Diary

Please come along and enjoy tea and coffee in the parish room after the Sunday morning Masses

There was not any Bingo this week due to a problem with the heating, The tote for week 36 will be carried over to this week. Please feel free to purchase extra tickets and double your chance of winning. Prize money is £175.00 and 6 numbers will be drawn.

Second collection: not this week

Tuesday Devotions: the Divine Mercy Chaplet before Mass; the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary afterwards

Wednesday Mass: is at 9:00 am this week, as Fr Cenydd has a deans' meeting in Cardiff at 11:00

PAC membership: due to the resignation of PAC members we currently have vacancies; if you would like to put your name forward please see Fr Cenydd or Richard Seamarks. The post of secretary to the PAC also needs filling. Meetings take place about every 6 weeks, so the task is not onerous

National Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life: on Monday 10th February, the Vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, please join us in a day of prayer and fasting for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. See www.goodcounselnet.co.uk for more information

A Christian reads the Old Testament: do we still need the Old Testament? Can we still learn anything from it about the way of Christ and our destiny? A retreat led by Dom Henry Wansbrough on Friday 14th to Sunday 16th February at Belmont Abbey. Cost £28 plus meals/accommodation

Inter-faith Relations: Scriptural Reasoning: by Professor Mike Higon, (Professor of Theology and Ministry at the University of Durham; former Academic Co-Director of the Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme, University of Cambridge), at 7.00pm on Thursday, 20th February in the Taliesin, Swansea University. All welcome, admission free

Ecumenical Celebration of Family Life: a special non-Eucharistic service will be held in St David's Cathedral, Cardiff, on Saturday March 8th at 12 noon, to celebrate God's love at work in our everyday family life, in happy and less happy times. All are very welcome, so please invite family and friends of all denominations to come with you. If you would like to take a special part by giving a reading or carrying a symbol to the altar please contact 029 20212821 or flc@rcadc.org.uk

Herefordshire Catholic History Society: advance notice of our next planned meeting on Thursday 13th March at 2.30 p.m. in the Kemble Room at Belmont Abbey – David Whitehead, a prominent local historian, will come to talk to us about the Bodenham family of Rotherwas, an important recusant family, who in later years were closely associated with Belmont

Parish website: for easy access the parish newsletters are uploaded on to the parish web site weekly, and an archive of past newsletters is available to browse. The PAC approved minutes are also on the website

Message from the Hereford Food Bank: a sincere thank you for all in Our Lady's Parish who help with donations of food and money, or who help at the Food Bank and with supermarket collections. From March to December 2013 the Food Bank provided almost 1500 emergency food parcels. In December alone there were 150 referrals, almost three times the number provided when the Food Bank started in March 2013. A third of these were for families with children. Please continue to help us in 2014; we distributed more than 70 parcels in the first two weeks of January alone. We urgently need tins of potatoes, vegetables, fruit, rice puddings and custard, packets of tea bags, coffee, sugar, dried milk and rice. We also need shampoo, toothpaste, soap, baby food, disposable nappies, toilet rolls, and cat and dog food. We already have quite a lot of pasta. Again, thank you

Volunteers Needed: CAFOD in the Archdiocese is looking for volunteers to work with children and young people in schools and parishes to help them learn and to inspire them to take action with CAFOD. For further information please contact CAFOD on 02920 344 882, or email southwales@cafod.org.uk or visit their website at www.cafodsouthwales.wordpress.com

Fourth week of Ordinary Time

Psalter: Week IV

Today:

9:30 am Jim Smith
11:30 am Fr John Meredith
6:30 pm

Monday 3 February 9:30 am Mass – Łukasz Maziarski
St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr

Tuesday 4 February 7:00pm Mass – Sylvia Headon
Feria

Wednesday, 5 February 9:00 am Mass – Simon Williams
St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

Thursday, 6 February 9:30 am Mass – Maria Mencina
St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs of Japan

Friday, 7 February 7:00 pm Mass – Special Int (AF)
Feria

Saturday, 8 February 9:30 am Confessions
Votive Mass of the BVM 10:30 am Mass – John Farren

Sunday, 9 February (Fifth Sunday of OT)

9:30 am John & Mary Cummings
11:30 am Michael Wadley
6:30 pm Celebrated by Fr Cenydd Marrison

Please pray for:

The sick, especially Ann Morris, Brian Morris, Alice Jones, Karen Royer, Sue Watkins, Julie Martin, Shelaigh Fawcett, Dymphna and John O'Neil, Andrew Walker, Natalie Chadwick, Sylvia Jones, Sylvia Aiello, Chris Turville, Eva Zakrzewska, Pat Franklyn, John O'Donahue, Sr Catherine Jackson OP, Joe Carroll, Dorothy Dzioba, Stan Morris, Joan Sheeran, Glyn Matthews, Sam Thomson, Ian O'Donahue, Dr Mike O'Kane, Madeleine Went, Anna Foggo, Colin Reid, Catherine Rollings, Margaret Anderson and all in our prayer book

The recently dead, especially Simon Williams, Jeanette Harrall, Fr John Meredith, Jim Smith, Barry Britton, Janet McNamara, John Hodgson, Jason Houten, Łukasz Maziarski and Ivan Champion

Those whose anniversary falls in the month of February, including: William Johns, Bill Morris, Agnes Cooper, Emil Bieler, Mary Mulraine, Joan Keogh, Lucy Dale, Michael Wadley, David Stanton, Alexandra Podmore, Joseph Lambert, Paul Harrison, Mary Anderson, Jay Bourne, Elizabeth McColgan, Phyllis Price, Trevor Tipping, Margaret Jones, Edward Dzierza, Teresa Govett and Alice Deans

And God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world. Then he made the earth round....and laughed and laughed and laughed

On waking, Joan turned to her husband and said, "I just dreamt that you gave me a pearl necklace for Valentine's Day. What do you think it means?" With a smile, Jack said, "You'll know tonight, darling." That evening Jack came home with a small package. Delighted, Joan opened it--only to find a book entitled "The Meaning of Dreams"

Rota Schedule for 07 to 13 February 2014

Flower Arrangers: T Forder & R Jones

Cleaners: Wagner family

Ushers: 9:30am A Rollings & volunteer
11:30am D Lissaman & volunteer
6:30pm C Milsom & M Netting

Readers:
9:30am Children of OLPS
11:30am C Thompson
6:30pm R Seamarks

Eucharistic Ministers:

9:30am T Bray, H Fishlock, (F Keogh)
11:30pm J Meenaghan, M Davies, A Staton
6:30pm D Lissaman, J Winter, R Jones

Altar Linen: C Simons

Polish Information:

Następna Msza Św w języku polskim odbędzie się w niedzielę, 23 lutego godz 16:00

Finance:

The collection on Sunday, 26th January came to **£602.45** – thank you



"Cheer up, buddy! She might have got the house... but she can never take away your dignity!"