



**THE ORDER FOR MASS ON  
THE PRESENTATION  
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN  
THE TEMPLE**

**1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2026, 10.30AM**

*Parish Priest*

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**Welcome to St George's!** This booklet contains all the material you will need for today's celebration of Mass. We hope you will find this service easy to follow, but please also do not be afraid to ask if you are unsure what to do at any point. The building is fitted with an Induction Loop - sit away from the pillars for best results!

Families with small children are very welcome to make use of the carpeted area at the back of church, where you will find books, crayons and soft toys.

A toilet is at the back of church behind the screen. Before Mass, please try to maintain an atmosphere of quiet prayer.

*Mass setting: Lourdes.*

*Please stand when the bell rings, for the entrance of the clergy, servers and choir, who go to the back of the church. When all are in place, the people's candles are lit, and the choir sing the antiphon:*

**Choir**      The Lord our God will come in majesty: he will enlighten the minds of his servants, alleluia.

*The priest sings,*

**Priest**      In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People**      **Amen.**

**Priest**      The Lord be with you.

**People**      **And also with you.**

*The Priest introduces the Mass:*

**Priest**      Dear brothers and sisters, forty days have passed since we celebrated the joyful feast of the Nativity of the Lord.

Today we mark the day when Jesus was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. Outwardly he was fulfilling the Law, but in reality he was coming to meet his believing people. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the Temple. Enlightened by the same Spirit, they recognized the Lord and confessed him with exultation. So let us also, gathered together by the Holy Spirit, proceed into the house of God to encounter Christ.

There we shall find him and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, until he comes again, revealed in glory.

*All raise their candles and the priest blesses the candles, saying:*

Let us pray:

O God, source and origin of all light, who on this day showed to the just man Simeon the Light for revelation to the Gentiles, we humbly ask that, in answer to your people's prayers, you may be pleased to sanctify with your blessing + these candles, which we are eager to carry in praise of your name, so that, treading the path of virtue, we may reach that light which never fails. Through Christ our Lord.

*People      Amen.*

*The priest sprinkles the candles with holy water and puts incense into the thurible. He receives his lighted candle, and announces the procession:*

*Priest      Let us go forth in peace to meet the Lord.*

*As the procession begins, the Choir sing the Nunc Dimittis, with this antiphon:*

*Choir      To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.*  
*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.*  
*For mine eyes have seen thy salvation.*  
*Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.*  
*To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.*  
*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.*  
*As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

*Then all sing hymn 28 as we all go in procession around the church, the people joining in after the clergy:*

**Of the Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that Fountain**

All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic Close,  
Evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;  
He commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
Universe of three in one,  
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
All that breathes beneath the sun,  
Evermore and evermore.

He assumed this mortal body,  
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
That the race from dust created  
Might not perish utterly,  
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced  
In the depths of hell to lie,  
Evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
When the Maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
In her loving arms received,  
Evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sibyl  
Sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealèd  
In the page of prophecy;  
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;  
let the world his praises cry!  
Evermore and evermore.

Let the storm and summer sunshine,  
Gliding stream and sounding shore,  
Sea and forest, frost and zephyr,  
Day and night their Lord adore;  
Let creation join to laud thee  
Through the ages evermore,  
Evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
Angels and Archangels, sing!  
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
Let your joyous anthems ring,  
Every tongue his name confessing,  
Countless voices answering,  
Evermore and evermore.

*Prudentius (348-413) tr R F Davis (1866-1937)*

*When the priest enters the sanctuary the choir sings:*

*Choir* They offered for him unto the Lord a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons as it is written in the law of the Lord. When the days of Mary's purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished they brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord; as it is written in the law of the Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it is written in the law of the Lord.

*Remain standing to sing the Gloria*

*Cantor* **Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

*People* **Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

*Choir* Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

*People* **Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

*Choir* Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father. Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.

*People*      **Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.**  
**Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo**

*Choir*      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.

*People*      **Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.**  
**Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo**

*Then the Priest prays the Collect,*

*Priest*      Almighty, ever-living God, we humbly implore your majesty that, just as your Only begotten Son was presented on this day in the Temple in the substance of our flesh, so, by your grace, we may be presented to you with minds made pure. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Now sit to listen to the First Reading. Malachi 3; 1-4.*

*Reader*      A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.  
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.  
This is the Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*The Psalm (24) follows the reading. Remain seated to sing,*

- 7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye ever- | lasting| doors :  
and the King of | glory | shall come | in.
- 8 Who is the | King of | glory :  
it is the Lord strong and mighty, even the | Lord\_ | mighty ' in | battle.
- 9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye ever- | lasting| doors :  
and the King of | glory | shall come | in.
- 10 Who is the | King of | glory :  
even the Lord of hosts, | he ' is the | King of | glory.

*Remain seated for the Second Reading. Hebrews 2; 14-18.*

*Reader* A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*We pause for reflection. Then stand for the Gospel Acclamation,*

*Choir* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*People* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Choir* A light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.

*People* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Priest* The Lord be with you

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.  
*Luke 2; 22-40.*

*People*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Priest*

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*People*      **Praise to you, O Christ.**  
**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Please sit for the Homily from Fr Henry.*

*Then stand to recite the Nicene Creed:*

*People*      **I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Please remain standing for the Prayers of Intercession.*

*Priest*      Let us pray that the light of Christ may shine in our hearts and be revealed in our lives.

*After each bidding:*

*Reader*      Lord, in your mercy  
*People*      **hear our prayer**

*At the prayer for the departed:*

**Reader** Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,  
**People** and let light perpetual shine upon them.

*In conclusion to the prayers:*

**Priest** May our offering of prayer be united with the  
thanksgiving of Mary and Joseph and be accepted in the  
name of the Holy Child Jesus. Merciful Father,  
**People** Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our  
Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Please sit as the Choir sing the Nunc Dimittis from the Short Service by Thomas  
Weelkes (1576-1623), and bread and wine are brought to the altar.*

*Please stand to sing hymn 211, as the collection is taken. If you want to give by  
card, there is a card reader at the back of church.*

**When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day**  
The dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.  
**A glory dawns in every dark place,**  
**The light of Christ, the fullness of grace.**

**The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,**  
The child and his parents are left on their own.

**They go to the temple, obeying the law,**  
And offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.

**But Anna and Simeon recognise there**  
The Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.

**The old who have suffered and waited so long**  
See hope in the world as they welcome the young.

**They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,**  
The joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire.

**The candles invite us to praise and to pray**  
**When Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.**  
*Elizabeth Cosnett (b 1936) © 1992 Stainer & Bell Ltd.*

*Priest* Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

*People* **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.**

*Priest* May the offering made with exultation by your Church be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, for you willed that your Only Begotten Son be offered to you for the life of the world as the Lamb without blemish. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*The priest prays the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer, and then all sing the Sanctus and Benedictus:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.**

**Full of your glory are heav'n and earth, God of pow'r and might.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.**

**Blessed is he who comes to us in the name of the Lord.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.**

*Please kneel. The Eucharistic Prayer continues, until the Memorial Acclamation:*

*Priest* The mystery of Faith.

*Cantor* You are the world's redeemer: save your people Lord.

*People* **Save your people Lord.**

*Cantor* By dying on the cross, you have set us free: save your people Lord.

*People* **Save your people Lord.**

*Cantor* By rising from the dead, you have set us free: save your people Lord.

*People* **Save your people Lord.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer concludes, and all sing,*

*Priest* Through him, with him, in him.

*People* **Amen.**

*Priest* in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

*People* **Amen.**

*Priest* all glory and honour is yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

*Please stand for the Lord's Prayer,*

*Priest* At the Saviour's command, and formed by divine teaching, we dare to pray,

*People* **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 day, 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.

*People* **For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

*Priest* Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

*People* **Amen.**

*Priest* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Now sing the Agnus Dei*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,**

**have mercy on us, have mercy on us. (repeated)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,**

**grant us peace, grant us peace.**

*Then 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.

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

*Priest* My eyes have seen your salvation which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

*The people come forward to receive communion. If you have not been baptised and confirmed, please come forward for a blessing instead of communion, carrying this Order of Service.*

*During communion hymn 209 is sung, for which all remain seated or kneeling,*

**Hail to the Lord who comes,**

**Comes to his temple gate!**

**Not with his angel host,**

**Not in his kingly state;**

**No shouts proclaim him nigh,**

**No crowds his coming wait;**

**But borne upon the throne**

**Of Mary's gentle breast,**

**Watched by her dutious love,**

**In her fond arms at rest;**

Thus to his Father's house  
He comes, the heavenly guest.

There Joseph at her side  
In reverent wonder stands;  
And, filled with holy joy,  
Old Simeon in his hands  
Takes up the promised Child,  
The glory of all lands.

Hail to the great first-born  
Whose ransom-price they pay!  
The Son before all worlds,  
The child of man to-day,  
That he might ransom us  
Who still in bondage lay.

O Light of all the earth,  
Thy children wait for thee!  
Come to thy temples here,  
That we, from sin set free,  
Before thy Father's face  
May all presented be!

*John Ellerton (1826-93)*

*Please stand for the Post-Communion Prayer:*

*Priest* By these holy gifts which we have received, O Lord, bring your grace to perfection within us, and, as you fulfilled Simeon's expectation that he would not see death until he had been privileged to welcome the Christ, so may we, going forth to meet the Lord, obtain the gift of eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please sit for the Notices.*

*Then stand for the Blessing & Dismissal,*

*Priest* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Priest* May almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son, **☩** and the Holy Spirit.  
*People* **Amen.**  
*Priest* Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The clergy and servers go to the crib for the Angelus. As they go we sing the Final Anthem of Our Lady:*

**Mother of Christ, hear thou thy people's cry,  
Star of the deep, and portal of the sky;  
Mother of him, who thee from nothing made,  
Sinking, we strive and call to thee for aid:  
O by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee,  
Thou Virgin first and last, pray mercy.** *J Byrom (1692-1763)*

*The priest censes the crib and leads the Angelus.*

*Priest* The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary,  
*People* **and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**  
**Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.**  
*Priest* Behold the handmaid of the Lord,  
*People* **be it unto me according to thy word. Hail Mary...**  
*Priest* And the Word was made flesh,  
*People* **and dwelt among us. Hail Mary...**  
*Priest* Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,  
*People* **that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**  
*Priest* Let us pray. We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts, so that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ through the message of an angel, so, by his cross and passion, we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection.  
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Remain standing to sing hymn 339 during which the clergy and servers depart.*  
**Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only light,**

**Sun of righteousness, arise,  
Triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by thee;  
Joyless is the day's return,  
Till thy mercy's beams I see;  
Till they inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine,  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, radiancy divine,  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.**

*Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

*The organist then plays “Chorale Improvisation on Nun Danket Alle Gott” by Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933).*

*Scripture readings taken from the English Standard Version, Catholic Edition.*

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