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**LITURGY**

**First reading:** Malachi 3:1-4

**Response to the Psalm:** The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory!

**Second reading:** Hebrews 2:14-18

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia, A light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 2:22-40

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Dear Parishioners

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the end of our Christmas liturgies, in which the Gospel of Luke describes how the parents of Jesus bring Him to be presented in the temple. We are told that they are following the Jewish practice according to which 'every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord' (Luke 2:23). This act of presentation happens at the beginning of life because at this point the child is an open book to be filled with God's law, to be dedicated to God. The child's life now belongs to the Lord. At first sight this would seem to be the ultimate denial of the child's freedom, the closing off of the possibility for the child to decide for himself how he wishes to live his life. Yet the reality is that this is the ultimate act of freeing. The child's life is not to be measured according to success or failure in achieving a set of human goals, but in faithfulness to God's life giving promises. We are freed from the burden of self-fulfilment for God Himself becomes our fulfilment. Our past can burden us; mistakes made, hurts suffered. But the past (and for that matter the future) can only truly burden us if we judge our lives by human standards. The hope offered us in Jesus Christ transforms us, so that no matter how life has been hope is not lost, a hope which rests not upon our own efforts, but upon the loving friendship revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

God Bless
Fr. Benedict OSB

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

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Registered Charity Number 1063237

This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham and served by the

Benedictine Monks of Douai Abbey

Parish Priest: Fr. Benedict Thompson O.S.B

Rev. Deacon Peter Griffiths



Presentation of the Lord Year C
Week commencing Sunday 2nd February 2025

Parish Safeguarding: Mrs. Helen Woodhouse

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Helen Woodhouse. She can be contacted at: sg.stmarys.studley@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Masses

Sat 1 st Feb	5.00pm	The Presentation	Maureen Walsh RIP
Sun 2 nd Feb	10.30am	The Presentation	Jill & Tony Smith RIP
Mon 3 rd Feb			
Tues 4 th Feb			
Wed 5 th Feb			Douglas & Millie Thompson RIP
Thurs 6 th Feb			
Fri 7 th Feb			
Sat 8 th Feb	5.00pm	5 th Sunday Year C	Janet Dixon RIP
Sun 9 th Feb	10.30am	5 th Sunday Year C	Steve Sollis RIP

Mass is celebrated privately daily except on Monday.

If you would like a mass offered for a particular intention, please email the parish or put a note through the door of the presbytery, *please do not place it in the collection bag*. Thank you.

Those Who Have Asked for Prayers:

Derek Sollis, Dolores Flynn, Fred Chadfield, Chanel Mullings, Clive Rickhards,, Jill Spurrell, Stan Phipps, Judith Baylis, Jackie Gannon, Mick Sollis, Agnes Wilkins, Alma Finnerty, Bud Sollis, Agnes Finn.

Those who have recently died:

Mary Judith Smith (nee Hewitt), Wyn Varley, Raimondo Gemeli, Anthony Woodhouse, Barbara Woodhouse, Kathleen McLoughlin, Peter McGoldrick, Anthony Roache, Lionel Quigley. Keith John Francis Cotterell, Anna Rose McGoldrick, Mary Baker, Georgette Cowell, Anthony Mathew, John Knox, Bill McCarthy, Bernadette Mary Parker, Mary Phipps, Alan Clatworthy, Abbot Finbar Kealy OSB, Katherine McCallion, Fr. Boniface Moran OSB, Richard Thornton-Pett, Mary Scally and all those we have been asked to pray for.

INFORMATION

Sunday Coffee

Please come and join us for coffee and biscuits.

The next Sunday coffee morning will be This **Sunday 23rd February**

Thank you to Alane and Mike for volunteering.

Thank you to those who have volunteered up until March. We need volunteers from April please. The form is at the back of the church to sign up. Thank you.

Second Collection

The weekly second collection will normally be for help towards the payment of the diocesan levy and the upkeep of the house and church buildings. Both the church and the house are Grade II listed, so any work done has to be to a high standard as set by the requisite authority.

Unwanted Gifts

So that we are able to keep the bric-a-brac table stocked, we are appealing for any unwanted gifts and any contemporary paperback fiction please.

Thank you for your help.

GDPR update

We are updating our GDPR records for volunteers on the coffee and cleaning rotas. A new form to complete will be at the back of the church for you. Please return the forms for the attention of Lin Rea asap so that we can publish the rotas. Many thanks