

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TEL: 9791-4611/OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM MONDAY-FRIDAY/EMAIL: dandenong@cam.org.au

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD / C

2 FEBRUARY 2025

A LIGHT TO ENLIGHTEN THE NATIONS. Forty days have passed since the feast of Christmas. We have long since taken down our Christmas decorations with their multi-coloured lights. But hopefully the light of Christ continues to shine brightly among us. The candles we use in liturgy remind us that Christ is our light and that we, in turn, are called to reflect this light to others.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 47:10–11

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.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Lord Jesus, you are the image of the unseen God: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. Your are the first born of all creation: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are the head of the body, the Church: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

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

R. Amen.

GLORIA

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 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.

COLLECT

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,

as the Lamb without blemish. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he

who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The Mystery of Faith.

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

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All. Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

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

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. 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.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Lk 2:30–31

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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,

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 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.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Shorter form, Lk 2: 22-32

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH—Nicene Creed

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.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. 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.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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

so may we, going forth to meet the Lord, obtain the gift of eternal life. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

A LIGHT TO ALL

The Torah, the first part of the Old (First) Testament, legislates the consecration by an Israelite family of the first-born male child to God (Exodus 13:2,12). Mary and Joseph are faithful adherents to Jewish law and represent Luke's intention to illustrate that what unfolds in the couple and their child is in continuity with God's plan expressed in the First Testament.

The two beloved and holy characters that Jesus' parents next meet in the temple, Simeon and Anna, further underscore this connection. Simeon is a prophet and bearer of God's Spirit who desires the "comforting" of his people. Guided by the Spirit he comes to the Temple and takes Jesus into his arms. He blesses God and reaffirms the future ministry of Jesus, to bring God's salvation and light to all, while also being a sign of contradiction and rejection.

A second wizened prophet, Anna, also appears and attests that the child will be the cause of Israel's liberation. Our reading ends on a note about Jesus' growth, maturity, wisdom and gracefulness. The two prophetic figures that occupy this story affirm Jesus' nature and his future ministry. He is linked to Israel's history. He, like the two who attest to him in the Temple, will also be a prophet to God's people, bringing liberation for the oppressed and challenge those who oppress. Our invitation this Sunday is to draw close to this child, to allow him to comfort and free us, and accompany us in moments of contradiction and difficulty.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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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.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lk 2:32

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

GOSPEL Lk 2:22–40

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

My eyes have seen your saving power.

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 turtledoves 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.'

PARISH WEBSITE

https://melbcatholic.org/s/dandenong

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Sebastian Arockia

PARISH SECRETARY: Franca Van Boxtel

FINANCE OFFICER: Deslene de Niese

PARISH CENTRE MANAGER:

Mr. Miguel Matamala

If you urgently need a priest please call 9791 4611, if Father does not answer, please leave a message and he will call you back.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Morning: 9.15am

Saturday Evening: 6.00pm

Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am and 5.30pm

WEEK DAY MASS TIMES

Monday to Friday: 9.15am

Friday (9.45am –12.30pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, concluding with Benediction at 12.30pm)

ANOINTING MASS

Last Friday of every month 9.15 am

DAILY ROSARY

After morning Mass Mon-Sat (Friday will be before Mass)

RECONCILIATION

Saturday after 9.15am Mass and 5pm to 5.45pm before 6pm Mass or upon request

BAPTISM

Please contact the Parish Centre on 9791 4611

MARRIAGE

Please book the Church at the same time as you book your venue. As marriage preparation is an essential condition of marriage, you must book your preparation course at least 4 months prior to the wedding. Further details can be obtained from Fr. Sebastian

HOUSE BLESSING

If any Parishioner would like their house to be blessed, please contact Franca or at the Parish office on 9791-4611 to make a booking with Fr Sebastian

COMMUNION AND ANOINTING OF SICK

Please inform the Parish Office on 9791-4611 if a sick person is seriously ill, homebound or hospitalised and wants to receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing. Any parishioners who take Communion to the sick, could you please put your name and the person you are taking Communion to, into the Communion to the Sick book. This book is kept in the sacristy.

HOMILY by Richard Leonard

For most of its history today’s feast was a dual observation. The Purification of Mary accompanied the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple.

It’s not that long ago that western cultures had ceremonies to ‘purify’ women after childbirth. These rituals have their roots in some appalling thinking about how the flow of women’s blood defiles them and those who touched them. Maybe the only modern reclamation we could make of these rites would be to understand them as purification of the memory.

After the selflessness of a pregnancy and the great pain of childbirth, a mother could use such a ritual moment to reclaim her body. In any case, it is right and good that we no longer overly emphasise this side of today’s feast.

The Presentation of Jesus is easier to handle and to understand. Jewish law stipulated that within forty days of a child’s birth the parents should present their baby in the temple as an act of thanksgiving. In the Bible the number forty always indicates a time of formation. So forty days after Christmas the Church has today’s celebration. As Luke describes the scene Simeon and Anna represent the Old Covenant. He embodies all those who longed to see the Christ. She embodies all those who prophesied his coming. In a few sentences Luke tells us that just as the Israelites entered the Promised Land after forty years in the desert, so now the time of waiting, searching and hoping is over. Israel can receive the promised Messiah. The old covenant has been fulfilled and the new covenant is established in Jesus.

The word ‘presentation’ is used in two revealing ways these days. In psychology they talk about a ‘presenting problem’. In medicine people are said to ‘present’ with certain symptoms. In both cases, the word presentation is used to indicate that something more important lies beneath what is first observed. Further investigation reveals the deeper causes and the best course of action.

So to us. We present ourselves in the temple today and it’s important we remember that we do have to put on a show for God. God does not need a performance from us; God invites us to an encounter of love. Seeing that God knows us intimately it’s crazy that we should be anything but ourselves before him. But we sometimes go through the pretence of dressing things up, pretending otherwise or putting on a show.

Today’s feast reminds us that when we encounter the presence of God a range of responses are on display. Just recall the ones in today’s Gospel: expectation, hope, frailty, thanksgiving, foreboding, puzzlement, love and joy.

May Jesus' presentation enable us to let pass in peace any need to act before God, but rather embrace a new way of encountering God's presence, where we own just how we are, and not how we would like to be. When we do this we can enjoy the possibilities of a rich, deep and realistic relationship with God. We also find that it's so much easier to discover, with God, the causes and the actions that will lead us to healing, fulfilment and peace.

The Order of Malta invites you to the annual Lourdes Day Mass—an opportunity to pray for the sick and infirm, particularly those who are not able to visit Lourdes. The Mass will take place at St Patrick's Cathedral, with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli as the principal celebrant. Everybody attending will receive a gift pack containing water from the grotto at Lourdes, rosary beads and prayer material.

Date: Saturday 8th February 2025 10:30am-12noon

Venue: St Patrick’s Cathedral, 1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne

For more information, please contact Sauro Antonelli AM on 0411 250 288.

St. Mary’s Primary School Phone: 9791 7650, New St, Dandenong. **Principal:** Terry Gardiner

St. John’s Regional College Phone 8793 2000 Caroline St, Dandenong. **Principal:** Timothy Hogan

St. Mary’s Community Centre: Tel 7064 3928 **Bookings:** Miguel Matamala 0402 155 192

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased:

Teresa Potocki (Funeral Friday 7th Feb at 11am)

Anniversaries:

Calvin D’Vaz, Lennie Molinaro, Therese Dinh, Francis Regis Perera, Anna De Cruze, Beryl Jayasinghe

Sick:

Rosa Maria Santos, Long Phan, Ush Henry Bangkal, Leti Luki, Kathleen Nelson, Jim Lynch , Bernardo, Ray Gilligan, Frank Pezzaro, Janet Augustine, Bridget Phyland, Desmond Hopper, Chris Grubb, Solofuti, Samantha Vasanthy, Kevin, Maria Perez, Alan John Borninkhof, Angela Anthony, Ray Simmons, Frank Camara, Rita Breen, Katrina, Tasileta Lolesio, Jim, Lucia Germano, Imelda Quatre-bornes, Sandra Wills, Reuben Jacobs, Maddie, Herve, Asis Zullah, Nacera Burekovic, Charlie Mastrogiovanni, Carla Lunardi, Russell D’Costa, Satty Lee, Ping Lo, Dale Reynolds, Keith Reynolds

(The privacy legislation requires us to have written permission by an authorised person before any name can be printed)in the Marian.

(IF THERE ARE ANY NAMES THAT NEED TO COME OFF THE SICK LIST PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE)

Got a bit of time next month? Time to give blood and change lives? 1 in 3 people in Dandenong will need blood, and they need people like you to give it. We’re popping up in town from 3 to 7 February. Don’t forget to pre-book your spot at lifeblood.com.au, on our app or on 13 14 95.

Dandenong Pop-up Blood Donor Centre

Monday 3 February 12:30 pm – 8 pm

Tuesday 4 February 12 noon - 8 pm

Wednesday 5 February 12 noon - 8 pm

Thursday 6 February 8 am – 3:30 pm

Friday 7 February 8 am - 3 pm

St Mary’s Community Centre , 26 New Street, Dandenong VIC 3175

Fr Sebastian will be away from Monday 3rd February, returning on Saturday 8th February. Fr Sony and Fr Brendan Lane will celebrate Masses here.

IMPORTANT NOTICE—ST MARY’S PARISH CENSUS

Over the next three weeks, we invite each member of our parish to participate in our census process. By completing the census form, which will be made available during Mass from next week (8th-9th February), so we can register the number of our parish members and better understand the needs of our community. Data from this census will also enable the parish to strategically plan for important events, ministries, and other future endeavours. Your privacy is essential, and all information will be treated with confidentiality. Thank you.

ST MARY’S PARISH, DANDENONG—MUSICAL CLUB

ST MARY’S JAZZ JUNCTION

To entertain people of all age groups on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of every month Commencing on Thursdays 13th & 27th February 2025

Time: 12noon—2:30pm, Venue: St Mary’s Marian Room

Address: 26 New Street, Dandenong No Tickets,

ONLY DONATIONS accepted. Lunch will be provided For further details please contact:- Brian David (President on 0430 076 691)

REGULAR GROUP MEETING

ST MARY’S PARISH

LEGION OF MARY:

Saturday mornings after 9:15am mass in the Fellowship Room followed by Rosary

SPANISH PRAYER GROUP :

Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the church

VINCENTIAN RETREAT CENTRE:

Fridays Mass with healing prayer 7pm

ST MARY’S FRIENDSHIP CLUB:

3rd Wednesday of month lunch meet at Dandenong RSL.12pm

BINGO AT ST MARY’S

St. Mary’s Bingo is on Tuesdays at 12noon & Saturdays at 6.30pm in St Mary’s Community Centre, New St, Dandenong

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Thanksgiving: \$968.00

Presbytery \$363.00 Loose: \$2010.00

Support our Parish

If you would like to make direct payments to our bank accounts, the details are:

St Mary’s General Account:

(Thanksgiving & Donations)

NAB BSB: 083 347

ACC. No. 483196852

For contributions to support our priests and the Archdiocese

Presbytery Account:

NAB BSB: 083 347

ACC. No. 460761193

ROSTERS				
8TH-9TH FEBRUARY	6:00PM	8:30AM	10:30AM	5:30PM
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Ruth Kirpalani Margaret Simmons Maxine Fernandez	Ulalia Niupuluso Wigbertha Ngadha Marilyn Meyer	Stefania Vecchio Suzie Fernandez Ofelia Alvarado	Neville Thomas Sharmini Perera Graham Newberry
READERS	Marina Walles Pamela Hickman	Belen Satuito Teresa De Feo	Clara Marasigan Michelle Lobo	Sanduni Madawalla Leni Domin

St. Mary’s Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adult