

THE SAVING WORD

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD / C

2 FEBRUARY 2025

FIRST READING

Mal 3:1–4

A reading from the prophet Malachi

The Lord whom you seek will come to his temple.

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 fullers' 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 23: 7-10. R. v. 8

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.**

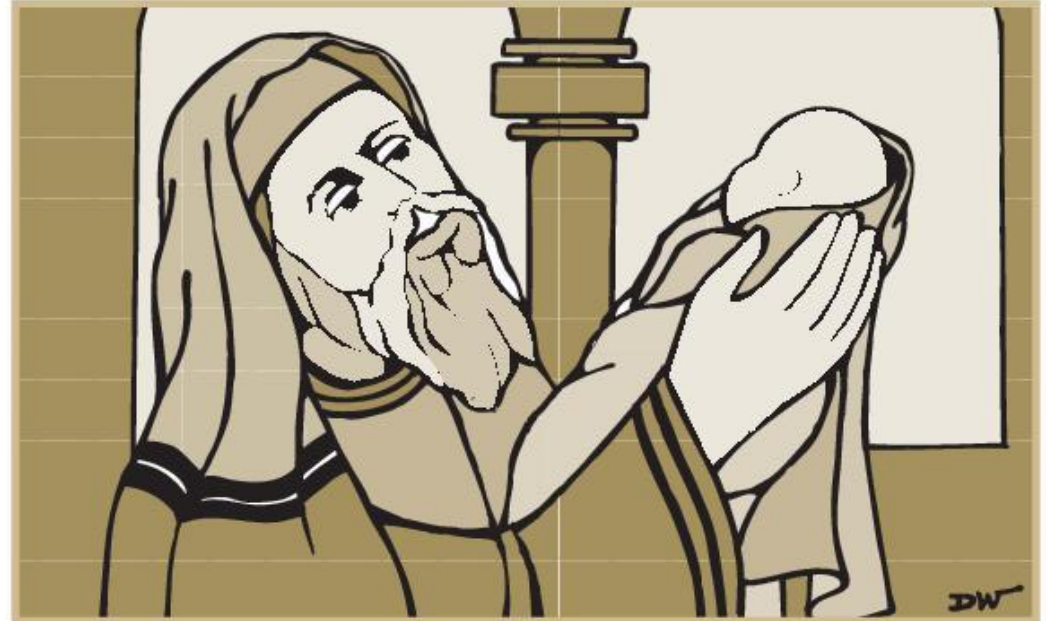
SECOND READING

Heb 2:14–18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

He had to be made like us in all things.

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

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

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 CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK & HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

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ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185

www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick

Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: M Ellis

Lector - Sunday: La Bonne family

Counters: No Counting

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

www.melbcatholic.org/caulfieldsouth

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector: S McMillan

ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163

In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:15am

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

30-minutes before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

This Week's Liturgical Calendar

Wed 5 Feb: St Agatha

Thu 6 Feb: St Paul Miki and companions

Sun 9 Feb: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Perpetual Adoration Chapel



The Perpetual Adoration Chapel was a beautiful idea of our late Fr Varghese - built in 2018 to commemorate the centenary celebration of St Joseph's Church. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 using a security tag. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to apply for a tag.

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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Lk 2:30-31)

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina, Steve Genge & family, Jenny, Ian and Sue Besomo, Stella Bai, Josie Lane, Anthony Michael

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: -

Welcome back all the staff and students at St Anthony's and St Joseph's Schools. We wish you all the best for 2025.



Blessing of Throats

On Monday 3rd February, there will be blessing of throats at St Anthony's Church during 9:15am Mass and at Holy Cross Church during 10.30am Mass.

Novena to St Joseph



Starting 5th February 2025, there will be a Novena to St Joseph every 1st Wednesday of the month at 2:00pm at St Joseph's Church, Elsternwick. All welcome.

~ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament ~
Rosary ~ Adoration ~ Novena to St Joseph
~ Divine Mercy Chaplet ~

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA sessions held at St Joseph's Presbytery every Thursday at 6:30pm have resumed. Please share with anyone interested in becoming a Catholic.

First Friday Devotions

A special evening of prayer is held at St Joseph's on the 1st Friday of the month. Adoration, Prayers & Holy Mass 7pm Friday, 7th February 2025. All are welcome.



The Combined Societies of Mary
Enquiries: Joy Hunt 9509 2207

Young Adults Hosting Mass

The young people from our 3 parishes will come together on the 4th Saturday of each month to host the 6:30pm Mass at St Joseph's, Elsternwick. This will be followed by fellowship at the Presbytery.

Please encourage the young adults of all our parishes to participate in this initiative. It is an opportunity for them to meet and socialise among their peers in the safe space of our parish.

For more information, email elsternwick@cam.org.au

Parish Finance Committee (PFC)

Our Parish Finance Committee met on Tuesday 28th January for their first quarterly meeting of 2025.

The Committee endorsed the financial viability for the proposed parish amalgamation, reviewed the Annual Financial Statements for St Joseph's and Holy Cross Parishes with our Accountant and made a decision to undertake an exercise to put in place a long term Maintenance Plan for both our church and presbytery buildings.

The 2025 Chairperson for our PFC was also elected. We thank Mark Gashi for accepting the role, bringing to the Committee his valuable knowledge and experience from the financial industry.



GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

A ceasefire means more aid can assist people affected in Gaza. Your support is urgently needed.

DONATE NOW

www.caritas.org.au/gaza
1800 024 413





Tony's Caf 

Tony's Caf  re-opens on Tuesday 4 February 2025.

Take away meals only for those in need. Tuesdays 12:30pm - 1:30pm and Thursdays 3:00pm - 5:30pm.

Liturgy Training Repeat

A training session for any Readers, Commentators, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Musicians, Collectors and anyone who helps in the church in any way will be held in the church on Saturday 8th February from 10:30 am – 12:00 noon.

This is a repeat of the meeting held last year so if you did not attend last December, do make an effort to come along.

Please RSVP to the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Safeguarding Children and Young People

All children and young people who come to our parish have a right to feel and be safe. The welfare of the children and young people in our care will always be our first priority and we have a ZERO tolerance for any form of abuse. Please contact the Parish Office to join our Safeguarding Team. For more info on Safeguarding, visit melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding

Jubilee Year Pilgrimages

The Melbourne Archdiocese is offering two pilgrimages to Rome this year to experience walking through Holy Doors. There are also local Pilgrim Places we can visit during the Jubilee Year.





Please scan the QR-code for more info regarding the Pilgrimages, including how to register. There is also more information on our notice boards.

Presentation of the Lord, Year C

This festival commemorates the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple of Jerusalem, referring to him as the light of the people of Israel. On this day, the faithful take candles to church to be blessed. In many countries and cultures there are many customs and traditions associated with this feast.

This feast is celebrated on 2nd February, exactly 40 days after Christmas, commemorating Mary's adherence to the Mosaic law as she entered the Temple for the ritual purification, as explained in Leviticus 12:2-8. Also, forty days was the time when a firstborn was brought to the Temple to be dedicated to the Lord (Exodus 13:2-12).

The Gospel reading for The Feast of the Presentation describes the scene: "And when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord." The story continues as Simeon holds the baby in his arms and says that Jesus will be a light for the Gentiles (Luke 2:22-32).

Some call the day Candlemas (Candle Mass), which comes from the activities associated with the feast. In Christian communities today, Candlemas continues to be a day of purification, renewal, and hope.

Often local churches hand out candles, or people bring their own, to be blessed. After an antiphon, during which the candles held by the people are lighted, there is a procession into the church. During the procession to the church, the Nunc Dimittis is sung, replicating the words that Simeon proclaimed.

In Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches, the procession into the church for Mass commemorates Christ's entrance into the temple.



I ordered a vegan, gluten-free, sugar-free, lactose-free ice cream...

And they handed me a cup of ice cubes.



Marriage
WITH
MATT & CAMERON FRADD

THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2025

6pm – 9.30pm

Cathedral Hall, ACU, 22 Brunswick St, Fitzroy

TICKETS & DETAILS:

Godandbeer.com.au

ADULTS \$30-\$45 (see further details on website) U18 \$20 U10 FREE



Includes BBQ & live music with Olivia Chamoun Canavan



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 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.

Shorter form, Lk 2: 22-32

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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