



THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE - CANDLEMAS

Today we hear Luke's story of the meeting between the Child Jesus and the aged Simeon. This special Sunday has been called by different names 'The Presentation of Christ in the Temple', 'The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary', and 'Candlemas.' Candlemas celebrates the many themes of these events, presentation, purification and light for the world. The presentation of Jesus in the Temple took place 40 days after his birth. For us 40 days after Christmas Day falls on February 2, but it is celebrated in church on the Sunday nearest that date. Candlemas is a watershed in the church year, it marks the point at which we take a last look back at Christmas and then turn our minds firmly towards the Easter cross. We have been working through the Sundays of Epiphany, now we leave them behind and soon it will be Lent, for this reason it has been called a 'bitter-sweet Sunday.'

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Today is the beginning of the Month of Celebration of Lay Ministries. We give thanks and celebrate the ministries of Readers, CPLMs, Youth Workers, Sunday School Teachers and Lay Chaplains. Over the next few weeks we will give ourselves the opportunity in both churches to celebrate the Lay Ministries among us.

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Welcome! Especially if you are a visitor. Please make yourself known to one of the Wardens, Sidespeople, or the Clergy. Members of other churches are welcome to receive Communion. If you do not wish to receive Communion, please come up for a blessing.

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Please join us after the service for coffee and fellowship (both churches)

Welcome to the United Benefice of Holy Innocents and St. Mark, South Norwood

United together in Christ, shining Christ's light in our community



1st February 2026

Vicar: Vacant

Priest (PTO): Revd. Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley, TSSF, SCP

Reader (PTO): Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds,

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST

8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)

10am Parish Mass (Both Parishes)

1.00pm Imprint Contemporary Church (Holy Innocents)

*Malachi 3.1-5 * Psalm 24 * Hebrews 2.14-end * Luke 2.22-40*

Today we welcome **Father Charlie** who will be presiding at the 8.00am BCP Mass at St Mark, and the **Revd Hilary Fife** who will be presiding at the 10.00am Eucharist at St Mark

Access online worship via
www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: for enquiries regarding Holy Innocents, please contact Mother Susan 07890780572 fs.kiley@btinternet.com and for St Mark, please contact Cicelyn Hinds 0208656 2474 cahinds@btinternet.com

The Benefice is in vacancy. For Parish matters, please contact in the first instance, the respective church wardens, St Mark – Norma McKnight (ndwillis12@outlook.com) and Cicelyn Hinds (cahinds@btinternet.com) Holy Innocents – Church.warden@holyyinnocentschurch.co.uk

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We pray: for our Archbishops Sarah and Stephen; for the Bishops in this diocese, Christopher, Rosemarie, Alastair and Martin.

For the Bishops, priests, deacons and people in our link Dioceses of Zimbabwe and all the Bishops, priests, deacons and people of the Church of England. **For Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Deanery** – Charles Moore (Area Dean) Ruth Reid (Lay Chair) Adrian Greenwood (Reader) (PTO)

For the sick – Richard, Barbara, Emma, Rona, John, Leonard, Reiss, Malik, Simon, Fred, Ethel, Terri-Ann, Marcia, Caroline, Shirley, Luke, Beverley, Rowena, Susan, Jean, Nicholas, Orlando **The bereaved** – The Arthur family. **The recently departed** – Joyce Arthur **and those whose Years Mind falls at this time.**