

# Theme of the Week - The Presentation of the Lord

The Catholic Church celebration on February 2, 2025, is the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. The feast commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple, 40 days after His birth, in accordance with Jewish law (Luke 2:22-38). It marks the moment when Mary and Joseph brought Him to Jerusalem to dedicate Him to God, as well as Mary's ritual purification after childbirth.

This feast is also called Candlemas, as candles are traditionally blessed during the liturgy, symbolizing Christ as the "light of the nations," as proclaimed by Simeon in the Temple. It highlights themes of dedication, light, and fulfillment of God's promises.

The meaning of this Gospel passage lies in the recognition of Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel and to the world. Simeon and Anna, both devout figures, represent hope and faith in God's salvation. Simeon, moved by the Holy Spirit, recognizes Jesus as the Messiah and praises God for revealing His salvation. Anna, in her old age, responds with gratitude, sharing the good news of Jesus with others. This moment in the temple emphasizes several key themes:

- God's faithfulness: God keeps His promises, as seen in Simeon's words that he has seen the salvation of the Lord.
- Revelation to all people: Jesus is described as a "light for revelation to the Gentiles"—a sign that His salvation is not just for Israel but for the whole world.
- Hope in God's plan: Simeon and Anna live with the hope that God's work will be fulfilled, teaching us to trust in God's timing.

The gospel passage from Luke connects to many virtues from our Pupil Profile, including being **Grateful** and **Generous**:

Anna expresses deep **gratitude** upon meeting Jesus, recognizing that her hope for the Messiah has been fulfilled. She thanks God and shares the good news with others waiting for redemption. Her **gratitude** extends beyond God, as she freely speaks of Jesus' significance.

While **generosity** isn't explicitly stated in the passage, it can be inferred through the actions of both Simeon and Anna. Both characters exemplify **generosity of spirit**, showing how giving, in the form of praise, worship, and sharing God's promises, is an essential part of living out faith. Simeon blesses Jesus and His family, offering more than just a greeting, recognizing God's larger plan for salvation. Anna generously shares her experience with others, telling all who awaited redemption about Jesus.

# The Presentation of the Lord

Weekly Reflections  
2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025  
The Presentation of the Lord



## From the Gospel of Luke (2: 22-32)

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.

## Prayer for the Week

Lord Jesus, You are the light of the world, revealed to all nations. Help us to carry Your light in our hearts and share it with others through our words and actions. May we, like Mary and Joseph, dedicate our lives to You with faith and love.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen

### Day 1

Discuss with students the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Blue text on 1<sup>st</sup> page).

Then, reflect on the following question: How can you bring the light of Christ into your daily life, just as Jesus was presented as a light to the nations?

### Day 2

In the context of Luke's Gospel, what do you think Simeon tries to say about Jesus through this quote: "you may now dismiss your servant in peace"?

### Day 3

How can you be **grateful** and **generous**, just like Simeon and Anna, in everything that you do this week?

## Catholic Social Teaching - Dignity of Work and Participation

We respect the dignity of work and the rights of workers. Church teaching has upheld the dignity of work and participation. The human person should always come before the pursuit of profit. Workers have the right to join trade unions, to a just wage, to spend time with their families and to rest. Work is an essential part of our human dignity and everyone has the right to participate.

"It is essential that we continue to prioritise the goal of access to steady employment for everyone, no matter the limited interests of business and dubious economic reasoning" - Pope Francis

**How this half term can you promote the Dignity of Work and Participation in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?**