



31st January 2021
Presentation of Christ at
the Temple (Candlemas)

St James' Church
www.stjamesexeter.org Exeter

Rector

Fr Henry Pryse 01392 431297

Off duty: Monday to Saturday

Assistant Priest

Fr Martin Poolton 01392 477488

Day off: Saturday

Assistant Curate

Fr Steve Turner 01392 670022

Day off: Friday

Parish Office

Mount Pleasant Road, Exeter. EX4 7AH.

01392 420407. office@stjamesexeter.org

No visitors at present

Charity register number: 1128877

Notices

Electoral Roll

The electoral roll is our register of electors, the list of those qualified to attend and vote at the Annual Parish Meeting in the elections for the Parochial Church Council and for the representatives of the parish on the Deanery Synod. If your name is not already included or if you are unsure, please contact the parish office for a form; this will need to be returned by Sunday 28th February.

God Loves a Cheerful Giver

Every year, St James' gives a set percentage of its income to various charities. The charities for our giving in 2021 will be decided at the next meeting of the PCC. To suggest at charity and for information about how to make your proposal, please contact the parish office by Sunday 14th February.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

This Week

Morning Prayer Online: 8.30 am Mon – Fri

Mon 1st February Mark 5 vv. 1 – 20
Brigid, abbess, c. 525

Tue 2nd February Mark 5 vv. 21 – 43
Diocesan day of prayer for schools
10.00 am Deanery Chapter meets

Wed 3rd February Mark 6 vv. 1 – 6a
Anskar, archbishop, missionary, 865
5.30 pm Standing committee meets

Thu 4th February Mark 6 vv. 7 – 13
Gilbert, founder of the Gilbertine order,
1189

Fr Steve: Curate training day

Fri 5th February Mark 6 vv. 14 – 29

Sat 6th February Mark 6 vv. 30 – 34
Martyrs of Japan, 1597
Accession of Queen Elizabeth II, 1952

Next Sunday: 7th February

2nd Sunday Before Lent

John 1 vv. 1 – 14

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sharing God's love through worship, fellowship and service

First Reading: Malachi 3 vv. 1-5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

Second Reading: Hebrews 2 vv. 14-18

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2 vv. 22-40

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 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated 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; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.