

February Holy Days

2 February The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple

The Feast of the Presentation is one of the oldest feasts of the Christian church, celebrated since the 4th century AD in Jerusalem. The story of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple is in St Luke's Gospel (chapter 2:22-38). Leviticus 12 tells us that a woman is to be purified by sacrifice 33 days after a boy's circumcision. The circumcision of Jesus having happened 'at the end of eight days' (1 January), the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary (which is the old name for the feast) is reckoned as taking place on 2 February. There are various different definitions of the 'Christmas Season' but perhaps the most ancient is that it extends for forty days, from Christmas Day until the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. That explains why some of the decorations—the Tree or even the Crib—remain in place in some churches until we are into February.

The feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple is often known as Candlemas. We are still in the midst of winter, so the blessing of candles and processing by candlelight are helpful reminders that Christ is the Light of the world. Indeed, Simeon, who gives us the canticle *Nunc Dimittis*, used every night at Compline, describes the Christ Child as 'the Light to lighten the Gentiles' and the glory of God's people Israel. Candlemas is the time we take stock of candles, order in what is needed, and bless what we have. Whenever we reflect on it as the fifth of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary we recall that it is at the end of the Christmas Season. The Marian antiphon *Alma Mater Redemptoris* gives way to the antiphon *Ave Regina Caelorum* and we realise that the next season, Lent, also forty days long, is not far away. Indeed Candlemas is like a signpost, pointing back to the Birth of Christ and pointing forward to his Death and Resurrection.



St Edmund Campion Deanery, Old Berkshire-
Thames ISIS Pastoral Area
www.thamesisis.org.uk
EAST HENDRED CATHOLIC PARISH
St Mary's Church, East Hendred
St Patrick's Church, East Ilsley
hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Priest: The Revd Mgr Andrew Burnham
01235 835038 or 07976 437979
aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

	<i>Sundays Year B Weekdays Year 2: Psalter Week 4</i>
Sunday 28 th January	FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR [green] Confessions: 8.45am St Mary's Mass: 9.30am St Mary's, East Hendred <i>Pro populo</i> Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's, East Ilsley <i>Pro populo</i>
Monday 29 th January	<i>Of Week 4</i> [green] Mass: 9.15am St Mary's <i>FM Elizabeth Eyston 1952</i>
Tuesday 30 th January	<i>Of Week 4</i> [green] Mass: 9.15am St Mary's <i>FM Ada Daubenay 1953</i>
Wednesday 31 st January	St John Bosco, Founder [white] Adoration: 11.45am St Mary's Mass: 12.15pm <i>Private Intention</i>
Thursday 1 st February	<i>Of Week 4</i> [green] Mass: 9.15am St Mary's <i>FM Hilda Balcombe 1953</i> Candlemass for Kids: 2.15pm St Mary's
Friday 2 nd February	The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple [white] Ceremonies of the Day and Mass: 9.15am St Mary's <i>Adoration: 3pm Hendred House</i>
Saturday 3 rd February	<i>St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr</i> [red] Mass: 9.30am at St Mary's [Latin]
	<i>Sundays Year B Weekdays Year 2: Psalter Week 1</i>
Sunday 4 th February	FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR [green] Confessions: 8.45am St Mary's Mass: 9.30am St Mary's, East Hendred <i>Pro populo</i> Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's, East Ilsley <i>Pro populo</i>
	Confessions: As advertised or by appointment www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

THIS WEEK AND LOOKING AHEAD

BELONGING: ALL ARE WELCOME

Today is Racial Justice Sunday. On this day all Catholics are called to pray for those who experience unjust discrimination or are marginalised because of their race and ethnicity. We pray in particular for those who feel they do not belong within our society or our communities because of discrimination. Prayer cards are available at the back of the church, for more information www.catholicnews.org.uk/racial-justice-Sunday-2018

CANDLEMAS (1)

Candlemass for Kids will be at 2.15pm on **Thursday (1st February)** in St Mary's. St Amand's School will be attending but parents and younger children are also invited. There will be candles and processing and singing. For no longer than 30 minutes.

ECUMENICAL GATHERING

VERON'S BARN – OPPOSITE THE WHEATSHEAF – EAST HENDRED

Thursday (1st February) 7.15 pm for 7.30pm

An opportunity to share time reflecting some thoughts from the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with fellow Christians from other denominations. A warm welcome in a friendly and informal atmosphere in a beautiful setting. Please let me know if you would like to come for seating and light refreshment purposes. Everyone very welcome. Please contact me. Jo Noble jonoble.fhh@gmail.com

CANDLEMAS (2)

Candlemas—the Ceremonies and the Mass—will be celebrated at 9.15am on **Friday (2nd February)** in St Mary's. There will be no 8.30am Mass at Hendred House.

GATHERING IN CHRIST

The next gathering will be on **Tuesday 6th February** in St Mary's Parish rooms; 7.15pm tea/coffee and biscuits for a 7.30pm start. We will complete our study of Samuel with a look at chapter 21.

PARISH COLLECTION

The collection on Sunday 14 January raised £995.53 of which 88% was Gift Aided.

COFFEE AFTER MASS

Join us for coffee after Mass in St Mary's Parish rooms.



FORTHCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

Mill Hill Appeal: 11th February; Clergy Assistance Fund: 11th March

Find us on 

NEWSLETTER | Please send all notices for next week's Newsletter to Maria at hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk by **Wednesday 10 am**

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

BAPTISM AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.



THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

Sr Catherine, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Alfie Bartlam, Jadvyga Adasko, Angus Clark and Ann McCarthy. Names remain for four weeks.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Those who have died recently and those with anniversaries at this time: *Elizabeth Eyston, Patricia Turner Bridger, Frances Rivers, Helen Jessie Patterson, Edwin Brown, Laurence Lodge, Dame Teresa Rodrigues, Catherine Harris and Lady Agnes Eyston.*

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION - Universal: Say "No" to Corruption That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

JESUS AND THE KINGDOM - A WEEKEND OF REFLECTION

From the **17th -18th of February**. Led by David McLoughlin (from John Newman University, Birmingham) at Park Place Pastoral Centre, Wickham, Fareham, Hants PO17 5HA. Cost: £70 which include all meals and accommodation. For a booking form and further details please email actaportsmouth@gmail.com or 07917 845184.

A TOUCH OF HEAVEN

Spiritual holidays on St John's Holy Island of Patmos. The CaFe will be leading regular trips to this centre of historical & spiritual beauty. A spiritual holiday in a safe, sun-soaked, sacred place. Ideal for parishes, prayer groups & individuals. For more information please see leaflet in the porch or contact pilgrims@faithcafe.org

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Celebrating the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus & the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Visiting Israel, Palestine and The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from 1st to 10th June 2018. If interested and for more information see poster in church or contact Our Lady of Lourdes parish office at ololnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need a few more volunteers 7/11 for midweek tasks in church. Please see if you could help. The bins can be very heavy! Other jobs include emptying bins, keeping the votive candle stands fully stocked, sorting leaflets, watering flowers, attending to the candles. Small jobs but our volunteer base is too narrow at present. Please have a word with Fr Andrew.

ARE YOU NEW TO OUR PARISH?

If you have recently joined our parish, please complete the registration form (yellow or green sheets at the back of the church).