



# Ordinariate and Parish Church

## MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD

a Catholic Parish in the Archdiocese of Southwark  
in the Pastoral Care of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham



### PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

2nd February 2025

In the gospel reading today, we hear that Christ is our light and our help! Christ lightens our darkness and helps us to see the meaning of life. When he calls us to follow him, we must learn to put aside our differences. It is in true Christian charity that we are able to proclaim the good news of the kingdom and it is for this purpose that Christ calls us to follow him.



**Candlemas is today**, the fortieth day of Christmas, when Jesus was presented in the Temple. A light for all the nations.

**Candle ceremonies** today form part of the liturgy. If you have a candle - from your baptism, confirmation, marriage - bring it today. If you don't have one, don't worry, they will be provided.

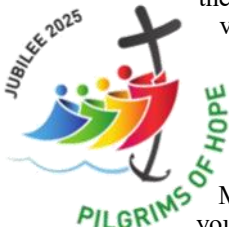
**Candles used during the year**, will be blessed today. Thank you to those who have sponsored them. There are two left (at the time of going to press). Sign up on the list at the back of Church, or on-line.

**Check the details** are correct if you sponsored candles. There's a printed list; please correct any miss-reads. It will be printed and published this week.

**The Archbishop** sent an important letter a few weeks ago. There are some copies at the back or it can be read on the parish website.

**Called to Bear Fruit** is the initiative of the Archbishop, and he invites everyone to take part in this consultation.

Thank you to those who have already submitted a response. There will be an opportunity after Mass today to take part if you haven't already.



**Kay Cunningham's** funeral is on Thursday this week at 11.00. Her mortal remains will be brought into Church on Wednesday at 17.00 Please pray for her. *Lord have mercy.*

**Evensong**, a monthly series begins on Thursday this week. at 19.00, then continuing each second Wednesday, followed by a social.

**Quiz Night** on 4th March, shrove Tuesday from 19.00 We'll have pancakes and the burning of the palm crosses to make the ash for Ash Wednesday; and pancakes.

**St John Henry Newman** would be in his 225th year this year....if he were alive today (!). A visit to his birth place followed by parish lunch, then Evensong & Benediction. Sunday 23rd February. Signup on the website

**A Statue of StJHN** would be a great addition to MPB. Any sponsors? *See FrC*

**Finance and Pastoral Council** members are reminded there's a meeting this week. If you have not received the papers yet, please see the chairman today!

**Religious Life** is celebrated today: all those who live the consecrated life as monks, nuns, religious brothers and sisters. Pray for Religious today, and pray for vocations to the Religious Life.

**Take home** this sheet and the Mass sheet too. They are produced each week for you.



Forty days after His birth, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple for the rites of purification and dedication as prescribed by the Torah. According to the Book of Leviticus (12:1-4), when a woman bore a male child, she was considered “unclean” for seven days. On the eighth day, the boy was circumcised. The mother continued to stay at home for 33 days for her blood to be purified. After the 40 days, the mother and the father came to the temple for the rite of purification, which included the offering of a sacrifice — a lamb for a holocaust (burnt offering) and a pigeon or turtledove for a sin offering, or for a poor couple who could not afford a lamb, two pigeons or two turtledoves. Note Joseph and Mary made the offering of the poor (Lk 2:24).

Also, Joseph and Mary were obliged by the Torah to “redeem” their first born son: “The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ‘Consecrate to me every first-born that opens the womb among the Israelites, both of man and beast, for it belongs to me’” (Ex 13:1). The price for such a redemption was five shekels, which the parents paid to the priest. This “redemption” was a kind of payment for the Passover sacrifice, by which the Jews had been freed from slavery.

However, St Luke in the Gospel does not mention this redemption, but rather the presentation of Our Lord: “When the day came to purify them according to the law of Moses, the couple brought Him up to Jerusalem, so that He could be presented to the Lord, for it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every first-born male shall be consecrated to the Lord’” (Lk 2:22-23). So the focus is on Jesus’ consecration to God. The verb “to present” (paristanai) also means to “offer,” which evokes Jesus being presented as

the priest who will offer Himself as the perfect sacrifice to free us from the slavery of sin, seal the new and eternal covenant with His blood, and open the gates to the true promised land of heaven.

Simeon, a just and pious man, who awaited the Messiah and looked for the consolation of Israel, was inspired to come to the temple. He held baby Jesus in his arms and blessed God, saying, “Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace; you have fulfilled your word. For my eyes have witnessed your saving deed, displayed for all the peoples to see: A revealing light to the Gentiles, the glory of your people Israel” (Lk 2:29-32). Simeon, thereby, announced that the Messiah has come not just for the Jew but the gentile; not just the righteous, but the sinner.

He then blessed the Holy Family, and said in turn to Mary: “This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed— and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword — so that the thoughts of many hearts may be laid bare” (Lk 2:34-35).

So the Presentation is a proclamation of Christ — Messiah and Priest, Lord and Saviour. He is the light who came into this world to dispel sin and darkness. For this reason, traditionally at least since the seventh century, candles have been blessed at Mass this day that will be used throughout the year, hence coining the term “Candlemas.”

As we consider the feast of the Presentation, we remember that our parents presented us at church for our baptism. We were dedicated to God, and given the name, “Christian.” We, too, received a lit candle from the paschal candle, at which the priest said, “You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as a child of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in your heart. When the Lord comes, may you go out to meet Him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom”. Therefore, as a light, each of us must bear witness to Our Lord. We must be the beacon that guides others to Christ. Also, we must realise that we, too, will be “a sign that will be opposed,”

A light to enlighten the gentiles.

# Called to Bear Fruit

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE



**St Paul Miki**, (パウロ三木) was martyred in Japan in 1597.

St Paul Miki was born into a wealthy Japanese family. He was educated by the Jesuits in Azuchi and Takatsuki. He joined the Society of Jesus and became a well known preacher – gaining many converts to Catholicism.

The Emperor of Japan, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, began persecuting Catholics for fear of the Jesuits' influence and intentions, and possibly that of European visitors.

St Paul Miki was arrested and jailed with his fellow Catholics, then forced to march 966 kilometres (600 miles) from Kyoto to Nagasaki; all the while singing the *Te Deum*. Nagasaki today has the largest Catholic population in Japan. St Paul Miki had his chest pierced with a lance while tied to a cross as he preached. His last sermon from the cross was on forgiveness and forgave his executioners. Crucified alongside him were Joan Soan (de Gotó) and Santiago Kisai, also of the Society of Jesus; along with twenty-three other clergy and laity. These Japanese Martyrs were all canonised by Pope Pius IX in 1862.



Their feast day is Thursday this week.



**Votive Candle Intentions** for 2025 are for the 7-day candle burning continually, day and night, 24/7 in all the holy places at MPB, can be offered for an intention for a month. All the candles used at MPB during 2025 will be blessed today, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple - aka Candlemas.



It's the traditional day when all candles to be used during the year in Church are blessed. Would you like to offer some in memory of a loved one? [Sign up on line.](#)

## SAINTS FUN FACTS



Saint Agatha is one of the most highly venerated virgin martyrs of Christian antiquity. She was put to death during the persecution of Decius, in Sicily, for her unwavering belief in God.



**WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE**  
The Presentation at the Temple

## This Week: Mass & intentions

Day	Time	Intention
<b>This Sunday</b> <b>PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</b>	09.30 <b>11.00</b>	Josue Benghiat Parishioners
<i>Mon 3rd Sts Laur. Dunstan &amp; Theo</i>		
<i>Tue 4th feria</i>	13.05	Holy Souls ✕
<i>Wed 5th St Agatha</i>	13.05	Holy Souls ✕
<i>Thurs 6th St Paul Miki et al</i>	11.00 13.05	Kay Cunningham ✕ <i>funeral Mass</i> Alfred Danton ✕ <i>d.1982</i>
<i>Fri 7th feria</i>	13.05	Fr Charles Donovan <i>foundation</i>
<i>Sat 8th of OLW</i>	10.30†	David Barry <i>foundation</i>
<b>Next Sunday</b> <b>5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMR</b>	09.30 <b>11.00</b>	William Joseph Green ✕ <i>foundation</i> Parishioners

**Next Week's Readings** Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5: 1-11

**Sacrament of Confession.** Tue-Fri 12.30-12.55 Sat 10.00-10.25 *and at request*

† **Mass in the Ordinariate Use** of the Roman Rite

**Last week: £967.37** (cash £117.37; card £130.00; standing orders £720) **Thank you!**

**Safeguarding.** The parish is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Safeguarding Officers: Richard Hughes, Justina Onuorah. 03330 509296

**Holy Father's Intention for February 2025: For vocations to the priesthood and religious life** Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life. .

**Live-streaming** is done regularly for the Solemn Mass. The earlier Mass on Sunday and weekdays are not live-streamed.

**For your prayers:**

*In priestly formation:* Br Philip Gerlomes OP

*Peace:* In Ukraine, in the Holy Land, Syria

*Those who are Sick:* Mary, Chi Chi, Anne Marie, Rita, Hermon, Amaogechi, David

*Recently Departed:* Kay Cunningham

**Find us on:** *Facebook:* "preciousbloodSE1"

*YouTube:* [youtube.com/preciousbloodlondonbridge](https://www.youtube.com/preciousbloodlondonbridge)

**Fr Christopher Pearson** OLW *Parish Priest*

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