



CATHOLIC CHURCHES

of OUR LADY & ST. KENELM, HALESOWEN OUR LADY OF LOURDES, OLD HILL

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(Part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No. 234216)



LITURGY FOR THE WEEKEND 1st/2nd FEBRUARY 2025 FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

TIMES OF MASS & MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 1st	Vigil of the Presentation of the Lord	6.30pm H	John Mallard (R.I.P)
Sun 2nd	Feast of The Presentation of the Lord	10.00am H 11.30am OH	Edna Pritchard (R.I.P) Deceased Members of Shackleton & O'Malley Families
Mon 3rd	Feria	No Mass	_____
Tues 4th	Feria	10.00am OH	Pro Populo
Wed 5th	St Agatha	12noon H	Kathleen & Michael Madigan
Thurs 6th	St Paul Miki and Companions	No Mass	_____
Fri 7th	Feria	No Mass	_____
Sat 8th	Our Lady on Saturday Vigil of the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	No Mass 6.30pm H	Maureen Kearney (Int)
Sun 9th	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00am H 11.30am OH	Carl & James McAleenan (R.I.P) Nung's Family Peaceful

MASS INTENTIONS to Father Stefan please

Masses marked H will be at Halesowen, OH will be at Old Hill

Confessions

There will be an opportunity for Confessions at Halesowen from 10.30 am (after Saturday 10am Mass) until 11am. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during confessions.

Confessions are also available by appointment.

Second Collection

There will be a second collection on the weekend of 16th February for Maintenance Fund (H) and Parish Debt (OH).

Old Hill Foodshare

There is a great need of - **cereals, sugar, toilet rolls, toiletries, detergents along with tinned fruit, tinned fish and tinned meat.**

First Friday Friends Parishioners, friends and supporters are invited by the SVP "First Friday Friends" for a coffee and chat in St John the Baptist Church in the town centre between 10.45am - 11.45am on Friday 7th February.

Fr Stefan

Fr Stefan will be away on his annual leave from Wednesday of this week.

He will be uncontactable, even his mobile won't be working! (If you really want to know what he is up to ask him, as he is really looking forward to this holiday! Those who have already asked him will warn you are in for a lot of information!!!!)

In case of emergency, please contact Fr Philip at Our Lady & All Saints, Stourbridge on 01384 395308

Lately Dead

Please keep in your prayers those who have lately died: Mary Spratt, David Jones and Brian Stone.
May they rest in peace.

Brian Stone's requiem will take place on Thursday 20th February at 11am.

FEBRUARY Anniversaries

Remember in your prayers these deceased members :

Adrian Powers, Ellen Kalinski, Glennis Cutler, Val Johnson, Fr. John Watkins, Maurice Winstanley, Marie Anne Hunter, Catherine Gull, Francis Brown, Richard Watkins, Peggy Harris, Mary Hatton, Olive Adkins, Rose Guilar, Lydia Doady, Rose Ingram, Hermes Mendez, Aloysius Kelly, Norman Lambert, Evelyn Hendy, Christopher Aylott, Joan Birch, Patricia Bamford, Kathleen Madigan, Julia Underhill, Adam David Peters, Juan Diaz Pedrosa, Maria Giovenco, Martin Raymund Bridge and Laura Westwood.
May they rest in peace.

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

You are most welcome to join us this Jubilee Year as we journey to Lourdes in May.

The pilgrimage runs from Saturday 24 - Friday 30 May 2025 with the theme: "With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope".

If you would like to travel to Lourdes but in need of assistance we can help. Assisted pilgrims have the support of doctors, nurses, carers and hospitaliers throughout their time on pilgrimage. You will participate fully in the pilgrimage and experience the love of God through the care, love and friendship of volunteers.

Please contact the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office to discuss assistance requirements: 0121 230 6288 / admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk

As well as applications from assisted pilgrims we're also keen to hear from doctors, nurses and carers eager to volunteer their time and experience Lourdes.

If Our Lady is calling you, please answer and give to others. We look forward to hearing from you. Find out more here: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org/lourdes-pilgrimage>



Reflection for Presentation of the Lord

Readings: Nehemiah 8:2-4, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1Corinthians 12:12-31; Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

The theme of today's celebration, connected to the Christmas cycle rather than Ordinary Time – we read the same Gospel passage on the Feast of the Holy Family - is highlighted by the Preface: Jesus is revealed by the Holy Spirit as the glory of Israel and light of all the nations: the long-awaited Messiah.

The Chosen People's entire, pent-up expectation of the Messiah is present in the temple in Anna and Simeon. Here as throughout his Gospel, Luke is at pains to present male and female counterparts, equally in need of salvation, each in his or her own way equally challenged to turn their faces towards the Light that has been promised and that alone can overcome the darkness of human sinfulness. While most of their contemporaries remain oblivious, a faithful remnant of Israel is there to receive the Lord of glory when he enters his temple (First Reading and Psalm).

All of them: the young mother whose intimacy with the Lord led her to the unheard of and radical vocation to virginity; her spouse, Joseph, the good and just man who allows God to call the shots (Matthew 1:19-20); Simeon, a contemplative led by the Spirit whose words echo the Messianic texts of the Second Isaiah; and Anna, "constantly in the temple, worshipping day and night in fasting and prayer", represent the generation of those who do not live wrapped up in themselves or absorbed in the mere immediacies of life - however necessary- but live rather for "the consolation, and deliverance, of Israel", the salvation of the world.



Though no one suspects it, least of all they themselves, in their self-forgetfulness they are the real heroes of their people. And ours. Because of the way they have lived, and their openness to being moved by the Holy Spirit, they are able to bear witness that this child is the One all Israel, and all humanity, is awaiting. And this, though he has willed to come not in glory but "like his brothers in every way" (Second Reading), able to share in their suffering and disposed to become "a sign of contradiction" (Gospel).

The old (Simeon and Anna) gives way to the new (the young parents with their newborn); the promise of the redeemer is superseded by his presence. In this new dispensation, looking to salvation above all will require an even greater heroism. For Mary, and Joseph, before the violent, wrenching contradiction of Jesus' rejection by his people and his crucifixion, there came the long, silent, faith-testing contradiction represented by the 'normalcy' of Nazareth. How could the Messiah be apparently just another child?

(continued)

Life in a perspective of salvation. What are your horizons? What are the things that really matter to you? Your job, the local team, entertainment, hanging out with your friends, success, money, your next date, family...? A Christian cannot ultimately live for any of these; they are not what life is about. Every Christian has to be a witness for all to the real meaning of life and where it is to be found: in the One who for many remains a sign of contradiction and a stumbling block. For each one of us, the most important thing must always be eternal salvation: of ourselves, our loved ones, and all our 'people' (all the children of God). Is my entire life arranged around this? All the aforementioned spheres of our existence must be channelled into the one great stream of eternal life (already incipiently present and experienced in this life). Hope is a very practical virtue.

A sign that will be opposed. The disciple is not greater than the Master. The saints, the great founders of religious orders, have typically met with all kinds of opposition, misunderstanding and persecution. Being opposed should be expected as the normal lot of the Christian –no matter what his station. If young people really want to be in contrast with the world they have been born into -not just in a trendy, token way- the most radical way to do so is by being radically Christian.

Shalom,
Fr Stephen



Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Entrance Antiphon

Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
A light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.
Alleluia.

Communion Antiphon

My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

The Parishes operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. The Parish Safeguarding Representative for Our Lady and St Kenelm is Shelagh Ash. Shelagh can be contacted at:sg.olstkenelm.halesowen@rcaob.org.uk. The Parish Safeguarding Representative for Our Lady of Lourdes is Nadine Hancox. Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding @rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.