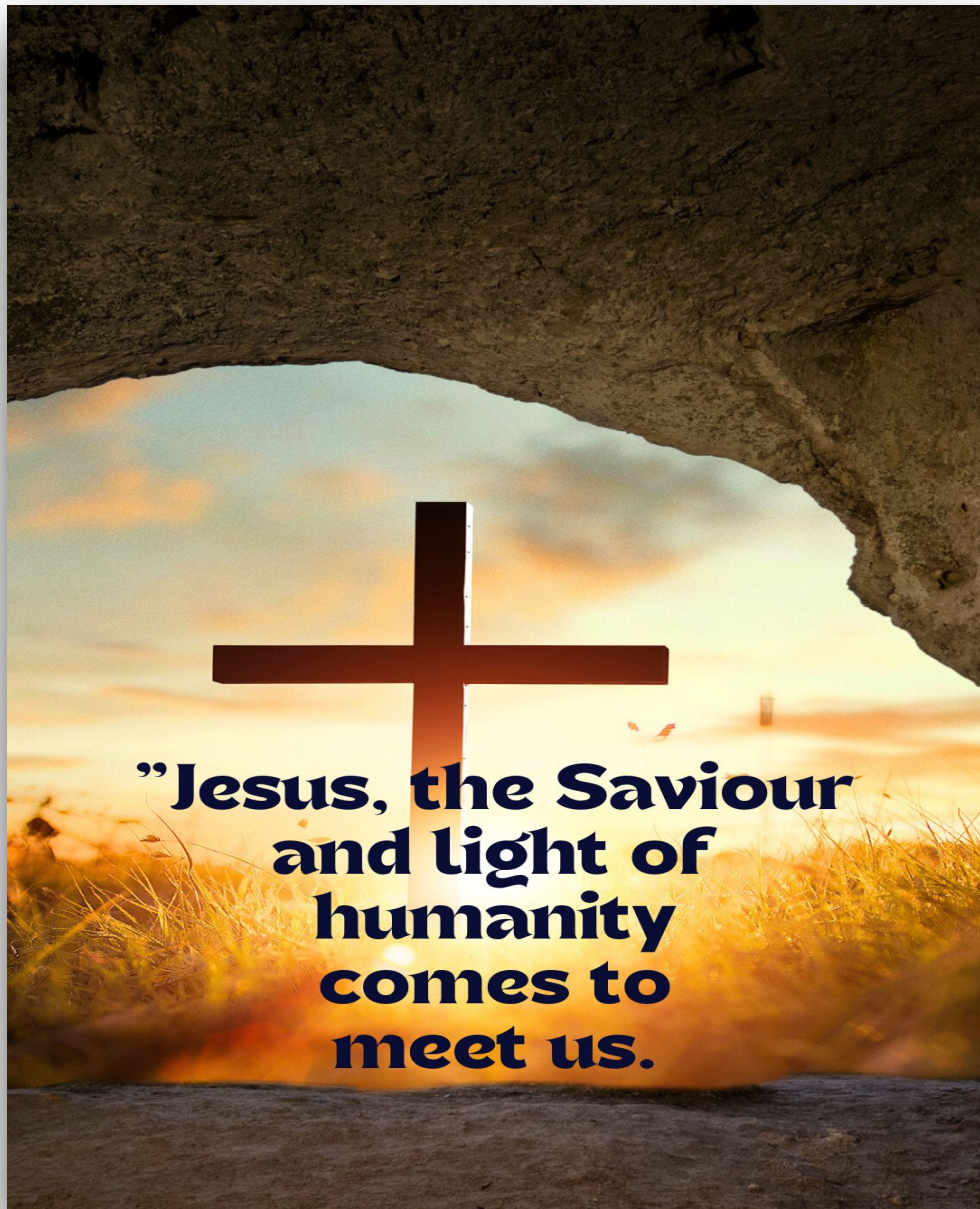


The Presentation of the Lord - Feast



TAKE ME HOME !

02. February 2025



**”Jesus, the Saviour
and light of
humanity
comes to
meet us.**

Priest's Tidings

We have come together to celebrate today the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. It is a feast of joy because of the hope this child brings to people old and young: here is the future, here is salvation: God has kept his promise of life and pardon. But there is also sadness in it: the child will bring pain to his mother and he will be rejected even by some of his own people, though he comes as a light for all. Let the lighted candles in our hands be the sign that we do not reject him but follow him as the light of our life..



Fr Hugo

Entrance Hymn:

676 – Immortal, invisible, God only wise,

Collect:

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever **Amen.**

First Reading:

A reading from the book Malachi .

Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his Temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, 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 sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R./The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory!

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory!. **R./**

Who is this king of glory? The Lord, the mighty, the valiant; the Lord, the valiant in war.. **R./**

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory!.**R/**

Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.
R/

Second Reading:

Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Since the children share in flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that

he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn:

452 – Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Gospel Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke .

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ



Prayers of Intercession

God of light and love, we remember before you all who seek to proclaim the Good News. We ask your blessing upon all ministers of the word and the sacraments, upon all who teach and preach in your name. We pray for all who are striving to bring the light of Christ to darkened lives.

Light of God,
shine upon us.

We remember all who live in darkness and in fear. We pray for the persecuted and the homeless for all who are captives or suffer from war or terrorism. We ask your blessing upon all who are anxious for their lives.

Light of God,
shine upon us.

We pray for all who suffer from blindness or impairment of their sight, for those who suffer from river blindness. We ask you to bless all who seek to relieve their suffering and to restore sight. We pray for any who have lost vision of you and your love.

Light of God,
shine upon us.

We remember all who are in the valley of the shadow of death, all who have passed beyond it to light and life eternal. We pray for our loved ones departed from us. May we all come to rejoice in the fullness of your kingdom.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Offertory Hymn:

649 – God of mercy, God of grace,

Communion Hymn:

2 – Christ, whose glory fills the skies,

Post Communion Prayer:

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever..**Amen.**

Recessional Hymn:

506 – The church's one foundation

Prayer and Meditation

Meditatio:

- What does the Gospel say to me?
- God has willed me to be here, now, today, for a reason. Now is the time to reflect, and find that reason, and hear what God has chosen to tell me.
- A good pattern is this:
 - What has drawn my attention or struck me in some way?
 - Why? Was it a person? A word? A situation? A gesture?
- What, therefore, is God saying to me through these words, here and now, today?
- The "I" and the "me" are important. To say "we" or "us" is to evade the encounter by softening the focus and hiding behind membership of a group. The meeting with Jesus is face to face, one to one.

Oratio:

God has spoken to me. What do I reply?

Silently, each of us responds to what God has said to him through the passage we have read and even through the echoes we have heard.

As a matter of human practicality, one person should be responsible for deciding the time taken for silent prayer. Even better, a timer or hourglass can be used. Otherwise "Are we nearly there yet?" can be a potent distraction.

What's happening in our Parish!

Sunday — Mass at 9:30 am

Caribbean Cultural Celebration

NEXT Sunday 9th February:
please bring some tasty food!

Further Dates for your Diary

- Mothering Sunday 30th March
- First Communion Sunday 11th May
- Confirmations Saturday 7th June

Summer Youth Pilgrimage

We are excited to announce that we are taking part in the national youth pilgrimage to Walsingham, where 500 young people from across the country will attend. More details will come soon but please save the dates: 4th-8th August

TTC

Our Youth Club, Teen Thursday Club (TTC), runs every week

from 5-7pm at Christ Church, 90 Brixton Road. Please spread the word!

RAMS

We will be starting a new men's group called 'Rams' meeting on the second Saturday of each month from 3-5pm in Christ Church, starting on March 8th

Daily Bible Verses

Mon 3 Feb Heb 11:40

Tue 4 Feb Heb 12:1

Weds 5 Feb Heb 12:7

Thur 6 Feb Heb 12:22

Fri 7 Feb Heb 13:1

Donate :

We receive no regular state funding to look after St Matthew's building. Anything you are able to give is greatly appreciated.



CARIBBEAN CULTURAL CELEBRATION

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FEB

ST MATTHEW'S
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