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Link for vacancies throughout the Diocese <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>

The Presentation of the Lord

Sunday 2nd February 2025

Malachi 3: 1-4

Hebrews 2: 14-18

Gospel Luke 2: 22-40

The feast of the *Presentation of the Lord* is celebrated 40 days after the birth of Jesus. It is also called *Candlemas* because it is the day that candles are blessed in many parishes. The candles remind us that Jesus is “*The Light of the World*”

In the first reading from the prophet Malachi tells us that the sins of God’s people will be dealt with and the human-divine relationship will be restored. He speaks of the Lord suddenly coming to Jerusalem to purify the lax, lazy and indifferent priests of His Temple as silver is purified by fire. This foretells the presentation of Jesus in the Temple 40 days after his birth by Mary and Joseph and Simeon saw the infant Jesus as the fulfilment of this prophesy from Malachi. However, the healing of our relationship with God is totally dependent on the mercy and loving-kindness of God. God is ready to come to us so we must constantly prepare ourselves to receive Him. Our role is to accept God’s refining fire and purifying wash. Like the trauma patient in the emergency room our self-inflicted wounds must be treated before healing can proceed.

In the second reading in St Paul’s letter to the Hebrews he proclaims that Jesus is a merciful, faithful and eternal high priest of the new covenant. He replaces the former priesthood and offered Himself on the altar of Calvary, the only pure priestly sacrifice that could please God. In fulfilment of the prophecy of Malachi, Jesus entered the Temple as an infant and at the end of His life sacrificed Himself to God for our salvation. To achieve this mission He had to be like one of us by assuming our nature. By His death He took away the power of the devil and set free all those who had been held in slavery

Luke’s Gospel relates the story of Mary and Joseph faithfully fulfilling the Law of Moses by presenting Jesus, their first born son at the Temple and offering two young pigeons, the sacrifice required of those who cannot afford the more costly turtle-doves. While most people in the Temple see just another poor family fulfilling their religious obligations, Simeon and Anna recognise the One for whom the world has been waiting. Rejoicing in the fulfilment of God’s ancient promises, Simeon proclaims that this child is the “*salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples*”. Presenting a newborn male to the priest was a religious obligation for Jewish families. The mother, who was considered ritually unclean after birthing a son, had to wait 40 days until her purification was complete after which parents presented their son to be consecrated to the Lord in a special way. Like all pious observant Jews, Mary and Joseph awaited God’s deliverance. They did not realise that their son was the deliverer, the long awaited Messiah foretold by the prophet Malachi in the first reading,

Mass times

Feast Days

6 pm Confessions
6.30pm Vigil Mass

Saturday 1st February St Brigid of Kildare (St Brigid Cross) Born into slavery in Ireland. Her mother was a Christian slave. Brought up as a Christian but educated by Druids. Her father was the Chieftain who owned her slave mother. Brigid was generous and gave away her parents possessions to the poor. Became a nun and founded a monastery at Kildare to help the poor and sick. Abbess of a double monastery with nuns and monks. Created holy wells for Irish baptisms. Weaved the “*St Brigid Cross*” to help convert a pagan. Founded school of art to create illuminated manuscripts including *The Book of Kildare*, famous and greatly valued until it was lost in the Reformation. Abbess Brigid died on 1st Feb 525 aged 75. Buried in Down Cathedral, Downpatrick with tombs of St Patrick and St Columba.

9.30 am Mass

Sunday 2nd February The Presentation of the Lord
John, Pat and all the deceased members of the Moon family

6.30 pm Mass

Monday 3rd St Blaise of Sebaste Born in 3rd century in what is now Turkey. Respected physician who was elected bishop by acclamation. Bishop of Sebaste. Popular for physical and spiritual healing. Became a hermit in hiding after Christian persecution. Befriended birds and wild animals. Cured a young boy with fish bone stuck in his throat. “Blessing of the throats” ceremony is performed on his feast day in many churches. He is a saint in both Eastern and Western Churches.

10 am Mass

Tuesday 4th St John de Britto Born 1647 to a noble family in Lisbon, Portugal. His childhood friend eventually became Kung Pedro II of Portugal. John joined the Jesuits as he wanted to be a missionary. He was sent to India in 1673 and led the Madurai Mission in the south east, present day Tamil Nadu. He took the Tamil name *Arul Anandar*, dressed and behaved according to their traditions including his diet. Father John remained a strict vegan until the end of his life, rejecting meat, fish, eggs and alcohol and only living on legumes, fruits and herbs. He led a very austere life style and travelled the vast region of the Maravar country, only ten degrees north of the Equator, painfully on foot experiencing many hardships and hindrances to his preaching. In 1684 he was imprisoned and expelled from India in 1687 back to his home in Lisbon in a state of poor health. His childhood friend now King Pedro II tried to convince him to stay in Portugal but Father John returned with 24 new missionaries to India in 1690 and this time was much more successful in developing an Indian Christian community. One of his many converts was a local prince who had several wives. Before he was baptised he reduced his wives to one which made one of them furious. Her uncle was the king of a neighbouring area who arrested Father John and executed him by decapitation in the sand dunes on the coast. The sand was stained red with his blood and to this day is a red sand dune. It has become a popular shrine for thousands of pilgrims.

SVP Social 1 pm to 3 pm 6.30 pm Mass Thomas Pichappillil RIP	Wednesday 5th St Agatha of Sicily Born in 3 rd century in Sicily into a wealthy Christian family. Deaconess who made a vow of virginity who became a beautiful girl who attracted the attention of the Roman Prefect of Catania Quintianus who was from a peasant background. Agatha's wealthy family he saw as his way to riches and land but she refused his advances. The Roman Emperor Decius was persecuting Christians so he threatened to report her to the authorities. When this had no effect he tried to change her mind with various tortures including cutting off her breasts. Suddenly a huge earthquake shook Catania and Quintianus fled the city. Agatha died of injuries on 5 th February 251.						
10 am Mass	Thursday 6th St Paul Miki and Companions Jesuit missionaries, led by St Francis Xavier introduced Christianity to Japan in 1549. Paul Miki was born in 1562 and was educated by Jesuits. He became a Jesuit novice and was very able and a very skilful preacher who converted many Buddhists. In 1593 Franciscan missionaries were sent to Japan by the King of Spain. When a local warlord was made regent to the Emperor, he started the persecution of Christians as he felt Portugal and Spain were using the missionaries to prepare the country for conquest and make Japan a colony. The Japanese Jesuit novice Paul Miki, 2 Japanese Jesuits, 6 European Franciscan missionaries, 16 Japanese laity and one lay Korean, were publically martyred by crucifixion at Nagasaki in 1597, by order of Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the local warlord who had started the persecution of Christians.						
NO MASS Celebration of the Birthday of Tessa Jomy	Friday 7th St Egidio Maria of St Joseph Born 1729 to a poor family in Italy. Father died when he was 18. He was responsible to care of the family working as a rope maker. In 1747 aged 18 his lack of education meant he could not be a priest so was a professed religious in the Order of Friars Minor in Naples. He then made his solemn profession of vows at the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie, at Galatone in the southern foot of Italy. He took the religious name <i>Egidio Maria of St Joseph</i> . At age 25 he joined the Franciscans at a hospice in Naples. For 53 years he served as a cook and porter. His main concern was for the care of the poor and vulnerable and he worked and cared for lepers. He also travelled outside the convent to beg alms for all his work. Gained a great reputation for his kindness and advice to people of all ages and status. Earned title "Consoler of Naples". He died 1812 in Naples.						
6 pm Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass	Saturday 8th St Josephine Bakhita Born in 1869 in Sudan. Her uncle was chief of the village. Seized by Arab slave traders. Sold to Arab chief. Badly assaulted by his son. Bought by a Turkish army general. Wife beat her daily. Inflicted wounds of 114 cuts on her body. Then bought by Italian Consul whose family treated her kindly. Back in Italy, given to a couple who owned an hotel. Nanny to their daughter. Legally released from slavery. Joined Canossian Sisters as Sister Josephine Margaret Bakhita. Her sanctity and charisma recognised by all who met her. Worked as cook, seamstress, sacristan and door keeper. Kind, gentle and with a calming voice for children. Book of her life story in 1931. Trained missionary nuns for work in Africa, work that was dear to her heart. Sister Josephine Bakhita died 8 th February 1947. She is the patron saint of Sudan and victims of human trafficking.						
9.30 am Mass	Sunday 9th February Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time Thanksgiving Mass for the 45th Wedding Anniversary of Xavier and Debbie Fernandes						
PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION							
Your prayers are needed for the following people							
Sue Chandler	Hazel Sale	Joe Heatley	Trevor Delves	Fr Shaun Budden	Fr Antony Gatt		

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next SVP Social is on next Wednesday 5th February – 1pm to 3 pm

This is another opportunity to meet for refreshments and a chat. Please come along with your friends. No need to stay for the whole time, a few minutes of two hours, whatever suits you. Renee and Pat.

Appeal for Raffle Prizes from Liz Challand

Do you have any unwanted Christmas presents that you do not need and may be used as Raffle Prizes to raise funds for our parish of St Vincent de Paul? If you do please drop them into the Sacristy or church office.

Pope Francis has made 2025 a “Jubilee Year of Hope”. Diocesan Novena for St Josephine Bakhita.

Historically, Jubilee Years were times when debts were cancelled and slaves liberated. Caritas in the diocese is increasing its efforts to combat and speak out against all forms of Modern Slavery. The patron saint of human trafficking is St Josephine Bakhita who was seized from her village in Sudan by Arab slave traders and sold on to different people who treated her badly until she was bought by an Italian Consul who freed her from slavery so she could become a nun. Her feast day is on 8th February and is one of the few Black Saints in the Church. The diocese has started a novena from 30th January up to her feast day

Special Second Collection for St John the Evangelist Cathedral in Portsmouth last weekend

Donations in Gift Aid envelopes came to £111 (Gift Aid: £27.25). Loose plate was £52.75

Parish collection for last weekend 25th and 26th January

Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Other Money	Cathedral		TOTAL of all money
£97	£24.25	£130.55	£242.54	£51.98	£546.32	----	£111	£52.75	£710.07