

# FAITH @ Home

2 FEBRUARY 2025: THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD | YEAR C



Diocese of Waterford & Lismore  
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*Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love in the heart of the family!*

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION ALSO AVAILABLE

## Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Malachi 3:1-4

Responsorial Psalm:

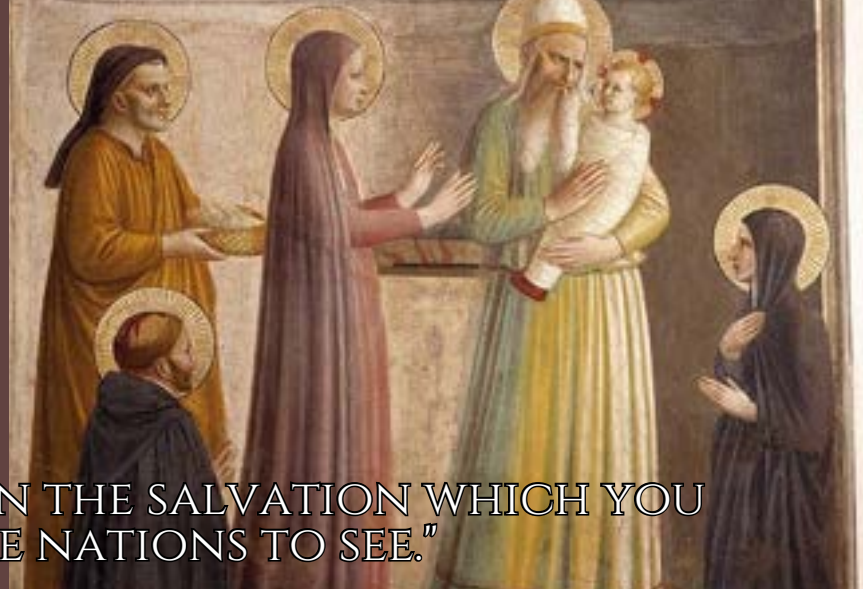
Psalm 23(24):7-10

Second Reading:

Hebrews 2:14-18

Gospel:

Luke 2:22-40



Fra Angelico, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

"BECAUSE MY EYES HAVE SEEN THE SALVATION WHICH YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ALL THE NATIONS TO SEE."

## Hear



Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find this week's readings online [HERE](#).

## Pray



In the Gospel today we hear the story of Jesus being presented by Mary and Joseph in the temple, meeting the faithful figures of Simeon and Anna.

Take some time to reflect on the key message of this week's Gospel. Think about the following:

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Imagine yourself in this scene: do you think there was something visibly different about this little family arriving at the temple? How do you feel when you hear Simeon's prayer of praise to God?
- Take time to pray this week, honestly reflecting on how you are focused on the Lord: are you looking for Him each day? Do you praise God throughout the day for His presence and graces? Are you living a life of service to God?

## Family Prayer



*Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled; my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people; a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.*

## Talk

- Today we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and meet the characters of Simeon and Anna who faithfully waited for the coming of the Messiah.
- Can you think of a time when you waited as a family for something, like a holiday, or a visit from a good friend, or a birthday? How did you feel while waiting? How did you prepare?
- Simeon and Anna never gave up hope and trust that God would provide, that He would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." They recognised that in Jesus even though He was very little. How do you think they knew that they had met the Messiah that day?
- How can we be so filled with God's spirit that we can recognise Him in other people and in situations we encounter each day?

## Family Challenge!



Today is also known as Candlemas - can you bring a candle for your home to the Church today to be blessed? Use it throughout the year for prayer times at home!

# THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE OF REDEMPTION

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple. The Presentation, which is celebrated 40 days after Christmas, is not mentioned in the other Gospels. Only Luke tells the story, most likely because he writes for Gentile Christians who are not familiar with the Jewish rite of presentation and purification. In addition, the intent of Luke's Gospel is to show that God's promise to Israel, fulfilled in Jesus, extends to Gentiles.

Luke recognizes Joseph and Mary as faithful Jews who bring Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Here they present their firstborn son to the Lord. Jesus is thus consecrated as required by the Law of Moses. Present in the temple at this time are Simeon and Anna. Both are awaiting the restoration of God's rule in Israel.

Simeon had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see Christ the Lord, the Messiah, before he died. The holy man immediately recognized the infant Jesus as the promised Savior, a "light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." Anna also recognized Jesus as the fulfillment of the promise of redemption and spoke about him to all.

Loyola Press - Sunday Connection

## Ideas to celebrate the feast of the Presentation with your family!

- Watch God's Story: Anna and Simeon (Crossroads Kids Club) together
- Pray the fourth Joyful Mystery together and talk about what happened on the day Jesus was presented in the temple. What were each of the people in the story doing and saying?
- Get candles blessed at Mass today for your home.
- Have supper by candlelight and talk about how Jesus is the light of the world.



## CARLO'S CORNER

### Encountering Jesus


Have you ever met someone famous? Maybe you knew you were going to meet them and you were so excited! You knew all about them, you were their No. 1 fan! Maybe you just saw them in the distance and that was enough.

Simeon and Anna in today's Gospel waited their entire lives to encounter the Messiah - the long prophesied one who would save their nation and they instantly recognised Him as a tiny baby.

Can you imagine the amount of trust and faith in God they had to recognise His presence in a tiny little baby boy, unable to speak yet, so totally dependent on his parents for everything?

Do we recognise Jesus and His presence in our lives? Have we met Him, really and truly encountered Him in a personal way that changed our lives? It might not have been a dramatic event, maybe just gradual over time, but to really be a Christian involves a personal encounter with the One who created us, knows us and loves us infinitely. That changes everything.

Maybe you're not sure if you've met Jesus personally, and that's ok! The good news is you have so many more opportunities - every moment of every day in fact! And all you have to do is ask Him to reveal Himself to you - make a simple and honest prayer with the heart. Then let Him introduce Himself to you and become part of your life.

 How Do I Know If I've Actually Encountered Jesus?(Fr Mike Schmitz)

 Pat Barrett, Steffany Gretzinger - Knowing You

*To the Heights Youth Resource also available*

Check this out

AMEN

The Amen app is the free Catholic prayer app from the Augustine Institute that inspires your daily conversation with God through faithful meditations and nourishing Scripture. Featuring Music, Meditations, Examinations of Conscience, Daily Mass Readings, One Minute Inspirations, Stories and Meditations for Sleep, Family Content and much more.

Android | Apple

Amen

PSALM 24  
Word For Word

Psalm 24: Word For Word (Lyric Video) • ESV Scripture Song

Zac Fitzsimmons Music

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