



Virtual Family Prayer Bag

Dear Parent / Carer,
here is an electronic version of our Prayer Bag
for the Feast of the Presentation!

Celebrating The Presentation

Please take some time over the next few days
to come together, as a family, in prayer.



A Message from Bishop David

My dear young friends in Christ,

Today we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord. Mary and Joseph take the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. The presentation of a first born infant is an important moment in a Jewish family at the time of Jesus. The Holy Family are recognising that every child is a gift from God, that the Jewish family belongs to a people who were redeemed from slavery in Egypt and led by God to the promised land. What is significant about this moment are two other people who are also in the Temple on that day. A man named Simeon is someone who has real faith that God will deliver on His promises. When he sees Jesus, his life is fulfilled and he is happy. Are we happy to meet with Jesus in the sacraments? And then there is an elderly lady called Anna. I love the way she is filled with joy when she meets Jesus. She dances! She tells everyone else about what God is doing. Are we filled with joy when we meet with Jesus? Do we want to tell everyone about Him? On this lovely Feast, we can bless candles and celebrate the moment when Jesus, the light of the world, comes into our midst. Why not ask Jesus today to come into a dark world and to bring new hope and encouragement. He is still the Light of the world!

God bless,

✠ David

Rt Revd Dr David J Oakley

Bishop of Northampton

The Presentation



Gathering

Set aside some time in your day
to gather together for prayer
Make sure you are all sitting comfortably
Light a candle



In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

On the 2nd February,
40 days after Christmas Day,
we celebrate the feast of the
Presentation of the Lord.



Jesus was taken,
by Mary and Joseph,
to the Temple in Jerusalem
where they presented him
to God the Father.



In the Temple
there was a good and holy man
called Simeon.



There was also a woman
called Anna.
She was eighty four years old.

Anna and Simeon
never left the Temple.
They served God
day and night in prayer.
They waited in hope
to see the Saviour of the World.



When Mary and Joseph
arrived with Jesus
Simeon and Anna recognised
who he was.

They were elderly and had spent
their lives growing closer to God.
Now they meet him face to face
and recognised him in their midst.



A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you O Lord

Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple as the Bible told them to. They wanted to thank God for Jesus.

At the Temple, they met an old man called Simeon.

He was a good and holy person. He often went to the Temple to pray. When he saw Jesus Simeon took him in his arms and praised God.

Simeon said, 'Now at last I can die in peace just as you have promised; for I have seen Jesus the light of the world. This baby will bring light and joy to the world.'



Mary and Joseph were surprised by Simeon's words and didn't know what he meant at the time. Simeon blessed them.



After that, they met Anna.
She was eighty four years old
and spent all her time
in the Temple praying.





Anna said a thank-you prayer to God for Jesus and told everyone that when Jesus grew up he would do many great and wonderful things.

Mary and Joseph
were amazed at all they
had seen and heard.
They left the Temple
and went back home to Nazareth
where Jesus grew up
and learned to praise God.



The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



We were presented
before God at our baptism.



Now we are old enough
to present ourselves to God
today and everyday
of our lives.



Let us say this prayer together
giving ourselves to God the Father:

**God our loving Father,
we present ourselves
to you today
and we ask you to bless us
in everything we do
and everything we say.
Amen**



The Feast of the Presentation
is also called
Candlemas
because Simeon recognised
that Jesus would bring light
to the whole world.





Let us look at the candle
and say thank you for its flame
which changes darkness into light.

We thank God together as we say:

‘Thank you for the Light’

Let us look at the candle
and say thank you
for the moon and the stars
which light up the night sky



We thank God together as we say:

'Thank you for the light'

Let us look at the candle
and say thank you for the sun
which gives us daylight
and helps us to see
all the colours of the rainbow.



We thank God together as we say:

‘Thank you for the light’

Let us look at the candle
and say thank you for Jesus
the light of the world,
who came to show us the way to
God our Father.



We thank God together as we say:

'Thank you for the light'

Let us look at the candle
and say thank you
for ourselves



that we are children of the light
who walk in the light
of the Lord everyday

We thank God together as we say:

‘Thank you for the light’

In the Temple Simeon knew that
Jesus would bring light
to the whole world.

Let us think about and pray for
people from from the five
continents of the world.





We pray for the homeless,
the starving,
those suffering from war
and violence
and all those who are sick
especially with coronavirus
across the whole world.

We ask God's blessing
on the people of
Asia.



May they walk in the light of the Lord.

We ask God's blessing
on the people of
Africa.



May they walk in the light of the Lord.

We ask God's blessing
on the people of the Americas.



May they walk in the light of the Lord.

We ask God's blessing
on the people of
Australia.



May they walk in the light of the Lord.

We ask God's blessing
on the people of
Europe.



May they walk in the light of the Lord.

Let us join together
with our brothers and sisters
across the world
as we pray to God our Father



Our Father who art in heaven.....

Jesus asks us to spread his light
around the world.

Lets do this by starting with the
people closest to us in our
families and our school.



Sending Forth

What can you do to share
Jesus' light
with your family and friends?



**Loving Father
you sent your son Jesus
to be the light of the world
saving everyone from the darkness of sin.
Help us to live in his light
and to share it with all those we meet
Amen**





**Click on the link below
to watch / listen / join in with**

Share the Light of Jesus