

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.

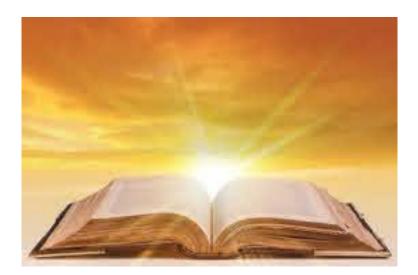
Anna and Simeon never left the Temple. They served God day and night in prayer. They waited in hope to see the Saviour of the World.



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.

God's Word



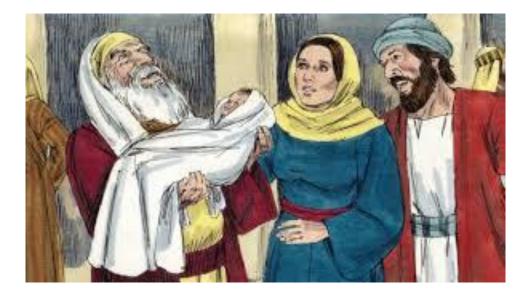
A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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.



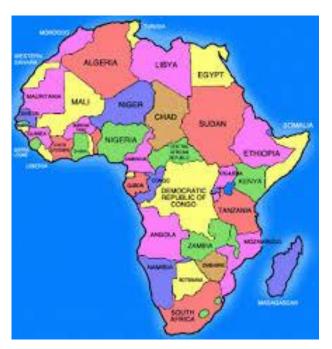


We pray for the homeless, the starving, those suffering from war and violence and all those who are sick especially with coronavirus across the whole world.

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



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



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



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



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



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