

## GOSPEL READINGS

### 1 Luke 2:22-40

- 2 Mark 5:1-20
- 3 Mark 5:21-end
- 4 Mark 6:1-6a
- 5 Mark 6:7-13
- 6 Mark 6:12-29
- 7 Mark 6:30-34

### 8 Matthew 6:25-end

- 9 Mark 6:53-end
- 10 Mark 7:1-13
- 11 Mark 7:14-23
- 12 Mark 7:24-30
- 13 Mark 7:31-end
- 14 Mark 8:1-10

### 15 Matthew 17:1-9

- 16 Mark 8:11-13
- 17 Mark 8:14-21
- 18 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
- 19 Luke 9:22-25
- 20 Mark 9:14-15
- 21 Luke 5:27-32

### 22 Matthew 4:1-11

- 23 Matthew 25:31-end
- 24 Matthew 6:7-15
- 25 Luke 11:29-32
- 26 Matthew 7:7-12
- 27 Matthew 5:20-26

- 28 Matthew 6:43-end

### Presentation of Christ in the Temple (*Candlemass*)

Anskar, archbishop  
*Gilbert, Gilbertine Order*

*Martyrs of Japan*

### 2nd Sunday before Lent

*Scolastica, abbess*

Cyril & Methodius, missionaries  
**Sunday next before Lent**

Janani Luwum, archbishop martyr  
**Ash Wednesday**

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

Polycarp. Bishop, martyr

Ember Day

George Herbert, priest, poet  
Ember Day  
Ember Day

## PRAYER DIARY FEBRUARY

### 40 DAYS



**The Presentation of Christ in the Temple** took place **40 days** after his birth.

It marks the end of the Christmas story. Jesus' parents took him to the Temple to present him to the Lord.

It symbolised both purification rites after childbirth and redemption of the first born, Jewish customs found in the Old Testament.

As they were poor (so couldn't afford to take a lamb) they took 2 turtle doves to present.

In the Temple they met Simeon and Anna, two older people who were waiting for the coming of the Messiah.

*(I Like to think of it as a Feast for Older People!)*

Later in the month we celebrate  
**Ash Wednesday**,

this time the beginning of the  
**40 days** of Lent before Easter  
(not including Sundays)



In church we receive ashes on our foreheads in the shape of a cross, symbolizing death and sorrow for sin.

They are a public reminder of our mortality and the call to repent and believe in the Good News of salvation.

It is a day of fasting and abstinence.

## **Preparation**

Take time to become still and ask the Holy Spirit to help you pray. You might like to use something to help you like lighting a candle.

We pray that the Gospel may come into our lives not in word only but also in the power of the Spirit, and that our love may not be a matter of words or talk but be genuine and show itself in action.  
Help us, our Father, to mean this our prayer as we ask it in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Bible Reading**

Read the Gospel passage set for today slowly.  
(see back cover)

Notice if any words or phrases jump out to you.  
Meditate on these and what they might be saying to you, your church and the community you live in.

## **Time for prayer for others and ourselves**

Take time to think about and pray for:  
what you have learned today from the Gospel  
the world which God made and loves  
those with whom we share our lives  
anyone in special need  
our parish

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Ending**

Creator God,  
I offer you this day.  
Give me grace to love and serve you  
to the praise of Jesus Christ the Lord.  
Amen.

## **Prayers**

### **Presentation**

Lord we praise you for the quiet strength of Joseph,  
the prophetic insight of Simeon,  
the self-dedication of Anna  
the courage of Mary as she faced the truth  
that a sword would pierce her heart.

Make us bearers of your light which lightens the world,  
help us, like Simeon, to live for you and depart in peace.

**Angela Ashwin**

*Come, and with divine songs let us also go to meet Christ,  
and let us receive him who saw salvation Simeon saw. This  
is he whom David announced: this is he whose words the  
prophets uttered, who for our sake has taken flesh and  
speaks to us in his new law. Let us worship him.*

**Ancient Orthodox Liturgy**

## **Ash Wednesday**

Dust and ashes touch our face,  
mark our failure and our falling.  
Holy Spirit, come,  
walk with us tomorrow,  
take us as disciples,  
washed and wakened by your calling.  
Take us by the hand and lead us,  
lead us through the desert sands,  
bring us living water,  
Holy Spirit, come.

**Brian A. Wren**

