

✠ 4th Sunday of Epiphany ✠

Sunday 1st February (CANDLEMAS)

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

(Malachi 3:1-5)

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi:

'I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,' says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years. 'So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud labourers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,' says the Lord Almighty.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING:

(Galatians 4:1-7)

A reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians :

What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.' So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

(Luke 2:22-40)

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in the flesh and proclaimed among the nations. **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Glory to you, O Lord.

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord'), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons'. Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, saying: 'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.' The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: 'This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Almighty Father, we ask that you bless these offerings, which we present to you, and transform them into a source of light and hope for all. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen.

PARISH CONTACTS

Fr Peter: P: 07412 624931

During Vacancy E: frpeter@stgeorgechorley.co.uk

Fr Jordan: P: 07450269010

Rest: Mondays E: curate@stgeorgechorley.co.uk

BLACKBURN DIOCESE CENTENARY



ST GEORGE'S CHORLEY

NOTICES FOR 1ST FEBRUARY 2026

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

WELCOME - as we gather together to hear from God in His word, to receive God in the Sacrament, and to encourage each other in the faith.

ST GEORGE'S CONTACTS

John Bradley: P: 07375 047982
Warden E: jm30.bradley@gmail.com
Lorraine Smith: P: 07729 886640
Warden E: lorraine54@me.com
Sian Philipson: E: churchhall@stgeorgechorley.co.uk
Church Hall

PANTOMIME TIME! – the DAMS panto this year is Cinderella. Shows in the Hall: Thursday 19th Feb, 7:00pm; Friday 20th, 7:00pm and Saturday 21st at 4:00pm. Expect laughs, songs, sparkle, and plenty of fairy-tale fun for the whole family — oh yes there is! Tickets now on sale. £8 and £6 concessions. See Margaret Turner. Tel. 01257 276540 or pay on the door.

MORNING PRAYER FRIDAYS – 9:15am. in the side chapel. Everyone is welcome to join us to pray for the parish and the community during the vacancy.

CANDLE WAX APPEAL. A reminder that soldiers are still fighting in the trenches in Ukraine; so please save the ends of your candles and place them in the bag at church.

PRAYER TREE - Due to the ongoing sufferings of the peoples of the Ukraine, Sudan and Gaza, along with the recent events in the USA, our prayer focus for the next couple of months will be on **World Peace** alongside continuing to pray for our vacancy.

PARISH PASTORAL VISITING TEAM – if you know of anyone who would like a visit from the team or a Home Communion, please contact Carol Pearson either by phone or email: carolpearson@outlook.com or call 07981 021288.

CASHLESS DONATIONS, ST GEORGE'S CHURCH –

One-off or regular, please use these bank details:-

Account Name – St Georges Parochial Church Council
Sort Code – 160039 Account Number – 16383850

We also accept cashless donations via the Give A Little Platform (bank transfers do not incur fees). See the separate QR Code. If eligible, please complete a Gift Aid Declaration Form, available at the back of church, allowing us to reclaim tax on your donation. Thank you.

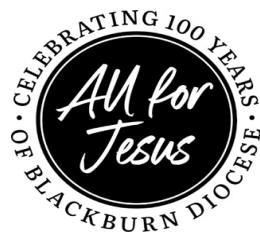


Our hymns this morning

Processional **642** The God of Abraham praise
Gradual **84** Breathe on me, breath of God (tune. 2)
Offertory **163** Father, Lord of all creation
Communion: **Choir**: Virgin-born, we bow before thee
157 Faithful vigil ended
399 Like a candle flame
Post Communion **716** We have a gospel to proclaim

THE QUIZ: "GI'E US A JOB" – entries should be returned by NEXT Sunday, 8th February.

FRUITFUL APP – Blackburn diocese have a handy app you can download which contains numerous events, videos and information about the diocese. Scan the QR code below.



VACANCY PRAYER

You are encouraged to please use this prayer daily.

Heavenly Father,
In this time of waiting, we place our trust in You.
Keep us unified as a parish and faithful in prayer.
Send down your Holy Spirit to guide those responsible
for choosing our new incumbent.
May the one chosen be a wise and gentle shepherd
of your people, ready to serve us with joy,
build us in faith and grow our church family.
We ask this in Jesus's name. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers:

Marian Crossthwaite, Harold Dunseath, Linda Eubank, Jonathan Yates, Margaret Salisbury, Simon Newell, Norman Whittaker, Dorothy Treadwell, Margaret Beaumont, Marjorie Baxendale, Audrey Clark
also the families of the recently departed:
Pauline Murphy, Elizabeth Hurley,
Also for those whose years' mind falls at this time:
Betsy Roper, David Norris, Peter Foulds, Gladys Davies, Dorothy Hodgson, Irene Haworth

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God,

