



## St Mary the Virgin and All Saints Potters Bar

**1st February 2026**

### The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

*A warm welcome to St Mary's,  
especially if this is your first time here.*

*Refreshments are served in the hall after the Family Eucharist.*

#### TODAY'S SERVICES

8.00am **SAID EUCHARIST**

10.00am **FAMILY EUCHARIST**

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3 vv 1-5 *The prophet foretells the mission of John the Baptist, the messenger who was to prepare Christ's way; and he speaks of the Advent of Our Lord himself.*

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 2 vv 14-18 *By his death, Christ liberates us from the power of death and enables us to choose life. Having overcome temptation, he enables us to reject temptation with him and thereby live.*

Gospel: Luke 2 vv 22-40 *Jesus' life is dedicated to God's service and his unique identity and importance is confirmed by the testimony of Simeon and Anna.*

**Hymns:** 204, 175, 142, 330, 207

**As candles are lit:** Nunc Dimittis – Brewer

*This week's flowers have been arranged by Stephanie Maughan  
& donated by Jane Fenoughty in memory of her son Chas*

### The Week Ahead

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>St Anskar, archbishop &amp; missionary</b>
9.30am	Morning Prayer
12.30pm	Recital by Lucy Cox & Tom Jesty (soprano & piano)
	<i>Light lunches available from 12 noon</i>
5.00pm	Evening Prayer
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.30am Said Eucharist
10.30am – 12 noon	Church open for visitors
5.00pm	Evening Prayer
<b>Thursday</b>	9.30am Said Eucharist (BCP)
10.30am – 12 noon	Church open for visitors
5.00pm	Evening Prayer
<b>Friday</b>	9.30am Morning Prayer
5.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
<b>Saturday</b>	8.30am Churches Together Prayers at the United Reformed Church

**Next Sunday** is the **Second Sunday before Lent**

8.00am Said Eucharist

10.00am **SUNG EUCHARIST**

5.00pm Evensong

Next Sunday's readings will be: Genesis 1 v 1 – 2 v 3;  
Romans 8 vv 18-25 and Matthew 6 vv 25-34.



### Parish Notices

The Friendship Group will meet on **Monday 9th February** at 10.30am at the Oakmere Tea Rooms. All welcome.

Church cleaning will take place on **Tuesday 10th February** from 10.15am to 12 noon. If you can lend a hand that morning, please do come along. You will be most welcome.

Once again this year, we shall enjoy a **pre-Lent lunch** in the hall on **Sunday 15th February** from 12 noon. Graham and Aoy Jones (Julia's parents) have again kindly offered to provide a lunch of Thai food for us. **Please sign the list on the noticeboard** if you want to come. A donation towards the lunch (**£10 minimum**) is requested; proceeds will be shared between St Mary's and our Lent charity. Please give your donation to either **Richard, Jenny Pearce** or **Liz Nethercott**. There will be wine and soft drinks available with the lunch but you can also bring your own drinks if you wish.

**Lent** will soon be here! **Ash Wednesday** is **18th February**. There will be a Eucharist with imposition of ashes here at **10.00am**. In the evening, we shall again join with other churches in the town for an ecumenical non-eucharistic service at Our Lady & St Vincent Church at **7.30pm**.

### For your prayers

**The sick** Anna Downes, Valerie Taylor, Elizabeth Liney, Carole Waller, Joan Golden, Carlos Perez, Lisa Collins, Linda, Daren Elis, Maureen Alderman, Alison Stevens, Bob Keefe, Lindsey Lyons, Steven Seal

**We also pray for** Keith Downes, Jayne Hutton, Janet Daniels, Francoise Groves-de-Milleret, Susan North, Julia, Tessa, Nicola Stiff, Ron Golden, Ricky Mella, Sasha Burt, Betty Lockton, David Evans, Richard Barnes, Dave Gough, Pauline Phillips, Keith Probert, Prussia Blake, Charlotte

**The recently departed** Theresa Wager, Carol Whalley

**Those whose anniversary of death falls this week**

Len Field, Roger Parker, Fr Richard Rainsford, Alma Frost, John Loader, Ron Metcalf

**Our parish** We remember those who live in The Ridgeway, Ritz Court and St Francis Close

**Fr Stefan Chrysostomou, Vicar** Tel: 01707 859028

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Please send any items for this sheet to **Richard Osborn**

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Our livestreamed services are available at:

[www.facebook.com/stmaryspb](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryspb)

**THE 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 Hebrews 2: 14-18**

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

**GOSPEL Luke 2: 22-40**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord") and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna, the

daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God, and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

**AFTER COMMUNION**

*As our candles are lit, the Choir sing the "Nunc Dimittis"*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace : according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation : which thou hast prepared before the face of all people ;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

**FINAL RESPONSORY**

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.

**Help us, in whom he has been born,  
to live his life that has no end.**

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.

**Help us, who have received the bread of life,  
to be thankful for your gift.**

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

**Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple,  
to trust in your eternal promises.**

Here we have greeted the Light of the world.

**Help us, who now extinguish these candles,  
never to forsake the light of Christ.**

*All now extinguish their candles.*

Here as we now stand near the place of baptism.

**Help us, who are marked with the cross,  
to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

Here as we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.

**Help us, for whom Lent is near,  
to enter more deeply into the Easter mystery.**

Here as we bless one another in your name.

**Help us, who now go in peace,  
to shine with your light in the world.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**