

FAMILY PRAYER

At Home

All Saints
Catholic Academy Trust



Thursday 1st February 2024

Candlemas - The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ



Tomorrow, the **2nd February** we celebrate the Feast of **Candlemas Day**. The feast celebrates the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple and is also known as the feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary. On Candlemas Day, many Catholics attend mass and say special prayers.

This feast marks the fortieth day since Christmas, when the child Jesus was presented to the Lord in the Temple. It is customary on this day to bless candles.

Time to prepare to pray

Gather together in a quiet space within your home.

How can you mark this as a time for prayer? Perhaps you could light a candle or play some calming music.

If you have a family Bible, prayer book or crucifix, perhaps you could have this with you also.



Begin by making the sign of the cross together.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, we bless your name for sending us your Son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

As we light these candles on Candlemas, may they remind us of his light, which guides us through darkness and into your everlasting love.

Amen.

Scripture - Luke 2:22-40

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.



Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation".

The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. There was also a prophet, Anna who was very old. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God.



Reflection

Simeon and Anna had waited their whole lives and were thrilled and overjoyed to have a glimpse of the Saviour.

They knew that Jesus was called by God and *dedicated* to something special.

Jesus was dedicated to serve and to die for us.

How can we be *dedicated* to Him?

Quiet Prayer

Let us thank God for giving us Jesus and for giving our lives meaning.

We ask God to direct our paths to do what we can for others.

We thank Jesus for lighting the way for us in our lives.
Amen.

Amen

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