



ST ANDREW'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Newsletter for the week commencing 2nd February 2025

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Entrance Antiphon: Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

First Reading: Malachi 3: 1-4

Psalm 24 Response: The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory!

Second Reading: the Letter to the Hebrews 2: 14-18

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

Father Behr writes:

Dear Parishioners,

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION

We can review our relation to God in respect of the phenomenon of the passage of time today on this Feast of the Presentation. God stands outside of time. He created time. He is waiting, as it were, for us to join Him in the eternal realm. The original meaning of eternity is 'outside time' – Latin root 'aeternitas', meaning endless duration or timelessness.

At the Feast of the Presentation the baby Jesus is presented to God by Joseph and Mary. Time seems to stand still. The holy man Simeon realises that the Messiah is Jesus, that history is about to change in a massive way. Christ Jesus, true God and true Man, is the eternal man, the being who brings an end to death once and for all.

Simeon also foresees the suffering that Our Lord would face three decades later. With it he realises and speaks of a 'sword that would pierce' Mary's heart. Our Lady at this early moment of Jesus' life starts to grasp that Jesus must die young and give all to glorify the Father, maker of Heaven and Earth, who dwells in the eternal and everlasting realm where death has no dominion.

The eternal realm of heaven is our goal and our aim, won for us at much cost. Let us be grateful to God. Let us present to Him on this day our thanks for Jesus. We are invited to give Jesus a chance to open our hearts, to ask Him to help us be more forgiving and more focused on the riches of God's graces. These graces, found especially in the sacraments, and particularly in the worthy reception of Holy Communion, assist and lift us. They revive our drooping spirits and help us to help our neighbours and those with deep troubles: the hungry, the depressed, those with ruinous addictions, the lonely, to name but a few.

These graces are full of divine energy and supernatural light. They illuminate our path away from the wrongdoing that can at worst lead to hell, or a lengthy purgatory, to good works prompted by love and therefore to a quicker entry to heaven. There, Holy Mighty Immortal God dwells radiating indescribable joy, love and beauty. Our Saviour Jesus is inviting us there, to the eternal mansions He has prepared for us.

Fr Behr

Your Prayers are asked for:

Recently deceased: Betty Murphy RIP

Those ill or infirm: Michael Payne, Brian Lawrence, Roger Styles, Mary Basher, Paul Rumball, Paul Lane, Mara McDermot, June Munton, Ailish Cantwell (Jones), Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Patricia Hook, Josie Payne, Pat Holland and all those who are unwell and in need of our prayers.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time: Joan Freeman, Kathleen Lewis, Lady Sheila Bates, John McDonald, Dorothy Castle, Adele Sherston, Patrick O'Keeffe, Michael Cahill, Norma Dayborn and Anne Page.

Masses and services for the week (2nd – 8th February), Feasts and Mass intentions.	
Saturday 1st February The Conversion of St Paul the Apostle	No public Mass am 6pm Vigil Mass <i>In Reparation to the Sacred Heart</i> Reader: Liz
Sunday 2nd February THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	10am Mass <i>People of the Parish</i> Reader: Frances 12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass
Monday 3rd February	10am Mass <i>Pat Hook and Family</i>
Tuesday 4th February	10am Mass <i>Donor's Intention</i>
Wednesday 5th February	10am Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday 6th February	9am – 10am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Teresa Davis RIP</i>
Friday 7th February	10am Mass <i>Private Intention (Christine)</i> 10.30 – 11am Adoration
Saturday 8th February	No public Mass am 6pm Vigil Mass <i>People of the Parish</i> Reader: Wendy
Sunday 9th February	10am Mass <i>Last Family and Paul Rumball</i> Reader: Kathy 12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass
Flowers for 9th February - Frances	
Cleaning for 8th/9th February - Brian and Frances	

Confession Fr Behr is available for Confession every Saturday from 10.30am - 11am. He is also happy to visit those who are not able to come to church.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy at the 10am Mass is on the first Sunday of every month. All children who have not made their First Holy Communion are welcome to attend. The next lesson with Lorraine this Sunday, February 2nd.

Parish WhatsApp

Our parish has a WhatsApp group. We will post parish events including social events, special occasions and requests for help in the parish as well as general parish news.

If you would like to join please get in touch. Fr Behr

Events planned for 2025 - add these dates to your diary!

Friday 4 April - we are planning a Fish, Chip & Quiz night. Details to follow shortly.

Saturday 15 November will see the return of our Advent Fair

Saturday 29 November we will host a 'Potluck Supper' to celebrate the feast day of St Andrew

Called to Bear Fruit

Below you finds details of an important initiative from our diocese. I encourage you to take part.

Help Shape the Future of Our Archdiocese

The Archbishop invites you to play a vital role in shaping the future of our Archdiocese. In today's pastoral letter, he encourages everyone to reflect on the themes in the *Called to Bear Fruit* booklet and participate in small group discussions over the coming weeks. Here's how you can get involved:

- **Form a group:** Gather 4–12 people.
- **Choose your schedule:** Discuss all six themes across six sessions or combine them into fewer meetings—whatever works best for you.
- **Share your insights:** Submit your group's reflections via our online form or as a typed hard copy.

The more people who take part, the richer our understanding of the needs of our archdiocese will be. Let's work together to shape our future! Thank you for your involvement.

Building a Better Marriage (BABM) – Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope

To celebrate Jubilee 2025 a one day Building a Better Marriage opportunity will be held in the following 9 Southwark deaneries during 2025.

The day starts at 9.30am and finishes at 4.30pm and is free to attend. The day will be open to other deaneries in 2026 who have not experienced the event

To join one of these day's please contact Carole on 07983 524 727 or email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

15 March - Our Lady Queen of Peace, East Sheen

12 April – St Mary Church, Croydon West

28 June – St Raphael Church, Kingston Upon Thames

5 July - St Thomas More, Dulwich

13 September – Southwark Cathedral, London

4 October – Holy Cross, Catford

1 November – St James the Great, Petts Wood

Grief in Loss, Hope in Christ retreat for the bereaved - Aylesford Priory 21-23 March 2025 and 10-12 Oct 2025

Assisted Suicide: what you need to know, and what you can do

All parishioners are invited to a special talk on Thursday 13th February at 7.30pm at St Michael's parish hall, Chatham. The speaker is Dr. Cajetan Skowronski, a specialist geriatric and palliative care doctor in the NHS, and national media commentator. He will discuss the serious dangers of the assisted suicide bill, healthcare realities, and what we can do. Educational literature available. Refreshments served. Car park on site. Chatham train station 30 seconds away.

Baby Basics

Thanks to everyone for their continued generosity in our official collection box.

Food Bank

Regrettably post-Christmas and New Year, the need for this collection continues and again many thanks to all the generous donors

Christmastide Reflective Services – Women of the Nativity – 9am – followed by light breakfast

The last service will be: Saturday 1st February – Anna's story – St John, the Baptist, Wittersham

Christian Meditation

On the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6pm (45 minutes) and for the foreseeable future in Saint Andrew's Church, because of the Saint Mildred's refurbishment

The World Day of Prayer (formerly the Women's World Day of Prayer)

In 2025, this will be on March 7th, at 2 pm, and will be hosted by Saint Andrew's. The material has been compiled by the women of the Cook Islands. Pat Sargent asks you to put the date in your diary and to come along to support this beautiful and world-wide service.

Parish Magazine

This publication is now an ecumenical publication with contributions from the Catholic, Baptist and Church of England denominations. Please purchase a copy and leave your donation in the wall safe.

Lent 2025

Yes, it is coming! Churches Together in Tenterden are planning the following; Pancake Praise, Stations of the Cross, a Study Course, Discovering Faith through Craft, Good Friday Witness Service and a Dawn Service on Easter Sunday morning. More details to follow.

Archbishop John Wilson has written a new book entitled **The Romero Rosary**. With introductory chapters about St Oscar Romero and the rosary, this beautiful and creative new book contains reflections on the traditional mysteries of the rosary (*Joy, Light, Sorrow & Glory*) and the **NEW Romero Mysteries** (*Charity, Compassion and Mercy, & Justice and Peace*) - all illumined for reflection and prayer by the words of St Oscar Romero. The book is available from Pauline Bookshops and online at www.paulineuk.org. The Archbishops warmly invites everyone to the book launch on **Wednesday 12 February 2025 at 6.00 for 6.30pm at Amigo Hall, adjacent St George's Cathedral, Southwark, South London. SE1 7HY.**