

PARISH NEWSLETTER



St Joseph's Church (Callander)
St Fillan's and Alphonsus (Doune)

**FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME C**

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

February 02, 2025



Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday, we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas.

It marks the moment when Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus

to the Temple, fulfilling the law and presenting Him to God.

In this act of obedience and faith, they remind us of the beauty of offering our lives to God.

This feast also invites us to reflect on Jesus as **the Light of the World**, symbolized by the blessing of candles.

May this celebration inspire us to present ourselves to the Lord anew, dedicating our hearts to His service.

With prayers, Father Les

COMMUNITY PRAYER *(Recitation after the homily)*

Congregation: Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son, Jesus, to be the light of the nations and the glory of Your people Israel. On this feast of His Presentation in the Temple, we offer You our lives and renew our commitment to follow Him.

Guide us by the light of Christ, that we may shine with faith, hope, and love in the world. Strengthen our families, comfort the afflicted, and fill our hearts with Your peace.

May we, like Simeon and Anna, recognize Jesus in our midst and proclaim His salvation to all. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF SELF-OFFERING

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding, and my entire will.

All that I have and possess,

You have given me;

to You, O Lord, I return it.

Dispose of it wholly according to Your will.

Give me only Your love and Your grace,

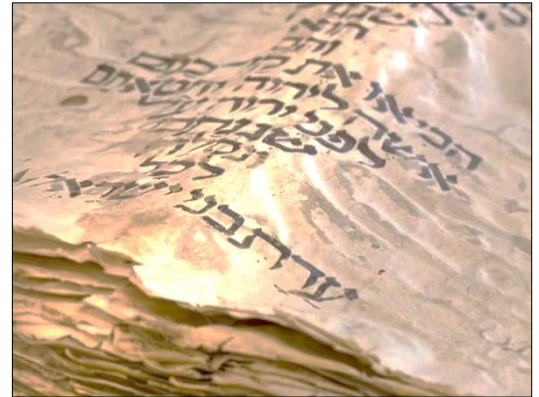
for this is enough for me.

Amen.

(This prayer the Suscipe of St. Ignatius of Loyola)



Thank you for your support and generosity. We collected GBP148.25. Together, let us celebrate time of renewal and recommit ourselves to the call to be witnesses of hope in the world.



THE MESSIAH WOULD BE THE GREAT LIGHT

Jesus sheds his light both on the Jewish people and on the nations of the world.

The theme of Jesus as the light is prominent in the New Testament.

In John 1:4–5, he says about Jesus that, *“In him was life, and the life was the light of men [i.e., people]. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”*

In John 8:12, Jesus himself says, *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life,”* while

in John 9:5, he declares that *“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”* Yet again,

in John 12:46, he says, *“I have come into the world as light.”*

In Luke 2:32, Simeon sees Jesus and calls him *“a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel”*—having just told us that *it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.*

In the context of **chapters 7–11, Isaiah** is speaking of the messianic light, fulfilled in Jesus who sheds his light both on the Jewish people and on the nations of the world.

**JEWS
FOR
JESUS**

<https://www.bibleref.com/>

**Official web page of the Holy Year:
[ubilaum2025.va/en.html](https://www.bibleref.com/ubilaum2025.va/en.html)**

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If you feel that particular form of communication or support network could be useful to parishioners, especially those who are housebound and vulnerable, please contact Fr Leszek Wiecek SAC



To mark the World Day of Consecrated Life, Bishop Andrew will preside over a special Mass on Monday, 3 February, at 1:00 pm in St. Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee.

All religious in our diocese have been invited to attend. Parishioners are warmly encouraged to join this celebration at the Cathedral, where a heartfelt welcome awaits them.

Religious Life as an Offering to God

Religious men and women mirror the self-offering of Christ, who was presented in the Temple by His parents in fulfillment of the Law.

In the same way, those in religious life dedicate themselves wholly to God, renouncing personal ambitions and desires to live a life centered on Him. This consecration is expressed through the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, a reflection of Christ's own life of humility, purity, and submission to the Father's will.

The Presentation reminds us that religious life is not simply about individual piety or devotion but about a total self-gift to God for the good of the Church and the world. Just as Mary and Joseph entrusted Jesus to God's plan, so do religious trust their lives entirely to God's providence.

Simeon and Anna: Models of Religious Life

In the Gospel account, Simeon and Anna are key figures. Their lives of prayer, fasting, and constant service in the Temple exemplify the essence of religious life. Simeon, inspired by the Holy Spirit, recognizes Christ as the long-awaited Messiah. Anna, a prophetess, dedicates herself to worship and proclaims the Good News. Both are models of hope, perseverance, and unwavering faith—virtues essential to those living the consecrated life.

Like Simeon and Anna, religious are called to be watchful and prayerful, discerning God's presence in the world and proclaiming His light to all.

Religious Life as Light for the World

The blessing of candles on this feast reminds us of Christ as the Light of the World. Religious men and women, through their witness of faith and works of charity, carry this light into the darkness of the world.

Whether through prayer, education, healthcare, or missionary work, they bring hope, love, and the Gospel message to those in need.

Pope Francis frequently describes religious as "living signs of the Gospel" and "beacons of hope." Their lives are a prophetic witness, showing that it is possible to live for God and others in a world often focused on self.

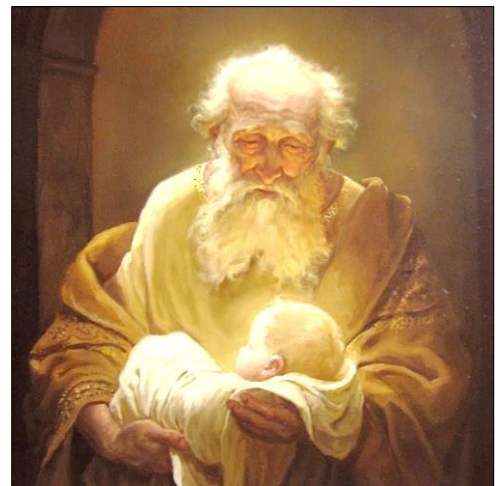
Praying for Vocations

The Feast of the Presentation is also a time to pray for vocations to religious life. Just as Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the Temple, so we pray that young men and women may present themselves to God in service and love. The Church needs the light of religious life to continue shining brightly in a world longing for truth, peace, and hope.

A Challenge for All

While the Feast highlights the gift of consecrated life, it also calls all Christians to reflect on their baptismal promises. Each of us is invited to offer ourselves to God, as Christ was offered, and to live as lights in the world. Religious life is a visible and radical expression of this universal call, inspiring all of us to deepen our relationship with God and live with greater faith, hope, and love.

In celebrating the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, let us give thanks for the gift of religious life and support those who have responded to God's call. May the example of Mary, Joseph, Simeon, and Anna inspire us to dedicate our lives to God's service, bringing His light to the world.



NUNC DIMITTIS – Simeon's Song

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.

[https://www.bibleref.com/Luke 2:29-32](https://www.bibleref.com/Luke%202:29-32)

LOURDES OCTOBER 2025

Helpers places are still available for an ACROSS pilgrimage, travelling by Jumbulance, to Lourdes from Dundee from 9th to 18th October 2025 (all inclusive).

Chaplain – Fr Tobias Okoro

For more information about the cost etc., please contact Pauline Veal – 07867950633
Margaret Parke 01382 667158