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# Holy Cross Catholic Church

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## Presentation of the Lord

1 / 2 Feb 2025



### Dear Parishioners,

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord isn't just about a baby being brought to the Temple; it's a profound revelation of who Jesus is and what he came to do.

Firstly, it reveals Jesus as the fulfilment of the Old Law. Mary and Joseph, faithful Jews, presented Jesus in the Temple according to Jewish custom. This act shows us that Jesus didn't come to abolish the law but to fulfil it, to bring it to its perfect completion.

Secondly, Simeon's proclamation that Jesus is "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" reveals Jesus' mission to bring salvation to all people, not just the Jews. This universality of salvation is a cornerstone of our faith.

Finally, this feast reminds us of our own "presentation." Just as Jesus was dedicated to God, we too are called to offer our lives to him completely. This means living each day with purpose, using our gifts and talents to serve others and build His Kingdom.

This week, let us reflect on how we can "present" ourselves to God more fully. How can we be a light to those around us? How can we participate in God's plan of salvation for the world? Let us be inspired by Mary and Joseph's faithfulness and Simeon's joyful recognition of the Saviour.

### How to live our Christian Faith in Today's World?

#### Seven Simple Steps

Our faith isn't just for Sundays; it's meant to shape our whole lives! Here are 7 ways to live out your faith every day:



Talking to God

1. **Talk to God:** Just like we make time for friends, make time for prayer. Chat with God, listen to Him in Scripture, and let Him guide you.
2. **Connect with your Church Family:** Join a group, volunteer, or simply attend Mass regularly. Being with other believers strengthens your faith and provides support.
3. **Love in Action:** Put your faith into practice by serving others. Volunteer, help a neighbour, or simply offer a kind word.

4. **Share your Faith:** Don't be afraid to talk about your beliefs when the opportunity arises. Your witness can inspire others.

5. **Choose Good Media:** Be mindful of what you watch and read. Fill your mind with positive and uplifting content.

6. **Use your Gifts:** God has given you unique talents. Use them to make a difference in the world!

7. **Keep Growing:** Faith is a journey, not a race. Keep learning, keep praying, and don't be afraid to ask for help along the way.

Send your faith related questions to Fr Antony [antonymegalan@rcaos.org.uk]. Selected responses will be shared in our parish newsletter as space allows.

faith  
hope  
love

### Coach Pilgrimage to Diocesan Holy Places

Did you know that over 100 saints are from our diocese alone. We are organising pilgrimages to visit some of these holy places; the first trip will be on Saturday 22nd February 2025.

And we will be trying to visit all of - Aylesford, Rochester, Faversham, Canterbury and Ramsgate. If you would like to attend, please email your name/s to [catfordsupport@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:catfordsupport@rcaos.org.uk).

At Aylesford we will see the Shrine of our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Simon Stock. Rochester has always been associated with the early Saints: - Paulinus, Ithamar and William of Perth and of course John Fisher, and in Faversham, Saints Crispin and Crispinian are very special, as is Saint Jude, the patron saint of hopeless cases!

Upon visiting Canterbury, we learn there are quite a number of well-known saints, including Saint Augustine, Saint Thomas Beckett, St Anselm, St Mildred... the list goes on.

Finally, in Ramsgate we will see the Shrine of St Augustine of Canterbury, which is where he first landed on English soil from Rome in the year 597, and his apostolic mission began.

**I confess...** : page 525      **Gloria:** page 531  
**Creed(s):** pages 543 - 545      **Our Father...**635

**Prayer Time at Holy Cross**

Holy Mass: Mon to Thurs - 9.15am; Fri - 7pm; Sat - 6.30pm; Sun - 9am & 11.30am  
 Rosary – Mon, Tue, Thu @ 9.45am;  
 Divine Mercy Chaplet – Wed @ 9.45am and Fri 7.30pm  
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions: Fri 6.00pm

**Night Prayer at 9pm**  
**[Zoom]**  
 Meeting ID: 7578777461;  
 Passcode: 20212021

**Next Sunday - Bible Readings**

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8      **Psalm:** 138:1-8  
**2nd Reading:** Corinthians 15:1-11      **Gospel:** Luke 5:1-11

**IMPORTANT DAYS REMEMBER**

- 01 February - Baptism Preparation
- 22 Feb - **Coach Pilgrimage** to Diocesan Holy Places
- 23 Feb - **Seeds of the Word** [Retreat for parents who baptised their children in the past 7 years]
- 25 Feb - St Mary's Council Meeting
- 04 March - St Joseph's Council Meeting
- 05 March - **Ash Wednesday**
- 09 March - Lenten Retreat: **Bishop Pat Lynch**
- 11 March - St Paul's Council Meeting
- 13 March - Lenten Retreat: The Desert Experience
- 17 March - St Patrick's Day Celebration
- 20 March - Lenten Retreat: **Bishop Paul Mason**
- 27 March - Lenten Retreat: The Paschal Mystery
- 29 March - Baptism Preparation
- 03 April - Lenten Retreat: The Beatitudes: A Pathway to Holiness
- 10 April - Lenten Retreat: Discipleship: Following Jesus in the World Today
- 13 April - **Palm Sunday**
- 14 April - **Lenten Confessions**
- 20 April - **Easter**
- 04 May - **Confirmation Celebration**
- 10 May - **Holy Communion Celebration**
- 17 May - Baptism Preparation
- 25 May - **Archbishop John Wilson's** Mass
- 29 May - The Ascension of the Lord
- 2-5 June - **Pilgrimage to Fatima**
- 08 June - International Day [Pentecost]
- 15 June - The Most Holy Trinity
- 21 June - Readers and EMHC Retreat

**Seeds of the Word**

**[Continuing formation for the parents who baptised their children]**



Families who have **baptised** their children in the past seven years are invited to attend the **9am Mass on Sunday, February 23rd.**

Your children will receive special prayers and blessings, followed by spiritual reflection and refreshments in Hartley Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity to sow the seeds of God's word into their hearts. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Want to Baptise your child?**

Parents who would like to baptise their children, please follow these steps:

1. Obtain an Application form from Fr. Antony. The Parish Surgery is open on Fridays at 3pm and again at 8pm.
2. Submit your completed application form to the Parish Office, with proof of Catholicism of at least one parent and all Godparents. Evidence can be a copy Baptism Certificate, Marriage Certificate in a Catholic Church or Letter from a Priest.
3. Completion of an on-line Baptism Course, and an in-person Baptism Course.
4. After the above requirements have been met, you will be asked to select a date for your child's Baptism.

**NEXT IN-PERSON BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE DATE:**

**Saturday 1st February 2025 at 10:00am in Hartley Hall**  
 The course dates for the remainder of 2025 are:  
 29 Mar, 17 May, 19 Jul, 20 Sep & 15 Nov

**Food Collection Sunday at Holy Cross 1/2 Feb 2025**

If you are able to donate, please leave any non-perishable items in the front porch and they will be delivered to a local foodbank, to help support families who are struggling.

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

Sat 1st - Fri 7th Feb 2025

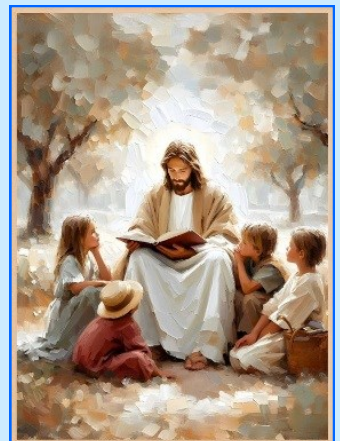
SAT	6:30pm	Elizabeth Anthony - Thanksgiving
SUN	9:00am 11:30am	Brendan & Tom Kilcoyne R.I.P. James Chen R.I.P.
MON	9:15am	William & Othilia Fernandes R.I.P.
TUE	9:15am	Linda Mahoney R.I.P. & Mahoney Family
WED	9:15am	Dulciedon & Maria Noronha R.I.P.
THU	9:15am	Miss Jeanette Hawkins R.I.P. (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)
FRI	6:00pm 7:00pm	Confessions & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Melanie Thomas – Birthday Thanksgiving

**Please Pray for the Sick:** Mary Rand, Pat Doyle, Albert Young, Sherine Sukhram, Vivianne Owens, Trish Keaveney, Myra Hannon, Lydia Joseph, Melanie Thomas, Florence Nosegbe, Susan Murphy, Joe Green, Colin Maton, Katie Bourner, Aboa Claudine, Eileen Embury, Kitty Wilkinson, Theresa Butler, Jo Rocca Smith, Ivor Lewis, Ann Whittington, Elfrida Wacholz, Pat Gallagher, Leonie Nwawudu, Abosed Elizabeth Goba, Meesh Gemmell, Elaine Williams, Titi Balogun, Baby Gwen Williams, Jessica O'Hara and Rachael Pereira Wibberley

**ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL?** - Contact Lewisham Hospital Catholic Chaplain directly on 020 8333 3299. In an emergency, please say to the staff that you would like to see a Catholic priest.

**Jesus said: "Let the children come to me"**

Holy Cross is proud to offer a warm welcome to all. We know little ones and people with additional needs sometimes find being quiet a challenge. That's no reason to stay away or to worry - all are welcome at Holy Cross.



We want families to always feel they can come to Mass, so if there's anything we can do to make you more comfortable, please speak to one of the Welcome Ministers or to Father Antony.

**PARISH CONTACTS**

**Office:** 020 8698 3672 (Tues & Thur from 10:00am)

**Josepha Flahive:** catford@rcaos.org.uk

**Lisa O'Hara:** catfordsupport@rcaos.org.uk

**Holy Cross School:** [Mary Collins: 020 8698 2675]

**Holy Cross Book Shop:** 020 3441 8240

**Safeguarding:** Pat Barber & Lisa O'Hara 07598 524024