

St George's
Metropolitan Cathedral
Southwark

Celebrant:
**The Most Reverend
John Wilson**

Annual day for Consecrated Life

2 February 2021 – Feast of The Presentation of The Lord



WELCOME

READING OF THE TESTIMONIES

THE MASS

THE BLESSING OF CANDLES AND THE PROCESSION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Dear brethren (brothers and sisters),
forty days have passed since we celebrated the joyful
feast of the Nativity of the Lord.

Today is the blessed day
when Jesus was presented in the Temple
by Mary and Joseph.

Outwardly he was fulfilling the Law,
but in reality he was coming to meet his
believing people.

Prompted by the Holy Spirit,
Simeon and Anna came to the Temple.

Enlightened by the same Spirit,
they recognized the Lord
and confessed him with exultation.

So let us also, gathered together by the Holy Spirit,
proceed to the house of God to encounter Christ.

There we shall find him
and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,
until he comes again, revealed in glory.

The Candle is now blessed and lit.

Let us pray.

O God, source and origin of all light,
who on this day showed to the just man Simeon
the Light for revelation to the Gentiles,
we humbly ask that,
in answer to your people's prayers,
you may be pleased to sanctify with your blessing +
these candles,
which we are eager to carry in praise of your name,
so that, treading the path of virtue,
we may reach that light which never fails.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. AMEN.

Let us go in peace to meet the Lord.

R. In the name of Christ. AMEN.

Hymn: Christ, be our Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness

Longing for truth, we turn to You.

Make us Your own, Your holy people

Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in Your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us Your bread, broken for others

Shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us Your building, sheltering others

Walls made of living stone.

Many the gift, many the people

Many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another

Making Your kingdom come.

Christ, be our Light ©1994 Bernadette Farrell

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The lit Candle is placed before the High Altar.

The Gloria in excelsis

(Glory to God in the highest) is sung.



Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
we humbly implore your majesty
that, just as your Only Begotten Son
was presented on this day in the Temple
in the substance of our flesh,
so, by your grace,
we may be presented to you with minds
made pure.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 23: 7-10
Hebrews 2: 14-18
Alleluia
Luke 2: 22-40

THE HOMILY

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

OPENING INVITATION: HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP

1. We pray for Pope Francis as he serves the Church in these very challenging times, and we thank You for the gifts You have given him: gifts of mercy and compassion: gifts of hearing the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth: the gifts of challenging and encouraging tirelessly all people of good will to take care of the vulnerable and to care for our common home.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY ...

2. We pray for Archbishop John that he may experience God's strength and wisdom as he continues to lead and guide the Archdiocese. We pray also for the many needs of our Archdiocese during this time of pandemic.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY ...

3. We pray for all Consecrated People in our Diocese. We thank You for the richness and diversity of our gifts and Charisms, all offered and bestowed upon us by Your Holy Spirit for Your honour and glory, and the good of all. May we continue to care for others, with humility and simplicity, in the fields of education, health ministries, evangelisation and pastoral care – especially to the poorest, weakest and those who suffer.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY ...

4. We pray for all those in Consecrated Life who have died, especially those who have died during the past year. We give thanks for their years of faithful service to all God's people and pray that they may now enjoy the peace and the fullness of eternal life.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY ...

5. *'The harvest is rich, but the labourers are few.'*

We pray today, Lord, for an increase of vocations in Southwark to Consecrated Life and to the priesthood. We thank you for the very many men who have trained for their priesthood in Womersley, and we ask your blessing on all those there as they prepare for closure later this year.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY ...

6. We pray today for all those who have asked our prayers. In particular we pray for all those who are affected by the coronavirus virus, their families and their friends. We pray that the virus will soon recede across the world as many more are able to receive the vaccine.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY ...

7. Our Blessed Lady is the Patroness of the Diocese. We ask for her intercession now as we say together...

HAIL HOLY QUEEN ...



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

May the offering made with exultation
by your Church
be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray,
for you willed that your Only Begotten Son
be offered to you for the life of the world
as the Lamb without blemish.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Preface: The mystery of the Presentation of the Lord.

V. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
V. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.
V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and
everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and
eternal God. For your co-eternal Son was presented on
this day in
the Temple
and revealed by the Spirit as the glory of Israel
and Light of the nations.
And so, we, too, go forth, rejoicing to
encounter your Salvation, and with the Angels and
Saints praise you, as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts ...

Acclamation

Hymn: Soul of my Saviour

*Soul of my Saviour sanctify my breast,
Body of Christ, be thou my saving guest,
Blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide,
wash me with waters gushing from thy side.*

*Strength and protection may thy passion be,
O blessed Jesus, hear and answer me;
deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me,
so shall I never, never part from thee.*

*Guard and defend me from the foe malign,
in death's dread moments make me only thine;
call me and bid me come to thee on high
where I may praise thee with thy saints for ay.*

Soul of my Saviour

Ascribed to John XXII (1249-1334) tr.anon

Hymn: God gives His people strength

*God gives His people strength.
If we believe in His way, He's swift to repay,
All those who bear the burden of the day.
God gives His people strength.*

*God gives His people hope.
If we but trust in His word, our prayers are
always heard.
He warmly welcomes anyone who's erred.
God gives His people hope.*

*God gives His people love.
If we but open wide our hearts,
He's sure to do His part.
He's always the first to make a start.
God gives His people love.*

*God gives His people peace.
When sorrow fills us to the brim,
and courage grows dim,
He lays to rest our restlessness in Him.
God gives His people peace.*

God gives His people strength Miriam Winter
©MCMLXV Medical Mission Sisters USA

Prayer after Communion

By these holy gifts which we have received,
O Lord,
bring your grace to perfection within us,
and, as you fulfilled Simeon's expectation
that he would not see death
until he had been privileged to welcome
the Christ,
so may we, going forth to meet the Lord,
obtain the gift of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord.

Act of Dedication – Prayer of Recommitment

Introduction – designated Reader

On this great feast day, we sisters and brothers, in communion with each other, stand together to recommit ourselves once again to fidelity in following Christ more closely through our vocation to the Consecrated Life.

Mindful of Jesus' own words:

'You did not choose me, I chose you.'

We ask for renewed awareness of what it means to centre our lives on Christ and the Gospel, on the will of God, and to journey into the future, continuously *'on a pilgrimage of transformation.'*

We are mindful, also, of the challenges presented to us by St. Catherine of Siena who said:

'Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.'

By St. Ignatius who said:

'Go forth and set the world on fire!'

And Pope Francis who said:

'Religious should wake up the world!'

And so, we say together:

As we re-commit ourselves to the Lord, we ask for strength and courage to be Missionary Disciples, and to engage in that ongoing discernment to which Pope Francis calls us to in his words:

'Look into your own inner depths, and let us ask ourselves, do we have hearts that have been lulled to sleep?

by material things?

Have our hearts preserved the restlessness?

of seeking You above all things

or have we let them be suffocated

by things

that end up hardening them?'

LORD, we look back to the past with gratitude, gratitude for all that Religious have done to spread Your Word and to make You known and loved.

We ask You to help us to

'Live the present with passion, being disciples of communion as we listen attentively to the

Spirit calling us

to implement even more fully the essential aspects

of our consecrated life,'

and especially to be constantly open to the challenges of the Gospel wherever we are missioned.

LORD, help us to examine our fidelity

to the mission entrusted to us

and to have the courage and confidence to respond to new needs where possible.

Help us to have a corporate presence of witness to Your Word and to Your Life.

LORD, let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary enthusiasm.

Let us not be robbed of the joy of sharing the Good News.

Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of hope.

Let us refuse to be prophets of doom, for we know that Your love is steadfast and that Your Holy Spirit radiates light in the midst of darkness.

Let us not allow ourselves to be stripped of community

– to accept the challenges of loving each other.

Help us not to be 'closed in' by the comfort of our privacy or our inner circle.

Help us to avoid the corruption of worldliness.

LORD, send us forth to others

in community, in service,

in reconciliation and tenderness.

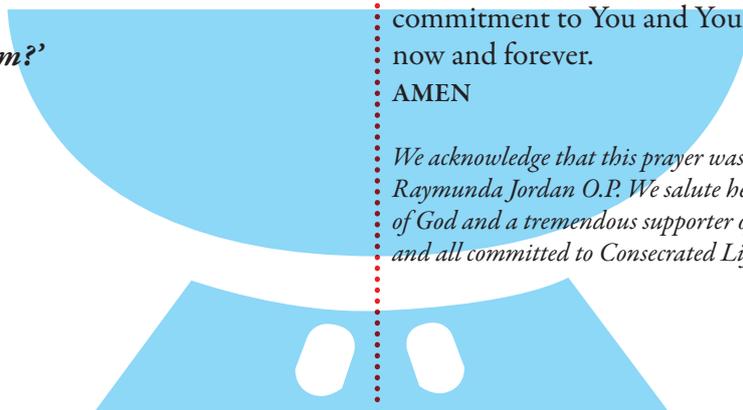
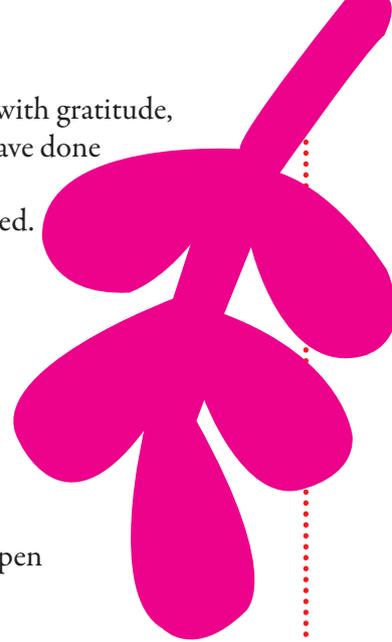
We trust in Your unconditional love.

Help us to sustain our hope-filled

commitment to You and Your people, now and forever.

AMEN

We acknowledge that this prayer was composed for us by Sister Raymunda Jordan O.P. We salute her as a great preacher of the Word of God and a tremendous supporter of her fellow Consecrated Religious and all committed to Consecrated Life.



THE LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

LORD, I GIVE THANKS ...

Lord I give thanks for Your call to walk with our Sisters and Brothers, especially in times of suffering and distress ...

Lord I give thanks for all those who respond to the needs of the homeless ...

Lord I give thanks for those who nourish our lives through their sharing the Good News in different ministries, especially the written word ...

Lord I give thanks for the gifts of serenity ... generosity ... and for the beauty of creation ...

Lord I give thanks for our parents and teachers who were the first to instruct us in our faith ...

Lord I give thanks for Research Scientists who have produced the Covid19 vaccines which will help to save lives throughout the world ...

Lord, I give thanks for those in Consecrated Life who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith, and who inspired and encouraged us ...

Lord I give thanks for the life and ministry of the Missionary Society of St Paul of Nigeria, founded by Dominic Cardinal EKANDEM and established by the Episcopal Conference of Nigeria.

Lord I give thanks for our Baptismal Consecration and for our consecration as women; with all the qualities of womanhood with which You have endowed us ...

Lord I give thanks for your call to consecrated life, and the grace to continue to discern Your will - through Your Word, the teachings of the Church, the signs of the times, the cry of the poor ...

Lord I give thanks for the influence of St. John Henry Newman when I was reading my way into the Catholic Church and for my vocation to the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement ...

Lord I give thanks for ALL those who are working in the Health Care Services at this critical time – putting their own lives at risk to care so diligently for their patients ...

Lord I give thanks for the ministry of the Congregation – the Missionary Society of St. Paul, in the Dioceses of England, Wales & Scotland – and especially for the warm reception and positive collaboration from our host Dioceses – especially the Archdiocese of Southwark ...

Lord I give thanks that You have created us in Your own image, for granting us re-birth in the miracle of Baptism, for assuring us of your love which is unconditional, unqualified, unreserved with no price tag attached ...

Lord I give thanks for LIFE – may we always respect and protect human life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death ...

Lord I give thanks for the air we breathe, for the food on our tables, for the water we drink: for the ability to see, to hear, to feel and to touch ...

Lord I give thanks for the candles of faith, hope and love which give comfort on the darkness ...

The candle of faith carried by those who have gone before us, on whose shoulders we stand, and whose lives inspire our commitment to Religious Life.

The candle of hope carried by young people in our world as a sign of Your covenant.

The candle of love carried by all our friends who bring blessing, tenderness and joy into our lives.

Blessing & Dismissal

Hymn: Tell out, my soul

*Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.*

*Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.*

*Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.*

*Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forever more!*

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