

St John the Baptist, Catford & Downham Team Ministry

The Eve of Candlemas

1st February 2026



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Hymns:

♪	Processional-	98
♪	Gradual-	118
♪	Offertory-	531
♪	Communion-	452
	- Nunc dimittis in D: Sir George Dyson	
♪	Recessional-	473
♪	Voluntary- Voluntary in D: Sir George Dyson	

Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

1st reading: Malachi 3.1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God:

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;

³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver,

until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.

⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵ Then I will draw near to you for judgement;

I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 24.7-end

Refrain:

Who is the King of glory : **it is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle.**

⁷ Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors : and the King of glory shall come in.

⁸ Who is the King of glory : it is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle. **R**

⁹ Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors : and the King of glory shall come in.

¹⁰ Who is the King of glory : even the Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. **R**

2nd reading: Hebrews 2.14-18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

¹⁴ Since the children share flesh and blood,

Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.

¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.

¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel- Luke 2.22-40

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.

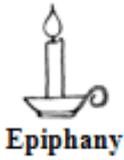
Glorify to you O, Lord.

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'),

²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;



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this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,

²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed

³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,

³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Church Diary

Prayer Chapel open:
Weekdays 7.30am-5.30pm
Weekends: 9.30am-5.30pm

The Eve of Candlemas (1st Feb)
10.30am Sung Mass with Children's Church & Youth Church

Monday 2nd Candlemas
7.30am Morning Prayer (MP)
5pm Evensong (ES)

Tuesday 3rd Anskar, missionary, 865
7.30am MP. 8.30am Said Mass.
5pm ES

Wednesday 4th
Gilbert, religious, 1189
7.30am MP.
10am Said Mass, followed by Bible study. 5pm ES.

Thursday 5th
7.30am MP. 5pm ES. 7.30pm PCC in Rectory meeting room

Friday 6th Martyrs of Japan, 1597
7.30am MP. 1pm 1st Friday Club.

The Racial Justice Sunday (8th)
10.30am Sung Mass with Children's Church & Youth Church

Prayers

For healing and protection for: Youngson, Shea, Pelu Thomas, Alison Marrett, Dwayne, Eric, Annie, Beverley, Glyn, Drew Spikes, Ruth Bennett, Bilki, Marcel, Leila, Theresa, Valerie Stevenson.

For those departed this life, including Elsie Birkby, Kim, Betty Keehne, and those with an anniversary of a death at this time including Jeannie Hawkins & Olly Wilson.

Notices

Please could you return any Palm Crosses you have to be used to make ash for the beginning of Lent. Thank you.

St John's school Quiz, 27th February, 7pm. £5 a person raising funds for the school. Soft drinks on sale (cash only), bring your own booze and snacks. Max 6 in a team.

Save the date! St John's will feature on **Dogs Behaving Very Badly** on 3rd February, 8pm on Channel 5 and their streaming service My5.

Foodbank donations Can be left in the collection bins outside the hall, or in the crate at the back of church. All non-perishable donations welcome.

St John's WhatsApp prayer group- speak to Anne-Marie or Shea to join.

Any queries contact:

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