



4th February 2024

**Presentation of Christ in
the Temple**

Hymns: 445 448 598 531



Sentence

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples; a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.
(Luke 2:30-32)

The Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly pray that, as your only Son was presented in the temple in accordance with the law, so we may be dedicated to you with pure and clean hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi, chapter 3, beginning at verse 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. 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; 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

*Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 84

R: My soul longs to dwell in the courts of the Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. **R...**

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. **R...**

Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion. **R...**

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. **R...**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews, chapter 2, beginning at verse 14.

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he 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, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. 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. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

This child is destined for the rise and fall of many; and to bring to light the innermost thoughts of man.

Alleluia!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, chapter 2, beginning at the twenty-second verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 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 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' 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 for seven years after her marriage, 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. 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. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayers of the People

God of light and life, your Son was blessed in the temple as a sign of fulfilment of your holy word. May this word be ever in our minds, and our hearts ever full of prayer for those in need of your mercy.

May we continue to work towards a safer, more sustainable planet, where people give back to the environment and its creatures more than they take away. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

May unjust systems in this world be broken down, prayerfully reassessed, and given new life and direction for the good of all. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

May children everywhere be allowed to grow up in good health and education, with ambition to improve the lives of others, and a persistent love for you. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

May racism, sexism, other forms of discrimination and hate crime be erased from society, and may we learn to recognise and empower the gifts and merits of the various cultures of the world. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

May we have the courage to stop and take a good look at our economy, and the wisdom and compassion to improve the quality of life for more people instead of aiming for excessive profit. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

May your church and its ministers be always inspired to bring your word to life in their respective communities; seeking to serve rather than to be served. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

May your Spirit of healing and comfort abide with those who are in any kind of need; particularly those known to us: *Doug Whitbourn, Gail Piechowiak, Mary Dodge, Lyn Overend, Jonathan and Limor Rose, Jeanne Jones, Bill Edge, Sharon and John Simpson, Anni Grimwade, Madeline Allen, Elaine Haddock, Belinda Shannon, Jim Chatz, Barry and Val Watts, Gwen Bushell, Debbie Chilcott, Beryl and Geoff Kirby, Fiona Mctier, David Valentine, Peg and Ken Raeburn, Bishop John Parkes, Edie Simpson, Bruce Seaman, Thomas De Sousa, Mary Cassar, Vince Fazio, and Adeline Bickley.*

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

May the faithful departed take their place in heaven with all the saints, and may all who grieve their loss be strengthened by their faith and their family. We remember those whose year's mind occurs at this time:

Geoffrey Booth, Ken Payne, Sal Winnell, Patricia Deuchar, Ross Matheson, Charles Cunningham, Reginald Hearn, Nicholas Piechowiak, Jack Knight, Altie Horwood, Henry Murray, and the victims of the 2009 bushfires.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers. **Grant that what we have asked in faith, we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Notices

Ash Wednesday

To mark the beginning of Lent, there will be two services on Wednesday 14th February, at 10am at Christ Church Kilmore, and 4pm at St Matthew's Broadford.

Lenten Study

This year, we will have a Lenten study group focusing on the book: 'Where the Hell is God?' by Fr. Richard Leonard SJ. All reading material will be provided to you. This study will begin on Tuesday 13th February, and continue weekly all the way up to Easter. Two sessions will be offered on Tuesdays: 10am at St Matthew's Broadford, and 7.30pm at Christ Church Kilmore. If you would like to attend please put your name and phone number on the sign-up sheets at the back of the church.

Bishop's Visit

Bishop Clarence will be visiting the parish on Sunday 18th February, where he will celebrate Mass at Broadford and Pyalong, at 9am and 11am respectively. All are warmly invited to attend either of these services.

Painting Workshop

On Tuesday 6th February, Fr. David will be a painting workshop at 4.30pm at Christ Church Kilmore, for members of the Kilmore Art Society, and anyone from the parish who'd like to attend. Cost for non-members is \$25. If you are able, please bring along an A4 sized canvas and a couple of small paintbrushes. Paints and some materials will be provided. Refreshments also provided.

Direct Debit /EFT Offerings – Account details: BENDIGO BANK – Account Name 'Anglican Parish of Kilmore;' BSB 633-000; Account Number 158946921.
Reference: Offertory. An EFTPOS machine is available at Kilmore.

This Week in the Parish:

Monday 5th February: 10am-12pm Op Shop Trading

Tuesday 6th February: 4.30pm Painting Workshop, Christ Church Kilmore

Wednesday 7th February: 1pm Caladenia RACF Service

2.30pm Dianella RACF Service

Thursday 8th February: 10am Mass, St Matthew's Broadford

10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

Friday 9th February: 10.30am Blue Cross RACF Service

10am-4pm Op Shop Trading

Saturday 10th February: 10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

Next Sunday: Sixth Sunday After Epiphany: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Ps 30; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

Christ Church, Kilmore	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthew's, Broadford	11.00am	Morning Prayer
St Stephen's, Tallarook	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration, Pyalong	---	---

Weekly Scripture Readings

	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Monday 5th February	Ps 82; 84	Ps 85; 87
<i>Martyrs of Japan</i>	Jeremiah 16:1-21	Genesis 24:1-21
	Philippians 3:1-16	Luke 4:1-15
Tuesday 6th February	Ps 86	Ps 88
	Jeremiah 17:1-18	Genesis 24:22-49
	Philippians 3:17-4:7	Luke 4:16-30

Wednesday 7th February	Ps 90	Ps 119:89-104
	Jeremiah 17:19-18:12	Genesis 24:50-67
	Philippians 4:8-23	Luke 4:31-44
Thursday 8th February	Ps 89:1-18	Ps 89:19-38
	Jeremiah 18:12-23	Genesis 25:5-34
	1 Timothy 1:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
Friday 9th February	Ps 89:39-53	Ps 91
	Jeremiah 19:1-20:6	Genesis 26:1-17
	1 Timothy 1:12-20	Luke 5:12-26
Saturday 10th February	Ps 92; 93	Ps 94
	Jeremiah 20:7-18	Genesis 26:18-33
	1 Timothy 2	Luke 5:27-39

Parish Contacts

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Julie Wallis, 71 Main Rd, Tallarook, Ph 5792 2854

Glenn McKenzie, 13 Station Street, Pyalong, Mobile 0452420958

Facebook page link: <https://www.facebook.com/AnglicanKilmore/>

or you can type in Anglican Parish of Kilmore Facebook into the search bar and it should come up. It's also on the link Services

Online on the website.

Thoughts for the Week

In my high school days, I would have sat through around a hundred worship services, many of which were held in the school chapel. Great big wonderful English-style building. Of those many services held in that chapel, I vividly remember relatively few. The services I remember fondly, however, were those outside the chapel building. I remember the ones at night, held in a house, a dormitory, or some other church. There was always something of the sacred or numinous in worshipping with the lights off, Bible pages illuminated only by candlelight. There was something very intimate and meaningful in sharing the Eucharist around a little table, with a handful of students plus the celebrant. The words were the same, albeit not bolstered to the volume of grandeur by a microphone or acoustics. These little services felt special because they felt secret, even furtive. Not because we were necessarily scared, nor doing anything illegal; but because these services were celebrated in the fashion of Jesus' lifetime. There's where the furtive element comes in. When Jesus spoke those immortal words 'this is my body, this is my blood', he was about two hours from being taken into Roman custody. And yet he used that time to institute the Eucharist, or the Mass, so that his disciples had something to remember him by. Nay, something his disciples had to pass on so that future generations could remember him. My point is that sometimes, in order to feel a greater sense of the sacred in worship; sometimes we have to think smaller. Think simpler. Think darker. It makes sense that small, dark, intimate worship in places other than the proverbial 'temple' can be more authentically spiritual, because they are intrinsically acetic. That is, they put aside everything we don't need, emptying our beings (rather than our minds, as sadly some worship tends to do) so that we can look towards what we have to gain. It pays to scale things down, meeting in living rooms, back rooms, or really just any space smaller than a typical church nave. It's not only intimate, acetic, focused, but as I said before, memorable. Did not our Saviour suggest that the purpose of the bread and the cup were to REMEMBER him? How can we make worship take on the status of a CORE MEMORY, rather than a fleeting experience?