

SAINT ROBERT OF NEWMINSTER PARISH.



Incorporating the Parishes of:

St. Mary of the Angels & St. Clare Church, Elbow St, Levenshulme, M19 3PY

St. Richard Church, Sutcliffe Avenue, Longsight, M12 5TN

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FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD. SUNDAY 2, FEBRUARY 2025

By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Simeon and Anna, both of whom had been waiting for the revelation of God's salvation, were present in the Temple the day Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to Present Him to the Father. Simeon recognized Jesus as the Lord's Anointed One, and in his prayer of blessing, he prophesied that Jesus was meant to be the glory of Israel and a Light of revelation to the Gentiles. While he blessed Mary, Simeon warned that her child would be "set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign of contradiction" and that "a sword will pierce through your own soul. Simeon was prophesying both the universal salvation that would be proclaimed by Jesus and the necessity of suffering in the mission of the Messiah.

Pope Francis' reflection on today's feast which is also known as the Feast of the Encounter, explained the Liturgy as, that beginning when Jesus goes to meet his people. Thus, this is the encounter between Jesus and his people, when Mary and Joseph brought their child to the Temple in Jerusalem; the first encounter between Jesus and his people, represented by Simeon and Anna, took place. It was also the first encounter within the history of the people, a meeting between the young and the old: the young were Mary and Joseph with their infant son and the old were Simeon and Anna, two people who often went to the Temple. St. Luke underlines, more than once, that they were guided by the Holy Spirit. He says Simeon was a righteous and devout man, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and that "the Holy Spirit was upon him" (2:25). He says that "it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit" that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (v. 26); and finally, that he went to the Temple "inspired by the Spirit" (v. 27). He says Anna was a "prophetess" (v. 36); that is, she was inspired by God and that she was always "worshipping with fasting and prayer" in the Temple (v. 37). In short, these two elders are full of life! They are full of life because they are enlivened by the Holy Spirit, obedient to His action, sensitive to His calls. In the light of this Gospel scene, let us look at consecrated life as an encounter with Christ: it is he who comes to us, led by Mary and Joseph, and we go towards him guided by the Holy Spirit. He is at the centre. He moves everything, he draws us to the Temple, to the Church, where we can meet him, recognize him, welcome him, embrace him.).(<https://www.popefrancishomilies.com/presentation-of-the-lord>).

The message for us today is: Every Holy Mass in which we participate is our presentation. Although we were officially presented to God on the day of our Baptism, we present ourselves and our dear ones on the altar before God our Father through our Savior Jesus Christ at every Holy Mass. Hence, we need to live our daily lives with the awareness, both that we are dedicated people consecrated to God, and that we are obliged to lead holy lives. Let us also remember and pray for our godparents who presented us to the Lord on the day of our Baptism.

Pope Francis says: We need to honor the elderly and respect their wisdom earned through experience: It's good for the elderly to communicate their wisdom to the young; and it's good for the young people to gather this wealth of experience and wisdom, and to carry it forward, not so as to safeguard it in a museum, but to carry it forward addressing the challenges that life brings, to carry it forward for the sake of the respective religious orders and of the whole Church.

Finally, let us put ourselves in God's presence: Simeon and Anna are an example to those of us of every age that we can rewire our brains and our souls to put ourselves in the presence of God in our everyday lives. In the ordinariness of our everyday temples of work, home, school, and church, we can listen to the prompting of God's Spirit, perceive God afoot in the mundane, and gracefully live in constant expectation of God advancing in our lives. We can daily experience the power of Christ's presence point Christ out to others.

Pray for the sick and housebound; John Fitzgerald. Cyril Corcoran. Sr Edith. John Tunney. Eileen Toth. Anne Leavy. Maria Morrissey, Margaret McAteer. Mary McGlade. Kathleen Beech. Martina McGeehan. Jean Angus. Irene and Karen Rice. Paul and Kath McInenny. Keith and Linda Marshall, Jim McGlynn.

We pray the Good Lord will strengthen and comfort all the sick and we pray also for all who care for the sick and elderly.

May God grant eternal rest to those who have died recently.

John O'Neill. Liam Toland. Eilish Maloney. James Murphy. Steven Bruen. Malachi Gavin.
Mary Maureen Collins. George Ellis. Christine Bullivant. Ray Sweeney.
(May their souls rest in peace)

Memorial Anniversary. Frank McGrath (15th) Elena Griffin (2nd) Ellen (Chrissie) Delaney (1st)

Kathleen Agnes Hennigan.

(Eternal rest grant to them Oh Lord,,,,,)

Special Intention. Collins Family. For the poor holy souls in Purgatory. Peggy and Family

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. There will be a second collection this weekend to support the work of Caritas the Charity of Salford Diocese.

2. The Parish Sacramental programs: Confirmation, First Holy Communion, RCIA classes begin in February. This is a final appeal to parishioners who are yet to register themselves or their children to please do so before the end of this month of January.

3. The Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes booking is now being taking for the 2025 Diocesan Pilgrimage. This year's pilgrimage will take place between 31st July and 6th August, for more information on how to book as a pilgrim or register as a volunteer, please visit <https://www.salfordlourdes.co.uk>

4. The Diocese of Salford Young Adult Pilgrimage to Rome with the Youth ministry Team 2025. Find out more information from <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/jubilee-of-youth-rome/>

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Day	Time	Church	Liturgy	Mass Intention
Vigil Mass Saturday	5:00 pm	St Richard's	Mass	Steven Bruen RIP Collins Family Special Intention
	6.30 pm	St Mary's	Mass	
Sunday	9:30 am	St Richard's	Mass	Elena Griffin Anniversary Peggy and Family Special Intention Mary Maureen Collins RIP
	11:00 am	St. Mary's	Mass	
Monday	NO	MASS	TODAY	
Tuesday	9:30 am	St Mary's	Mass	Christine Bullivant RIP For the poor holy souls in Purgatory James Murphy RIP
	12:30 pm	St Mary's	Funeral Mass	
Wednesday	9:15 am	St Richard's	Mass	George Ellis RIP Malachi Gavin RIP
Thursday	9:30 am	St Mary's	Mass	Chrissie Delaney Anniversary Ray Sweeney RIP
Friday	NO	MASS	TODAY	
Saturday	10 am	St Mary's	Exposition And Adoration.	Frank McGrath Anniversary Liam Toland RIP
	11:00 am		Confession during Adoration Mass	

Offerings received from last weekend.

St Richards £235.44. St Mary's £375.56

Total £611. Thank you.