



# Feast of The Presentation of the Lord

## (Candlemas- February 2nd)

### Luke 2:22-40

And 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 male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said 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, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four.

She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

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### Some things to think about...

The Presentation of the Lord is always celebrated 40 days after Christmas and brings the season of Christmas to an end. It was the first time that Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple. We often refer to this feast as 'Candlemas' due to Simeon's prophecy that Jesus would be 'a Light' to the world.

Both Simeon and Anna showed great patience and hope in waiting for this moment and what joy this brought to Mary and Joseph as they heard these words being spoken. We hear in this story that 'the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.' We too can continue to grow in faith and wisdom the more we speak to Jesus and read God's Word.

### Activity

Ask your Mini Vinnies the question 'How can we be a light to others, like Jesus is a light to the world?' Note down some answers for the children to use during their craft activity. You could create your own candles using empty toilet paper rolls for the candle and crepe paper for the flames.

Invite the children to then pick one of the ways that they will be a light to other and write it on their candle. Why not present these during an assembly of Candlemas in the parish? Also think about how you could grow in wisdom this week and share that knowledge with someone else.

### Teacher's Notes

The season of Christmastide is celebrated until the Presentation of the Lord on 2 February and this can highlight that Christmas isn't just about one day. There is no need to put the crib away until this day! In some Christian churches there is the tradition of lighting candles on Candlemas which is a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world who brings light into darkness.

Through the work of the SVP and Mini Vinnie groups we have the chance to bring light into the lives of people in need in our communities. Many Foodbanks receive lots of donations over the Christmas period but often find their shelves a bit emptier into the new year. This could be something that the group might want to help out with so that they can continue to spread the joy of Christmas giving throughout the year.

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