



# Virtual Family Prayer Bag

Dear Parent / Carer,

As the pandemic continues and we are still in lockdown here is an electronic version of our Prayer Bag for the Feast of the Presentation!

## Celebrating The Presentation



Please take some time over the next few days to come together, as a family, in prayer. The Presentation is celebrated on 2nd February.

## A Message from Bishop David

My dear young friends in Christ,

Today we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord. Mary and Joseph take the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. The presentation of a first born infant is an important moment in a Jewish family at the time of Jesus. The Holy Family are recognising that every child is a gift from God, that the Jewish family belongs to a people who were redeemed from slavery in Egypt and led by God to the promised land. What is significant about this moment are two other people who are also in the Temple on that day. A man named Simeon is someone who has real faith that God will deliver on His promises. When he sees Jesus, his life is fulfilled and he is happy. Are we happy to meet with Jesus in the sacraments? And then there is an elderly lady called Anna. I love the way she is filled with joy when she meets Jesus. She dances! She tells everyone else about what God is doing. Are we filled with joy when we meet with Jesus? Do we want to tell everyone about Him? On this lovely Feast, we can bless candles and celebrate the moment when Jesus, the light of the world, comes into our midst. Why not ask Jesus today to come into a dark world and to bring new hope and encouragement. He is still the Light of the world!

God bless,

✠ David

Rt Revd Dr David J Oakley

Bishop of Northampton

# The Presentation



## Gathering

Set aside some time in your day  
to gather together for prayer  
Make sure you are all sitting comfortably  
Light a candle



**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> February,  
40 days after Christmas Day,  
we celebrate the feast of the  
**Presentation of the Lord.**



Jesus was taken,  
by Mary and Joseph,  
to the Temple in Jerusalem  
where they presented him  
to God the Father.



In the Temple  
there was a good and holy man  
called Simeon.



There was also a woman  
called Anna.  
She was eighty four years old.

Anna and Simeon  
never left the Temple.  
They served God  
day and night in prayer.  
They waited in hope  
to see the Saviour of the World.



When Mary and Joseph  
arrived with Jesus  
Simeon and Anna recognised  
who he was.

They were elderly and had spent  
their lives growing closer to God.  
Now they meet him face to face  
and recognised him in their midst.

God's Word



A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke

**Glory to you O Lord**



Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple as the Bible told them to. They wanted to thank God for Jesus.

At the Temple, they met an old man called Simeon.

He was a good and holy person. He often went to the Temple to pray. When he saw Jesus Simeon took him in his arms and praised God.

Simeon said, 'Now at last I can die in peace just as you have promised; for I have seen Jesus the light of the world. This baby will bring light and joy to the world.'



Mary and Joseph were surprised by Simeon's words and didn't know what he meant at the time. Simeon blessed them.



After that, they met Anna.  
She was eighty four years old  
and spent all her time  
in the Temple praying.





Anna said a thank-you prayer to God for Jesus and told everyone that when Jesus grew up he would do many great and wonderful things.

Mary and Joseph  
were amazed at all they  
had seen and heard.  
They left the Temple  
and went back home to Nazareth  
where Jesus grew up  
and learned to praise God.



The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**





We were presented  
before God at our baptism.

Now we are old enough  
to present ourselves to God  
today and everyday  
of our lives.



Let us say this prayer together  
giving ourselves to God the Father:

**God our loving Father,  
we present ourselves  
to you today  
and we ask you to bless us  
in everything we do  
and everything we say.  
Amen**



The Feast of the Presentation  
is also called  
Candlemas  
because Simeon recognised  
that Jesus would bring light  
to the whole world.





Let us look at the candle  
and say thank you for its flame  
which changes darkness into light.

We thank God together as we say:

**‘Thank you for the Light’**

Let us look at the candle  
and say thank you  
for the moon and the stars  
which light up the night sky



We thank God together as we say:

**‘Thank you for the light’**

Let us look at the candle  
and say thank you for the sun  
which gives us daylight  
and helps us to see  
all the colours of the rainbow.



We thank God together as we say:

**‘Thank you for the light’**



Let us look at the candle  
and say thank you for Jesus  
the light of the world,  
who came to show us the way to  
God our Father.



We thank God together as we say:

**‘Thank you for the light’**

Let us look at the candle  
and say thank you  
for ourselves



that we are children of the light  
who walk in the light  
of the Lord everyday

We thank God together as we say:

**‘Thank you for the light’**

In the Temple Simeon knew that  
Jesus would bring light  
to the whole world.

Let us think about and pray for  
people from the five continents of  
the world.





We pray for the homeless,  
the starving,  
those suffering from war  
and violence  
and all those who are sick  
especially with coronavirus  
across the whole world.

We ask God's blessing  
on the people of  
Asia.



**May they walk in the light of the Lord.**

We ask God's blessing  
on the people of  
Africa.



**May they walk in the light of the Lord.**



We ask God's blessing  
on the people of the Americas.



**May they walk in the light of the Lord.**

We ask God's blessing  
on the people of  
Australia.



**May they walk in the light of the Lord.**

We ask God's blessing  
on the people of  
Europe.



**May they walk in the light of the Lord.**

Let us join together  
with our brothers and sisters  
across the world  
as we pray to God our Father



**Our Father who art in heaven.....**

Jesus asks us to spread his light  
around the world.

Lets do this by starting with the  
people closest to us in our  
families and our school.



## Sending Forth

What can you do to share  
Jesus' light  
with your family and friends?



**Loving Father  
you sent your son Jesus  
to be the light of the world  
saving everyone from the darkness of sin.  
Help us to live in his light  
and to share it with all those we meet  
Amen**





**Click on the link below  
to watch / listen / join in with**

**Share the Light of Jesus**