

## It happened in February

February 11, 1929 - Italian dictator Benito Mussolini granted political independence to Vatican City as part of the Lateran Treaty with Pope Pius XI. The Treaty recognized the sovereignty of the Pope over the area, measuring about 110 acres.

During the period from the 4th century to 1870, the Vatican had gained control of territory around Rome which served as capital of the Papal States. However, as part of the unification of Italy these states came under increasing pressure culminating with the capture of Rome by Italian soldiers in 1870.

For the next 59 years, the popes refused to leave the Vatican in order to avoid any appearance of accepting the authority of the Italian government over Rome as a whole. During this period, popes refused to appear at Saint Peter's Square or at the balcony of the Vatican Basilica facing it. Popes granted the Urbi et Orbi blessings from a balcony facing a courtyard, or from inside the basilica, and papal coronations were instead held at the Sistine Chapel. The period ended in 1929, with the Lateran Treaty.

Vatican City has its own telephone system, post office, gardens, astronomical observatory, radio station, banking system, and pharmacy, as well as a contingent of Swiss Guards responsible for the personal safety of the pope since 1506. Almost all supplies—including food, water, electricity, and gas—must be imported. There is no income tax and no restriction on the import or export of funds. As the Holy See, it derives its income from the voluntary contributions from Catholics worldwide, as well as interest on investments and the sale of stamps, coins, and publications. Banking operations and expenditures have been reported publicly since the early 1980s.

Saturday 8th is **International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking**, first observed in 2015 and on the memorial of St Josephine Bakhita.

Each year, around 2.5 million people are victims of trafficking and slavery. For those engaged in trafficking it has become one of the most lucrative illegal activities in the world. Through the Day of Prayer we reflect on the experience of those who have suffered but also we are called to reach out to victims and survivors.

St Josephine Bakhita 1868-1947, a native of Sudan, brought as a slave to Italy where she became a Christian and later entered the Institute of Canossian Daughters of Charity in Venice.

## Saints of the Week

Mon 3 St Blaise, bishop and martyr  
St Ansgar, bishop  
Wed 5 St Agatha, virgin and martyr  
Thurs 6Ss Paul Miki and Companions, martyrs  
Fri 7 St Mel, bishop  
Sat 8 St Jerome Emiliani  
St Josephine Bakhita, virgin

"A love of reconciliation is not weakness or cowardice. It demands courage, nobility, generosity, sometimes heroism and overcoming of oneself rather than of one's adversary. At times, it may even seem like dishonour, but it never offends against true justice or denies the sighs of the poor. In reality, it is the patient, wise art of peace, of living with one's fellows, after the example of Christ with a strength of heart and mind modelled on his."

St. Paul VI



## FOXROCK PARISH

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2nd 2020



## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel." - Lk 2:34a

## Important Notice

With effect from Sunday 9 February, the time of the 12.30 pm Mass on Sundays will change to 12.45 pm.

Recently Deceased  
Judy Fleming  
Mary-Paula McGilligan  
May they rest in peace



## MASS INTENTIONS

**Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2020**  
**6.00 pm Vigil**  
Louis Dockery (Anv)  
Fr. Jerry O'Brien (Anv)  
John & Mary Maher (Anv)  
**Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2020**  
**10.00 am**  
Judy Fleming (Rec Dec)  
**11.30am**  
**Months Mind for December 2019**  
Damien Collins  
Maureen O'Neill  
Eileen Power  
Dermod Flynn  
Michael Rene McNally  
Matt McCusker  
**12.30pm**  
Teresa Monaghan (Rec Dec)  
**Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2020**  
**10.00am**  
Gertie, Ann & Marie Brady (Anv)  
Bridget Mc Coole (Anv)  
**Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020**  
**10.00am**  
Clodagh Petrie (Anv)  
Jane Mulligan (Anv)  
**Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020**  
**10.00am**  
Clóna Keaveney  
**Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020**  
**10.00am** First Friday

PLEASE TAKE HOME A COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER



**February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020  
Presentation of the Lord**

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.” Very often, having more light is not something we desire as it forces us to confront something we really do not want to see. There can be comfort found in darkness. It has an eerie sense of security to it. We do not have to challenge ourselves or be challenged and can simply exist in some fabricated state of self-fabricated blissfulness. Jesus came to bring light, and it is a light that is resisted by many and hated by some. It is a light that causes us to see things as they really are and not as we would want or need them to be.

It is no wonder then that Simeon boldly and honestly proclaims to Mary, “Behold, this child

is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” We have to take the Gospel message as it is and not just use those parts that are useful to us or more palatable. Taking Jesus at face value can and will lead to turmoil and dissention. Hearts will be pierced. Whether we like it, Jesus’ proclamation of what the world God created really ought to look like has real and absolute social implications.

It has a lot to say about how we treat our brothers and sisters: spiritually, personally, economically, and globally. It has everything to do with the poor, the immigrant, the scared, the unborn, the vulnerable, the sick, and the broken. The light opens us to a challenging, table-turning experience that may not be something we want to see but shows us where we need to be.

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**World Day of the Sick  
2020:**

The World Day of the Sick Seminar will take place on Saturday, February 8th from 9.30am to 1.00pm in the Newtown Parish Pastoral Centre, Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin. This year’s theme is on *Hope in the Face of Suicide*.

The World Day of the Sick Mass will take place on Sunday 9th February at 3.30pm in Church of the Guardian Angels, Newtontownpark Avenue, Blackrock. Principal celebrant Archbishop Diarmuid Martin.

**Celebration for Consecrated Life  
2020:**

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin will celebrate Mass for Consecrated Life, Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, in the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Foxrock, Dublin 18 on Sunday, 2nd February at 3.30pm.

Music will be provided by the Dublin Diocesan Music Group.



Church cleaning after  
10.00 am Mass  
Thursday 6th Feb

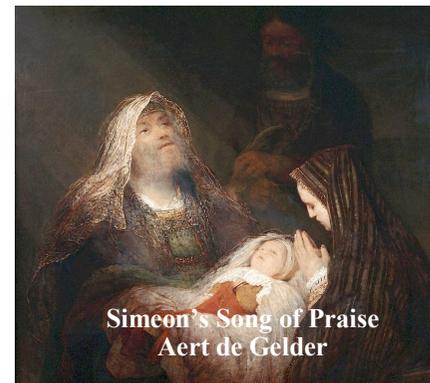
Today’s Gospel deals with the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple and includes the great prayer said by Simeon starting “Now Lord you can let your servant go in peace (Nunc dimittis servum tuum Domine)”

This prayer is one of ten contained in the Breviary which are described as “Canticles” and are intended for daily use. Seven of these are drawn from the Old Testament and three from St Luke’s Gospel. These three canticles are usually referred to in Latin by their first few words :

the "Canticle of Zechariah " ( Luke 1:68-79 ), commonly referred to as the "Benedictus" said at morning,  
the "Canticle of the Virgin. Mary" ( Luke 1:46-55 ), commonly known as the "Magnificat" said in the evening  
and the "Canticle of Simeon" ( Luke 2:29-32 ), commonly referred to as the "Nunc dimittis" said at night-time.

The Benedictus is the prayer of Zechariah at the birth of his son John the Baptist, the Magnificat is Mary’s great prayer when she visits her cousin Elizabeth and the Nunc Dimittis is said by Simeon at the Lord’s Presentation in the Temple.

The Nunc Dimittis has been set to music by several composers including Thomas Tallis, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Arvo Pärt, Herbert Howells and Charles Villiers Stanford. There is also a Taizé version.



**Simeon’s Song of Praise  
Aert de Gelder**



[www.parishcentre.ie](http://www.parishcentre.ie)  
Pastoral Centre 2895650

Garda Gavin will be in the Centre next Tuesday from 10am, if you have any queries for him or would like any advice, just pop in for a chat.

Pamela-Maria, is taking bookings for her new Mindfulness course which starts tomorrow 3 February 2020, contact 083 8166800 to book your place.

Zumba Class take place every Monday in the Centre from 2pm to 3pm, just come along as it’s pay as you go, for more details contact Fiona on 087 2866188.

Active Retirement are having a Table Quiz this coming Thursday, they meet in the hall from 2pm. Contact Maureen on 086 0860095 for more information.

Have a great week, Regards Róisín



The annual Mass for Past Pupils of St Mary’s Dominican Convent Dun Laoghaire will be on Sunday 16th February in the Primary School Hall Convent Road Dun Laoghaire at 3pm.

All Past Pupils very welcome.