

The Church of Saint Laurence, Upminster

PORCH TALK



Sunday 1st February Candlemas

Welcome to Saint Laurence.

Adventurers (groups for children and young people) meet during the 9.30 am Mass. Leaders will normally invite children to join in with these at the appropriate point in the service. Activity packs and children's service books are available from the back of church.

You are warmly invited to stay for refreshments in the Main Hall after the 9.30 Mass.

Today	Holy Communion	8.00 am
1 st February Candlemas	Building Faith service, Main Hall	8.00 am
	Sung Parish Mass and Procession	9.30 am
	Choral Evensong and Benediction	6.30 pm
Monday	Organ Teaching	11.00 am
2 nd February	Organ Teaching	5.00 pm
Wednesday	Morning Prayer, Lady Chapel	8.45 am
4 th February	Staff Meeting, Parish Office	9.00 am
	Said Mass, Lady Chapel	11.00 am
	PCC Meeting, Parish Office	7.30 pm
Thursday	Choir Practice	8.00 pm
5 th February		
Friday	Organ Teaching	10.00 am
6 th February	Coffee Morning, with cards sale and raffle, Main Hall	10.30 am
	Organ Teaching	2.00 pm
Next Sunday	Holy Communion	8.00 am
8 th February 2 nd Sunday before Lent	Sung Parish Mass	9.30 am
	Evensong on Zoom	6.30 pm

Choral Evensong and Benediction readings this Sunday: Haggai 2.1-9, John 2.12-22

Mass readings next Sunday: Genesis 1.1-2.3, Romans 8.18.25, Matthew 6.25-end

Evensong readings next Sunday: Proverbs 8:1,22-31, Revelations 4

Saturday Pathsweepers: 7th February Stewart & Thomson **Coffee:** 8th February Joan, Michelle and Kate

Please let Revd Susannah or Deborah Masterson know of anyone who is ill or in need of a pastoral visit, or housebound and wanting to receive the sacrament at home – or if you would appreciate a conversation or visit for any reason.

NOTICES

Today we welcome the Revd Canon Ken Wylie to our 8 am Mass.

Choral Evensong – This evening there will be a service of Choral Evensong and Benediction in church at 6.30pm. All are very welcome to share in this contemplative, traditional and beautiful evening liturgy in which we worship through the beautiful music led by our choir and receive the blessing and assurance of Jesus' presence with us.

Church opening and closing on Thursdays - We are in need of a volunteer to open and lock the church on Thursdays each week. If you may be able to help, please speak to Susannah or to Chris Mowat.

Gill Roome will be selling Easter and other greetings cards in the main hall on Friday 6th February at coffee and after the 9.30 mass on Sunday 8th February. This will be in aid of the Lent charity Meningitis now. There will be a raffle on the Friday which will be drawn that day.

Quinquagesima lunch Sunday 15th February, 12.30pm for 1pm start in the main hall, adults £15, children £5. Please contact the parish office or Joan Prudden if you would like to book by Sunday 8th February.

Servers - If any children or adults would be interested in joining our team of altar servers, please speak to Susannah, or to Michael Masterson. We are always pleased to welcome new participants!

Ash Wednesday, 18th February - There will be a Said Mass at 11am and a Sung Mass at 8pm, both with the opportunity to receive the sign of the cross in ashes.

Stations of the Cross - once again we will be sharing this liturgy with St Joseph's Catholic Church on Friday evenings in Lent. All at 7.30pm, venues as follows - St Laurence: 20th Feb, 6th Mar, 20th Mar. St Joseph's: 27th Feb, 13th Mar, 27th Mar.

Lent book/course: We will be holding a Lent course on Wednesdays in Lent (25th Feb, 4th Mar, 11th Mar, 18th Mar, 25th Mar) at 11.45am in the Parish Office. We will be using the book 'Meeting God in John' by David F. Ford. Please let Susannah know if you would like to join the course. You will need to purchase a copy of the book. If you cannot attend the course, you may still like to follow the book at home - it is suitable for both group and individual use.



AT THE MASS

1st February 2026

Candlemas

Introit

677 In a world where people walk in darkness

Setting

Mass of St Thomas - Thorne

Collect of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Malachi 3:1-5

Thus says the Lord God:

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.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the

widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

Responsorial Psalm 24

John McCann

The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glo - ry.

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Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in

Who is the King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in.

Hebrews 2:14-end

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus 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.

Alleluia

Celtic

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus 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 turtle-doves 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.

Offertory hymn 110 Hail to the Lord who comes

Anthem All in the morning (1919), Music: Vaughan Williams
Text: English Traditional Carol

Communion hymn 396 Faithful vigil ended

Post Communion
Lindley

Nunc Dimittis – The Knaresborough Service -
Lindley

Processional hymn 113 When candles are lighted (omit starred verses)

Organ Voluntary Voluntary 1 Opus 7 – John Stanley

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Prayer request forms are available at the back of church. Please use them if you wish us to pray for someone.

Sunday: Pam Chapman, Keith Sharp, Steve Martin, Vicki Hobbs, Fr. Gareth Bowen, Ricky Schrembri, Mary Ann Madden, Rosalind Manley, Simon Pols, Brian Shaw, Glynis Whiting, Sylvia Wilson, Maria, Marie Tyler, Alan Butcher.

Wednesday: Denise Comer, Baby Charles, Doreen, Michael Folkes, Mary Greig, Stanley Oliver, Alan Jones, Sandra Clarke, Michael McSweeney, Terry Evens.

Additional Prayers: All those receiving Home Communion.

Recently departed:

Anniversaries of the departed: Bill Harding, Ray Mulley, Margaret Holden, Reg Watson, Brian Coleman, Sam Potton, Maggie Holden, Valerie Smith, Amy Parsons, William Gunary, Sarah Millington, Ivy Oliver, Eric Pomfrett, Jane Spencer, David Lyus

CHARITY OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY AND MARCH



Meningitis Now is the first meningitis patient group in the world, founders of the meningitis movement and the only charity dedicated to fighting meningitis in the UK. Over our 30 year history, we have invested over £12.7m in early stage research that has played a critical part in the introduction of five life-saving vaccines

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Open: Tue. 8.30-5.30pm, Wed. 9-11am (Staff Meeting), Thur. 8-12.30pm.

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Planned Giving treasurer@upminsterparish.co.uk

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Welcome to the Parish Church of Upminster. If we have not met you before, do introduce yourself. If you wish, give these details to one of the officials.

Name

Telephone

**Revd Susannah sends a weekly email about services, news and events.
Please email her if you would like to receive her emails.**