



The Presentation of the Lord

2nd February 2025

CLONARD MONASTERY
1 CLONARD GARDENS
BELFAST BT13 2RL
Tel: 02890445950



MASS TIMES AT CLONARD

Public Mass & Masses via Webcam

Sunday (Vigil Sat- 7.30pm), 7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, and 12.30pm.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri.
7.00am, 9.30am and 6.15pm.
Thursday (Novena) 7.00am, 9.30am, 6.15pm and 8.00pm.
Saturday 7.00am, 9.30am & 12.00 Noon.



We thank you for last week's collection which came to £3,252, also for your kind donations, online and by post. The Bishop's collection will be included today

Due to the need for urgent repair, the central entrance door to the church will be out of use for the next few weeks. In order to preserve heat in the church, we ask you to enter and exit the church by the off-centre doors. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Feast Days this week::

Sunday February 2nd: Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, World Day for Consecrated Life. Candles will be Blessed at all Masses
Monday February 3rd: Feast of St. Blaise, Blessing of throats after each Mass.

Unity Pilgrims of Hope - next Sunday, 9 February our unity pilgrims will join Shankill Methodist for their 10.30am Service. Meeting at Clonard reception at 10:00am. All welcome!

This Sunday's Scripture Readings:

Malachi 3:1-4 When God's Messenger arrives, he will refine the people.
Hebrews 2:14-18 Our perfect mediator has deeply shared our human experience.
Luke 2:22-40 The child Jesus is recognised and welcomed by Simeon and Anna.

The Presentation of Our Lord

In Luke's account of the Presentation, we hear about Mary and Joseph bringing baby Jesus to the temple to present Him to the Lord, as was the custom. They bring Jesus, not with fanfare, but with humble obedience. This act reminds us that faith isn't always about grand gestures. It's often found in the everyday, the routine, the quiet moments of devotion. How often do we overlook this in the ordinary hustle of our lives?

We are reminded of the importance of faith and commitment in our lives today. Mary and Joseph's commitment to raising Jesus in a faith-filled environment is a powerful example for modern families. In a world where distractions are plentiful, prioritising our spiritual responsibilities can sometimes take a backseat. Yet, this story encourages us to make faith a central part of our daily lives.

Simeon and Anna's recognition of Jesus as the Messiah also speaks to the value of patience and hope. Simeon had been promised that he would not die before seeing the Messiah, and Anna had spent years in the temple, worshiping and fasting. Their perseverance and unwavering faith were rewarded. In our fast-paced world, it's easy to become impatient and lose hope when things don't happen as quickly as we'd like. We should remember that God's timing is perfect, and our faith and patience will be rewarded in ways we might not expect.

Simeon's prophecy, a mix of joy and sorrow, foreshadows the difficulties of Jesus' mission. He speaks of Jesus as a light to the Gentiles, a message of inclusion that resonates powerfully today. In a world often divided by race, religion, and nationality, we are called to embrace this radical inclusivity. Jesus' light shines for everyone, regardless of background or belief. But Simeon also speaks of a sword piercing Mary's heart, a stark reminder that love and sacrifice are linked. Following Jesus isn't always easy. It requires courage, resilience, and a willingness to embrace suffering alongside joy. The Presentation invites us to reflect on our own lives, to find God in the ordinary, to embrace inclusivity, and to prioritise love over material possessions.

St Brigid's Day Lecture. Today, Sunday 2nd February at 4pm, in

St Brigid's Parish Centre, 38 Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast.

Guest speaker Bishop Alan McGuckian S.J..

The theme is Synodality for Mission. All are welcome.



4 Corners Festival 2025 - begins this weekend and continues until Sunday 9 February. This Sunday, 2 Feb. at 7pm in Jennymount Methodist Church (222 North Queen St, BT15 3DH) join Dr Lorna Gold (Chair of Pope Francis' 'Laudato Si' Movement) for an inspiring evening on climate action and caring for our earthly home. With special musical guest Clare Sands. More information on all 4 Corners events and to book free tickets visit www.4cornersfestival.com. Programmes also available at the back of the church.

