



St Matthew's Holland Park Weekly Bulletin 2nd February 2025



*This week's Revd. Morris' message: **I wonder if Jesus often comes amongst us in unexpected ways?***

In today's Gospel, Luke shares with us another of the key events of Jesus' childhood - His presentation in the Temple as a baby in accordance with the Mosaic Law and the astonishing reaction of two of the devout of Israel to His appearance.

In this reading, Luke uses a series of dichotomies [comparison of opposites] namely:

- a. Jesus, who becomes the new Temple [the place where humans can meet with God and be made right with Him - see John 1:14 and 2: 19ff], is presented in the Herodian Temple itself. The ritual used for this presentation in the First Century includes a ritual purification of Mary as well as a confirmation that the baby boy at his circumcision was welcomed into the nation of Israel and thus becomes a beneficiary and part of the Old Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants. Jesus' parents fulfil these Old Covenant requirements but Jesus is also, unexpectedly, effectively heralded by Simon and Anna as the *New Moses* who ushers in a *New Covenant* for all peoples [see Luke 2:32; Luke 22:20 and Hebrews 8:6ff] This Temple is to become a vital part of Jesus' future ministry [e.g. it is the same place which Jesus later sits with the leaders of the law [Luke 2: 46]; He cleanses it [Luke 19:45] and prophesies its destruction in 70AD [Luke 21:5 ff];
- b. The sacrifice offered for Jesus was that allowed only for the poorest of Suppliants [see Leviticus 12:8] yet Jesus was hailed as Messiah and Saviour of the world;
- c. Simeon recognises and hails Jesus ...but then immediately warns Mary of her coming suffering that Jesus' cruel death, amongst other things, will cause her;
- d. Anna's terribly sad life story is revealed to us but the arrival of Jesus provides her with great joy that caused her to give thanks to God and saw, despite its oncoming destruction, Jerusalem's ultimate redemption; and
- e. Only Simeon and Anna, *two devout outsiders*, recognise Jesus' vital importance. The keepers of the Temple whose job it was to worship God and maintain the temple whilst awaiting His Messiah, performed the required ceremony over Him, yet 'missed the boat'! Both outsiders received truly Divine **insider insights** that they were bidden to share with the Holy Family.

Well, what does this all mean for us today?

I wonder what some outsider's current Divine insights may be ...for us? ... our parish? ... our Church? ... our Community? How easy it is to dismiss or undervalue a view that doesn't come from People Like Us [PLU's]?

We sometimes deride the Temple elders for not recognising Jesus in their midst. ***I wonder how often Jesus comes to us in an unexpected form?*** If so, perhaps we may also 'miss Him' due to our own biased expectations or the rush of our busy lives? [See Matthew 25: 31ff *They asked ... 'When did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison ...'*] **Gospel reading: Luke 2:22-40.**

Some resources to dig deeper: <https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/first-sunday-of-christmas-2/commentary-on-luke-222-40-2>; <https://www.wyattgraham.com/p/how-is-jesus-the-temple> ;



Happy Candlemas!

The 2nd of February is also the date for the celebration of Candlemas. The purpose of the Candlemas celebration is to re-enact the recognition of Simeon and Anna at Jesus' Presentation that He is both Messiah and Saviour. Hallelujah! *Jesus is the Christ has come into the world and is in fact its' Divine light.* We light a candle on Candlemas to confirm that we have accepted Jesus as our Light. We then take our candle home with us to remember that Jesus, our Light, is with us every day and 'abides with us' in our homes. See <https://www.catholiccompany.com/magazine/candlemas-symbolism-5980>

Upcoming Parish Activities: Regular parish activities are mostly back! **Midweek service Wednesday 10:30 am; Regis Service @ 11:15am and Meditation Group 6:30pm; OpShop** Thursday and Saturday 9am - Noon; **Mens Breakfast** Thursday 7 am in the Hall; **Today's Notices Highlights: Video Training** available; **AGM #2 16/2/25** Reports to Revd Morris before 7/2/25; **Behind the scenes thx:** Our Catering team and Kitchen Angels! **Readings for Next Sunday:** Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11.

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Parish website : <https://www.stmatthewshollandpark.com/>

Parish Private Facebook site : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292308270851142> ;

Public Site: <https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewsHollandPark> ;

Tipper's Treasure's Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559040358754>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY:

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Turrbal and Jagera Peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. We acknowledge their continued spiritual connection to country and surrounding land, sky and water. We pay our respect to their Elders, past present and emerging and pray that we may continue to learn from and nurture one another in the spirit of Reconciliation.