



02.02.2025

# Ealing Abbey Church of St. Benedict *Newsletter and Information bulletin*

All Masses Celebrated in the week are live-streamed on [ChurchServices.TV](https://www.churchservices.tv)

## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Mal 3:1-4 ; Heb 2: 14-18 ; Luke 2: 22-40



### Useful Contacts

**PARISH PRIEST - Fr. Ambrose McCambridge OSB**  
**Priest of the Parish - Fr. Timothy Gorham OSB**

**Parish Secretary - Robert Ewan** | [parishoffice@ealingabbey.org.uk](mailto:parishoffice@ealingabbey.org.uk) | 020 8194 2301 |  
Parish office: Open Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30pm | 2, Marchwood Crescent, Ealing, London W5 2DZ

**Pastoral Coordinator- Chelle D'cruz** | [Pastoral.coordinator@ealingabbey.org.uk](mailto:Pastoral.coordinator@ealingabbey.org.uk) | 020 8194 2302 |  
Hours: Mon-Fri 8.30-12:30pm

*If you would like to start receiving an extended version of the newsletter by email on a fortnightly basis – contact Chelle*

**Catechetical Coordinator- Danielle Rudge** | [catecheticalcoordinator@ealingabbey.org.uk](mailto:catecheticalcoordinator@ealingabbey.org.uk)

**Emergency Sick Calls - 07752 385860**

**Ealing Abbey Monastery - 020 8194 2300** | Charlbury Grove, Ealing, London W5 2DY

**Chair Of Pastoral Council- Ms. Ibi Abasi**

**Safeguarding Representatives- Marie-Helene Collins, Dr Brendan Curran**  
[ealingsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:ealingsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

**Connect: Website** [www.ealingabbeyparish.uk](http://www.ealingabbeyparish.uk) | **Facebook** [www.facebook.com/StBenedictsEaling](https://www.facebook.com/StBenedictsEaling)

### DIVINE OFFICE

	Sunday	Weekday	Saturday
MATINS		6.00am	6.30am
LAUDS	7.35am	7.35am	7.35am
VESPERS	6.00pm	6.35pm	5.15pm
COMPLINE		8.00pm	
VIGIL			7.30pm

### WEEKDAY & SATURDAY

#### MASSES

7.00am  
(With the Monks)  
9.15am  
6.00pm  
(Vigil Mass of Sunday)

### SUNDAY MASS

9.00am (with children's liturgy)  
10.15am (Family Mass in Abbey Hall)  
10.30am (Choral Mass)  
12 noon (Sung Mass)  
7.00pm (Young people's Mass)

#### CONFESSION:

*Saturday: 10am-11am/4pm-5pm,  
Thursday: 7.45pm-8.15pm*

## *Dear Parishioner,*

This Sunday, February 2nd, we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. This day blends biblical tradition with liturgical symbolism, offering us a chance to reflect on Christ's light in our lives.

Candlemas commemorates two key events: the ritual purification of Mary 40 days after Jesus' birth and the presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple at Jerusalem. In the Gospel of Luke, we learn that Jesus was met by Anna and Simeon in the temple. Simeon, holding the baby Jesus, declared Him to be a Light to the World.

The name "Candlemas" comes from the tradition of blessing all the Church's candles for the year on this day. Many people also place lit candles in their windows at home on Candlemas night, symbolizing Christ's light.

Interestingly, Candlemas has roots in pre-Christian traditions as a festival of light. It marked the midpoint of winter, halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. Weather predictions were often associated with this day, as reflected in the old verse:

"If Candlemas Day be fair and bright  
Winter will have another fight.  
If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain,  
Winter won't come again."

Fans of the film *\*Groundhog Day\** might recognize a similar tradition. In North American folklore, if Punxsutawney Phil, the groundhog, emerges from his burrow on February 2nd and sees his shadow, he retreats, signalling six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't see his shadow, spring is on its way.

Returning to the Gospel, the Feast of the Presentation shows Mary and Joseph's deep faith and humility as they fulfil the requirements of Jewish law. They offer a modest sacrifice of two doves or pigeons, a sign of their simple life. While at the temple, they encounter Simeon and Anna—two elderly, devout individuals who immediately recognise the child's significance.

Simeon's prayer, the *Nunc Dimittis*, is a profound hymn of praise and prophecy, proclaiming Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. Anna, too, shares the joy of this moment, speaking of Jesus to all who await the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Gospel reading highlights the fulfilment of God's promises. Simeon, guided by the Holy Spirit, had been assured he would not die before seeing the Messiah. His encounter with Jesus brings him profound joy. Similarly, Anna's years of prayer and fasting lead her to this sacred moment of recognition and proclamation.

This theme of fulfilled promises resonates with our own lives. Like Simeon and Anna, we are called to trust in God's faithfulness, even in times of waiting and uncertainty. Candlemas encourages us to stay vigilant, hopeful, and open to encountering Christ in unexpected ways. As we reflect on this feast, we are reminded of the light we are called to share with others. In a world often overshadowed by division, suffering, and despair, our faith in Christ compels us to be sources of hope, compassion, and reconciliation. Candlemas is not only about celebrating Christ as the light of the world but also about renewing our commitment to reflect His light in our daily lives.

Yours in Christ,  
***Deacon Ian***

## Anniversaries from the week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025

Mary Moray, Zosia Szajdzicka, Maria Ratajczak, Eileen Eaves,  
Thomas Honan, Frederick Samuels, Zadislaw Konczak,  
Maria Gomez Sanz, John (Tony) Holland, Joan McCormack,  
William Lawson, Thomas Hennebry, Eric Read-Jones,  
Leslie Hill, Maureen Kelly, Michael Chapman, Frances Daly,  
Bridget Aubrey, Gerard Horrigan, Joyce Valvona, Mary Conway,  
Terence O'Sullivan, Maria Korwaser, Patrick Joseph Maloney,  
Stasia Saunders, Druce Gomes, Grahame Jones, John Taylor,  
Raywill Cummings, Angela Tomkins, Patrick D'Mello,  
Wanda Pluta-Czachowska, Olivia Jordan, Geraldine Holland,  
Jan Szachno-Hodgkinson, Mary Murphy, Stefania Kacperek,  
Anna Musial, Ivy Witcombe, Andrew Jonscher,  
Yvette Green, Paul Hatch

## Information & Diary

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

2.30-4.30pm: Parish In-Council Meeting in the Parish Hall, all are welcome.

### **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February *St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr/ St Ansgar, Bishop***

8-9pm: Bingo in Parish Hall.

### **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

9.45-11.45am: Toddlers – Parish Hall.

1pm-3pm: Senior citizens-Coffee lounge

6.30pm- Meditation: in the Bulbeck Room with Fr. Robin Burgess

### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February *St Agatha***

7.00-8.15pm: Ealing Abbey Lay Plainchant Choir, Maurice Fowler Hall. New members/beginners welcome. For further information, see [www.ealpc.org](http://www.ealpc.org).

### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February *St Paul Miki & Comp***

9.45-11.45am: Toddlers- Parish Hall.

10.00am: Lectio Divina in the Bulbeck Room with Sheila Rees, refreshments at 11.00am and meditation at 11.15. With Fr Robin Burgess.

### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February *St Jerome Emilian/ St Josephine Bakhita***

## Finance News

Collections 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Offertory, ATM, and others: £1429

We are deeply grateful for the wonderful financial support we receive. If you would like to make a donation to help us to continue to sustain the mission of the Church, share the Gospel and serve those in need, our Bank Account details are:

**Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland, 49 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 3AS Account No: 19123696  
Sort Code: 16-00-15 Account Name: The Trust of St Benedict's Ealing Abbey**

# Notices

## **Parish In-Council Meeting**

Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 in the Parish Hall

Join us at 2.30-4.30pm for an update on core activities of Parish Life.



## **Celebrate the gift of Marriage and Family Life at Ealing Abbey**

Sunday, 9th February 2025



During the 9am mass, we will celebrate the gift of marriage and family life with the renewal of marriage vows. You are all very welcome to come along and gather in the Benet Bar after mass.

## **The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes with Anointing of the sick**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 Mass at 11.30am, with anointing of the sick  
Followed by soup and sandwiches in the Parish Hall.

## **A Course in Mosaics for Iconography with Martin Earle.**

Monday 17th to 21st March 2025

The Christian Art Studio at Ealing Abbey is offering a 5-day mosaic course suitable for beginners, hobbyists and the more experienced, no artistic experience is required. The aim is to introduce students to practical elements of building mosaics and the tradition of Christian Mosaic making. Students will work on a couple of projects, one simple and one more intricate. All work will be guided by expert award winning Christian liturgical artist Martin Earle. Specialist equipment and all materials will be provided by the studio for students use and students will come away with two completed projects. Fee £400 including £100 deposit to be paid on booking. Please email [info@christianartstudio](mailto:info@christianartstudio) for a booking form, booking for this course will close Friday 14th of Feb (or as soon as places sell out)

## **Benedict Renew - Wellbeing**

We are calling for more volunteers, who can spare just 2 hours a week on a Wednesday 10am-12pm to help us run a weekly safe space to those who are isolated or lonely, for people to meet, pray and socialise once a week in conjunction with the Renew Wellbeing group. We are hoping to start mid-March.

### ***What is involved?***

No specific skills are required, you will have access to useful resources and training. You just need to be kind and care, be willing to show up, commit, be willing to lend an ear and listen, without judgement, if people want to talk.

You can help with being hospitable (teas/coffee making), arranging weekly activities eg board games/ craft, just providing company on the day or help read short prayers provided for reflective prayer.

If you'd like to be part of a close-knit group committed to providing friendship and safety, and join as a core volunteer (weekly), fortnightly or monthly or even help in a 'leader' capacity, to run these, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Chelle D'cruz, Pastoral Coordinator at [chelle@ealingabbey.org.uk](mailto:chelle@ealingabbey.org.uk) for info.