



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

Sunday 2nd February to Saturday 8th February

St Andrew, St Paul & St Peter Blackley

Dear Friends

The Presentation

This day marks the completion of forty days since the birth of Jesus, when Mary and Joseph took him to the Temple in Jerusalem. The requirement in Levitical law was for Mary to be 'cleansed', the completion of her purification following the birth of a male child. Until that day, she could touch no holy thing nor enter the sanctuary. Yet on seeing the holy family, Simeon praised God and acclaimed the infant as 'the light to enlighten the nations' and the prophet Anna gave thanks and proclaimed him her Redeemer.

The image of Christ as the Light has led to the celebration of light countering darkness, with candles often taking a central place in the observance of this festival.

At St Paul's we will be celebrating this festival by making Christingles, and by baptising Victoria during the service. It promises to be an "illuminating" experience!

Lectionary Bible readings for RCL Epiphany 4 Year

C
Malachi 3. 1 – 5; Hebrews 2. 14 – 18; **Luke 2.22-40**

With every blessing
Pam

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Those grieving

The families of
Barbara Duxbury (St Andrew's parish), Paul Mellor (St Paul's parish) and David Craighill (St Andrew's parish) whose funerals fall in the next couple of weeks.

Those exploring their faith

Victoria, who will be baptised at St Paul's on 2nd February, Myla, who will be baptised at St Paul's on 16th February, and those who are thinking about baptism in the future.

Confirmation Candidates

Alfie, Emilia, Favor, Henry, Lily, Louis, Margot, Noah, Oliver, Sally, Timmy, and Violet.

Those getting married

Amy and James
(Banns at St Andrew's)

Those caring

Blackley Care Home

Blackley residents and visitors

Newry Walk, Normanton Drive,
Northbrook Avenue.

Schools and Young People

All our children and staff at Co-op
Academy Manchester

Worldwide Church

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa,
New Zealand and Polynesia

NEXT WEEK:

**Next Sunday is
The Fourth Sunday before Lent**

"Whom shall I send?"

Our readings will be

Isaiah 6. 1 – 8 [9 – 13]; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians
15. 1 – 11; **Luke 5. 1 - 11**

NOTABLE CHRISTIANS CELEBRATED THIS WEEK

3rd February

Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, 865

A native of Picardy, Anskar was a monk of Corbie near Amiens who, after the conversion of the King of Denmark to Christianity, went to Schleswig and attempted to start a Christian school there. He was expelled by the locals but went on to Sweden, where he is reputed to have built the first Christian church. In 832 he was consecrated Archbishop of Hamburg and sixteen years later became Archbishop of Bremen. He returned to Denmark to convert the King of Jutland. He preached widely throughout Scandinavia and was much-loved for his work with the poor and in mitigating the slave trade. He is the patron saint of Denmark and was popularly known as 'The Apostle of the North'. He died in the year 865.



6th February

The Martyrs of Japan, 1597

Almost fifty years after Francis Xavier had arrived in Japan as its first Christian apostle, the presence of several thousand baptised Christians in the land became a subject of suspicion to the ruler Hideyoshi, who soon began a period of persecution. Twenty-six men and women, Religious and lay, were first mutilated then crucified near Nagasaki in 1597, the most famous of whom was Paul Miki. After their martyrdom, their blooded clothes were kept and held in reverence by their fellow Christians. The period of persecution continued for another thirty-five years, many new witness-martyrs being added to their number.



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, 2nd February

- 9.30am St Andrew's Sunday Worship
9.30am St Peter's Sunday Worship
11.30am St Paul's Sunday Worship
Christingle and Baptism
4.30pm Confirmation Group – Children and Young People

Monday, 3rd February

- 9.00am Stay and Play at St Paul's
4.00pm Worship Leaders' Think Tank

Tuesday, 4th February

- 7.00pm Worship Leaders Fellowship Meeting

Wednesday, 5th February

- 9.00am Stay and Play at St Andrew's
10.45am Morning Service at St Andrew's
4.00pm Community Consultation at St Andrew's Church

Thursday, 6th February

- 11.00am Morning Worship at the Hub
12.00pm Community Café and Drop In at St Paul's
2.00pm Funeral of Barbara Duxbury (Rochdale Crematorium)
7.30pm Confirmation Group - Adults

Friday, 7th February

- 12.00pm Funeral of Paul Mellor (Blackley Crematorium)

Saturday, 8th February

- 10.00am Community Café at St Paul's
10.00am Eucharist Assistant Training at St Peter's
10.00am Maintenance and cleaning at St Paul's

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHURCH DATES

- 23rd February 2.30pm Confirmation Service
Venue will be confirmed closer to the date

PCC MEETINGS

- 18th February 7.00pm St Paul's *Parish Room*
4th March 7.00pm St Peter's *Parish Room*
25th March 7.30pm St Andrew's *Parish room*

DEANERY MEETINGS

- 28th January 7.00pm Deanery Chapter at All Saints', Newton Heath
25th February 7.00pm Deanery Synod at St Paul's

WORSHIP LEADERS MEETING

- 4th February 7.00pm St Andrew's Parish Room



CONTACT INFORMATION

If you need to contact anyone in church, please use the following methods:

Phone 0161 264 9982 **Email** clergy@blackleycofe.church **Website** <https://blackleycofe.church>

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL, PLEASE SEND US A

MESSAGE TO churchoffice@blackleycofe.church

AND WE WILL ADD YOU TO OUR MAILING LIST

DIOCESAN PRAYER FOR GROWTH



PRAY FOR GROWTH

Join us on the 1st Monday of the month to pray for growth in our Deanery of Manchester North and East.

6:30pm on Zoom



(Scan the QR code to join the call)

Dates:

- 6th January
- 3rd February
- 3rd March
- 7th April
- 5th May
- 2nd June
- 7th July
- 4th August
- 1st September
- 6th October
- 3rd November
- 1st December

Lord God,

We ask for an outpouring of your Holy Spirit upon this diocese.

Bringing before you the children and young people who do not know you, equip your people to share the gospel message of your love and how all people are precious in your sight and are wonderfully made in your image.

Inspire those who are already in our churches to speak openly of your love, which will transform the hearts and minds of those we meet.

Inspire us to be creative and energised in our retelling of your gospel from the very young to those in our schools, colleges, universities and beyond. Let us be bold and courageous, steadfast and true to your call upon our lives.

In the name of Jesus Christ,
Amen

LENT STUDY

Early notice that there will be the opportunity to study together through Lent this year, with several options for you to join in:



Thursday Mornings in person
11.00am at the Hub

or

Thursday Evenings in person
7.30pm at St Andrew's

or

Sunday Evenings online
5.00pm via Teams

The first session will be on the Thursday after Ash Wednesday, ie, 6th March, and I hope that both groups will join together with the whole church for a service on Maundy Thursday, 19th April.

Please let Pam know if you would like to be involved.