



Crucis



The Magazine of St Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church

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Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.

February 2024

Galatians 6:14

Message from Fr David

Dear Friends in Christ,

Although Christmas seems recent, before the next Crucis come out, Lent will already have begun! Easter is early this year, 31st March. It moves around because the date of Easter is based on the lunar calendar (as is the Jewish liturgical year) and not on the solar calendar. Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on from his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship by serious sin. This explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added. Lent is not a time for misery. It is a time for healing.



Ashes are a sign of penitence going back to biblical times. From the Middle Ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The calculation of the forty days has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual in the West to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including

Sundays because every Sunday is a little Easter). So, Lent begins on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday which this year is February 14th. Liturgical dress is the simplest possible. Churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration. The *Gloria in excelsis* is not used and *Alleluia* is not said or sung.

So, let us renew our spiritual practice, journeying with our Saviour into the wilderness and on his royal road to the Cross. As Pope St John Paul II wrote, 'The Cross, which seems to rise up from the earth, in actual fact reaches down from heaven, enfolding the universe in a divine embrace. The Cross reveals itself to be 'the centre, meaning and goal of all history and of every human life'' (Letter to the Youth of the World on the occasion of the 15th World Youth Day, 1999).

Bless you all.

Oremus pro invicem – let us pray for one another!

With Every Blessing,

Fr David

*Now is the healing time decreed
for sins of heart and word and deed,
when we in humble fear record
the wrong that we have done the Lord.
(Ecce tempus idoneum, Latin, before 12th century. Go
this web address for a lovely version of this ancient
hymn: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyEJUAJxUUo>)*

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in the Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to full communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.

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Prayer for The Purification of the BVM

O Lord Jesus Christ, who as a child wast presented in the temple and received with joy by Simeon and Anna as the Redeemer of Israel: Mercifully grant that we, like them, may be guided by the Holy Spirit to acknowledge and love thee unto our lives' end, who with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, livest and reignest God, world without end.

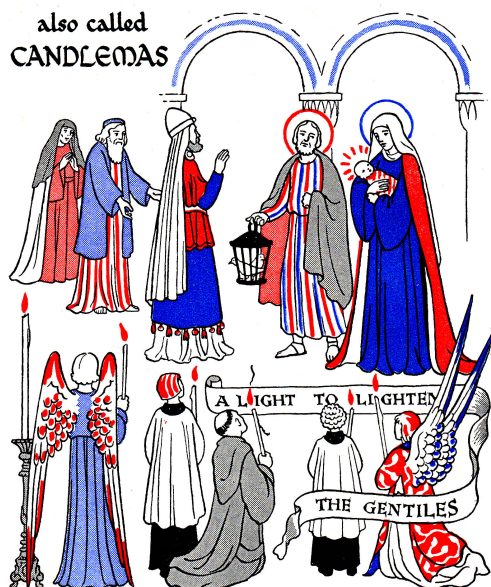
Church of South India

Services in February

Sun 4	Candlemas (tr)	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 7	St Paul Miki and the Martyrs of Japan (tr)	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
Sun 11	Sunday before Lent	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 14	Ash Wednesday	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
Sun 18	Lent I	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 21	Martin Luther (ant)	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.
Sun 25	Lent II	Sung Mass	11.00 a.m.
Wed 28	Feria	Low Mass	10.00 a.m.

Saints' and Special Days for February

PURIFICATION B.V.M



Friday, 2nd February – Candlemas

Also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ, the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or the Feast of the Holy Encounter, is a Christian holiday commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple, based on the account in Luke 2:22–40. It is traditionally the 40th day and conclusion of the Christmas–Epiphany season. While customary for Christians in some countries to remove their Christmas decorations on Twelfth Night (Epiphany Eve), others historically remove them after Candlemas, on which many have their candles blessed and use them for the rest of the year, serving as a symbol of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Wikipedia

Tue. 6th Feb. – St Paul Miki & the Martyrs of Japan

Almost 50 years after St Francis Xavier arrived in Japan, the Japanese ruler Hideyoshi initiated a persecution against Christians that continued for over 35 years. 26 men and women were mutilated and crucified at Nagasaki in 1597. A young Jesuit priest, Paul Miki, was amongst them.

SHROVE TUESDAY



Shrove = Pardon

ASH WEDNESDAY



Wednesday, 14th February – Ash Wednesday

Ashes are ceremonially placed on the heads of Christians on Ash Wednesday, either by being sprinkled over their heads or by being marked on their foreheads as a visible cross. The words (based on Genesis 3:19) used traditionally to accompany this gesture are, *Memento, homo, quia pulvis es, et in pulverem reverteris.* (Remember, man, that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return.)

Wikipedia

Thursday, 19th February – Martin Luther

Born in 1483 at Eisleben in Saxony and educated at the cathedral school in Magdeburg and the university in Erfurt. He joined the Augustinians there and was ordained priest in 1507, becoming a lecturer in the university at Wittenburg. He became vicar of his order in 1515, having charge of a dozen monasteries. His faith began to take on a new shape after he became convinced that the gospels taught that humanity is saved by faith and not by works, finding support in the writings of St Augustine of Hippo. He refuted the teaching of the scriptural Letter of James, calling it 'an epistle of straw'. Luther sought to debate the whole matter by posting ninety-five theses or propositions on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg in the year 1517. The hierarchy chose to see it as a direct attack on the Church, which forced Luther into open rebellion. The Protestant Reformation spread throughout Germany and then Europe, while the Catholic Church itself undertook long-advocated reform in response. Luther died in 1546, having effected a renaissance in the Church, both Protestant and Catholic.

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