



PARISH OF CIRENCESTER
St John Baptist | Holy Trinity | St Lawrence

Candlemas
(The Presentation of Christ in the Temple)
1st February 2026

Collect

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day
presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

or Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of
Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

Malachi 3.1-5

3 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. **2** But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; **3** he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. **4** Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

5 Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

Hebrews 2.14-18

14 Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. **16** For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. **17** Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. **18** Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Luke 2.22-40

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage,

³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Post Communion

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes
to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**BCP Sunday 1st February: The Presentation of Christ in The Temple,
[Candlemas], [commonly called The Purification of Saint Mary The Virgin]**
BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 205

This Week's Sunday Services (Candlemas) more information: www.cirenparish.co.uk

St John Baptist: 8a.m. BCP Eucharist; 10a.m. All-Age Eucharist;
4p.m. Choral Evensong

Holy Trinity: 8a.m. Eucharist; 10a.m. Eucharist

St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Eucharist; 4p.m. Restore@4

Next week's CW readings for Sunday 8th February – The 2nd Sunday before Lent

Genesis 1.1 - 2.3; Romans 8.18-25; Matthew 6.25-34

BCP Sunday 8th February: Sexagesima

BCP Collect and Readings beginning on Page 80

Next Week's Sunday Services more information: www.cirenparish.co.uk

St John Baptist: 8a.m. BCP and 10a.m. Eucharist; 12.30p.m. Baptism
4p.m. Evening Prayer

Holy Trinity: 8a.m. Eucharist and 10a.m. Eucharist

St Lawrence: 10.30a.m. Eucharist; 4p.m. Service of the Word

Parish Forum open for enquiries Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri...10a.m. – Midday
Canon Graham is available every Monday 5.30 - 6.30p.m. in the Parish Forum

NOTICES FOR THE PARISH

TODAY Candlemas and Christingles at the All Age Service. St John Baptist

All Families welcome for our 'Last look back at Christmas'

Planned Giving for 2026. We should like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have given so generously in 2025. New boxes of envelopes are available in church. If any other members of the congregation would like to join this scheme, please give your name and telephone number to one of the Churchwardens, the Parish Office or contact Peter Wilson by phone on 01285 652113 or by email at PTWCiren@aol.com

Mothers' Union. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday February 4th at 2.30pm** in the Parish Hall, Watermoor. It is our AGM and will be followed by Pauline reading some of her "famous" poems. There will also be a Bring and Buy stall. All welcome.

On **Wednesday 4th February at 1.10pm**, **Tim Selman** from **Lincoln Cathedral** will be performing our **lunchtime organ recital**. Entry is free with a retiring collection. We look forward to seeing you there!

Nicholas Morrow-Brown will be returning to **St John Baptist** on **February 7th** to perform a **guitar recital** for us at **2pm**. Entry is free with a retiring collection to support the work of the church. See you there!

The **Cirencester Foodbank** is actively looking to recruit more **Trustees** to their board as several of their trustees are due to be stepping down from their roles next year and they are keen to recruit some fresh faces, with a range of experience.. Email: recruitment@cirencester.foodbank.org.uk to find out more.

Contributions to pewleaflet@cirenparish.co.uk by Tuesday evening please!

Mothers' Union members are holding a **Soup Lunch** on **Wednesday February 11th** in the **Parish Hall**, Watermoor from **12noon** until **1.15pm**. Do join us for a bowls of delicious home-made soup, bread cheese, fruit, tea/coffee all for **£4.50**. All monies raised will go towards Mothers' Union projects. This will also be a sales table of MU cards and goods along with a raffle.

Just a quick **thank you** to all who have been praying for my return to good health, it all helps. I am on various tablets with further tests to have, but things seem to be progressing the right way. Not cured but by the grace of God I will get there. *Roger Hester*

Following the success last year in the Cathedral, **Faithful Generations** is coming to us on **Saturday 28th February, 12noon to 4pm** at **St John Baptist**. Everyone of grandparent generation and the children they love and care for in their families, churches and communities are invited. Explore Christian faith and spirituality through Dance, Prayer space, Stories, Interactive worship ... and more

Electoral Roll. If you have not yet done so and would like to join the Parish Electoral Roll - which enables you to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) - please could you complete the form which can be found at the back of church and return it to me via the churchwardens or scan it to me via email: to howardgray@cirenparish.co.uk. It is also possible to download the form from the parish website. (About us - Electoral Roll) *Howard Gray (Electoral Roll Officer)*

From the Parish Calendar:

- Mon 2 Feb 5pm: Organ Vespers – St John Baptist
- Tue 3 Feb 7.30pm: Christian Wellbeing Course – St Lawrence
- Wed 4 Feb 1.10pm: Organ Recital (Tim Selman) – St John Baptist
- Thu 5 Feb 9am: Gutter clearance – Holy Trinity and Parish Hall
- Sat 6 Feb 9.30am: Saturday Cleaning – Holy Trinity
- Sat 6 Feb 10.45am: Organ Demonstration – St John Baptist
- Sat 6 Feb 2pm: Guitar Recital (Nicholas Morrow Brown) – St John Baptist

Contact Details:

Canon Graham 01285 239655 / 07871 571147; email: vicar@cirenparish.co.uk

Rev'd Luke 07850 270719; email: revlukefalvey@cirenparish.co.uk

Parish Office 01285 659317; email: office@cirenparish.co.uk

Monday to Saturday:

St John Baptist: Morning Prayer: Daily at 9.15am (not Saturday)

Midday Eucharist: Daily at noon (Saturday at 10am)

Evening Prayer: Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 5pm

Little Angels: Mondays at 9.30am

Holy Trinity: Eucharist: Wednesdays at 7pm

St Lawrence: Drop In: Wednesdays at 9am

Parish Forum: Coffee & Chat: Thursdays at 10am

Contributions to pewleaflet@cirenparish.co.uk by Tuesday evening please!