

THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND DEDICATIONS

Monday 3 February, Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, 855

Psalm 1; Malachi 1.1, 6-end; John 13.1-11

Tuesday 4 February, Gilbert of Sempringham, Founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189

Psalm 5; H; Malachi 2.1-16; John 13.12-20

Wednesday 5 February, Agatha, martyr in Sicily, c251

Psalm 119.1-32; Malachi 2.17-3.12; John 13.21-30

Thursday 6 February, The Martyrs of Japan, 1597

Psalm 15; Malachi 3.13-end of 4; John 13.31-end

Friday 7 February

Psalm 19; Nahum 1; John 14.1-14

Saturday 8 February

Psalm 23; Obadiah; John 14.15-end

Sunday 9 February Fourth Sunday before Lent

Isaiah 6.1-8 (9end); 1 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; Luke 5.1-11

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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BIDEFORD PARISH BULLETIN

Part of the Mission Community of
Bideford, Landcross, Littleham, Monkleigh and Weare Giffard

Our Purpose:
TO SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2025 CANDLEMAS

- 9.30 am MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION, AND JUNIOR CHURCH
President: Rev'd Alan Glover
Talk: Rev'd Madeline Bray
- 11.15 am ENCOUNTER
- (9.30 am *Morning Praise, Weare Gifford - Sarah Cordingley*)

SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2025 FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

- 8 am SAID HOLY COMMUNION
President: Rev'd Robin Pirrie
- 9.30 am FAMILY ALL-AGE WORSHIP with All-Age Team and Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
- 11.15 am ENCOUNTER
- 6 pm CHORAL EVENSONG AT WEARE GIFFARD
- (11 am *Celtic Communion at Landcross – Rev'd Robin Pirrie*)

This church currently has a policy of not taking collections during services.

If you would like to donate to the work and ministry of St Mary's Church, we would be very grateful. You can donate at the door using our contactless machine or post cash in the slot in the same unit. If you would like to find out about regular giving, then please speak to one of the clergy or one of the Church Wardens. Thank you for your kind generosity.

Dates of Events and Meetings

Mon 3	9.30 am Holy Dusters
Tues 4	10.30 am Holy Communion (M.U. Corporate) 7.30 pm Parish Prayer, St Mary's House
Wed 5	9.30 am Music Makers
Thurs 6	4-5.30 pm Crypt Youth (7-11s) 5.30-7 pm Crypt Youth (11-16s)
Friday 7	11.15 am-1 pm Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 8	8.00 am Morning Prayer 10 am Treblemakers 10.30 am-12.30 pm Holy Grounds Café 11 am Worship Band Practice

PRAYERS

Please remember the following church family in your prayers: John Day, Marian Johns, Roger Phillips, and Alan Power.

Also, Jeff Hayward and family ahead of Dawn's funeral at 12.30 pm on Tuesday 11 February at St Margaret's Church, Northam.

16 FEBRUARY 3.30 PM POETRY READING BY JOHN HEDGE

John Hedge will read from his two collections of poetry, *The Paddington Band*, and *Life, Death and Football*, and talk about the themes behind his writing.

There will also be an opportunity to buy *Life, Death and Football*.

Although there will be no charge for the event, a small donation towards St Mary's Church would be much appreciated.

22 FEBRUARY (10 AM – 12.30 PM) SINGING WORKSHOP

Singing Workshop - Registration and coffee from 10 am followed by two 40-minute sessions led by John Nixon. All welcome.

SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY – CANDLEMAS

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.

THE FIRST READING Malachi 3.1-5

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. 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; 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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.

GOSPEL READING LUKE 2.22-40 Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

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 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), 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.'

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. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 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 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

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, 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. 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.

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