

Weekly Message from Fr William for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2023

Dear People of St Mary's, we've just celebrated the little feast of the Presentation (2nd Feb). I say 'little' because it's not like the two big feasts of Christmas and Easter. And yet it is a kind of bridge between them. The Feast of the Presentation falls on the 40th day of Christmas, and in some parts of the world the Christmas season extends right up to this 40th and final day. There's a lot to be said for this, especially if you like celebrating, and especially if you don't like dry or vegan Januaries. But that kind of presupposes you've been doing your holding back during Advent. The Feast of the Presentation marks the day Mary and Joseph brought the child Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem on the 40th day of his birth, to 'present him to the Lord', in accordance with what is laid down in the Law of Moses (Luke 2). But it is also a prophetic action, pointing ahead to Easter, when Jesus goes up to Jerusalem of his own accord to offer himself to the Father in the sacrifice of Calvary.

Parish Pastoral Council elections 2023. Thank you to all three candidates who accepted nomination to the PPC. Willingness to serve in this capacity is much appreciated, and helps sustain the election process and the democratic element of the council. Sarah McCann has been elected to the council as representative of our two Liturgy Ministry groups (Ministers of the Word and Eucharistic Ministers). Sheila Lund alone was nominated as representative of our Interaction Ministry groups and is therefore deemed elected automatically.

Apologies to those who celebrate mass with us by livestream at the Sunday 10am Mass. The livestream camera was off for the last two Sundays, but for very different reasons. Third Sunday in Ordinary Time I simply hadn't checked before mass that the camera was on. Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time you will have noticed feedback from the beginning of Mass. Those of us in church certainly did. I took the decision five minutes into mass to turn the camera off to stop the feedback, something I can do remotely from my mobile. Not an easy decision because I knew I would be cutting you off, but I don't think we could have borne the feedback throughout mass. It was turning the mass into a kind of musical 'round'. Why the feedback? Just before mass we had the livestream feed open on the AV computer to check that the livestream was coming through on the internet. Now the AV computer has an audio feed to the amplifier which is then fed on to the livestream camera, which then combines the video and audio inputs before sending the audiovisual signal out on the internet, for your devices to pick up... including on this occasion the AV computer. Hence the feedback. Although the livestream feed was open on the AV computer it had been 'minimized' rather than closed. 'Minimized' effectively means hidden, but still there and with audio still running. It's good practice to use a device to check that the livestream is coming through on the internet and I certainly commend this. This could be done on any device like a mobile phone. But if the AV computer is used for this, we just need to make sure that the livestream feed is then actually closed, once the check has been made, and not just minimized. When we experience a delay or hitch on the trains or on a flight takeoff I always wish they would have the courtesy to explain what's going on, so I wanted to extend to you the same courtesy.



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 5th February 2023