

2 February, Presentation of the Lord, Year A

TEMORA MISSION AREA

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Ardlethan/Sacred Heart Aria Park

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Parish Priest Fr Sijo Jose Email: Sijo.Jose@cg.org.au

St Therese Barellan Pastoral Associate: Sr Janet Glass rsj

In our Prayers: Tracey Passlow, Ray Fairman, Kashaya Kuemmel, Maxine Keshan,

For our Deceased: Dianne Stout, Fire fighters, Gerard Gaynor, Family, friends, parishioners and community members, and those who have died tragically in recent times.

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February 8—9 Aria Park 6 .00 p.m. Sat Mass

Mass Barmedman 8.00 a.m. Temora 10.00 a.m. Sunday

Liturgy Ardlethan **9.00 a.m.** Barellan 10.00 a.m.

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Reflection
A Light to Enlighten the Nations. Forty days have passed since the feast of Christmas. We have long since taken down our Christmas decorations with their multicoloured lights. But hopefully the light of Christ continues to shine brightly among us. The candles we use in liturgy remind us that Christ is our light and that we, in turn, are called to reflect this light to others.

Fr Sijo
This Sunday is our last Mass with Fr Sijo until early April. Fr Sijo will be leaving us for a few weeks for renewal and a mini sabbatical. *Fr Sijo, we ask our good God to guide you as you travel and to renew you in ways that are most life giving for you. May your time gift you with heartfelt blessings.*

Plenary Council
In October 2020, the Catholic Church in Australia will gather for the first Plenary Council. We continue to seek the wisdom of Holy Spirit as we focus on the six themes identified by the first phase of prayer and listening. These themes invite people to consider *'How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia'*. Questionnaire forms are available for you. Completed forms can be put on either collection plate during Mass until 9 February. *Thank you.*

Deanery Plenary Council Meeting
You are invited to join with other parishioners from our Deanery on **Saturday 22 February** to talk about issues in regard to the Plenary Council. More details to follow,

Plenary Council Update

Curiosity Corner

Who are the people serving on the Discernment and Writing Groups?

Lay people, priests and religious were selected, after a thorough application and interview process, to serve on the six Discernment and Writing Groups, which are each focusing on one of the six national themes for discernment. Each group also has two bishops.

Prayer for Rain

Almighty and Eternal Father, bestow the blessing of rain upon our parched land. Let your heavenly dew come down upon our farms, our stock and our native life. Give courage and strength to our farmers, their families and all our people. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord. Amen

Background on the Gospel

Presentation of the Lord

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple. The Presentation, which is celebrated 40 days after Christmas, is not mentioned in the other Gospels. Only Luke tells the story, most likely because he writes for Gentile Christians who are not familiar with the Jewish rite of presentation and purification. In addition, the intent of Luke's Gospel is to show that God's promise to Israel, fulfilled in Jesus, extends to Gentiles. Luke recognizes Joseph and Mary as faithful Jews who bring Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Here they present their firstborn son to the Lord. Jesus is thus consecrated as required by the Law of Moses. Present in the temple at this time are Simeon and Anna. Both are awaiting the restoration of God's rule in Israel. Simeon had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see Christ the Lord, the Messiah, before he died. The holy man immediately recognized the infant Jesus as the promised Saviour, a "light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." Anna also recognized Jesus as the fulfillment of the promise of redemption and spoke about him to all.



<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/presentation-of-the-lord-sunday-connection>

Roster 9 February	Leader: Suzanne	Reader: Mae
	Minister: Bruce	Welcomer: Brenda