

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION AND ST MEDDAN'S CHURCH CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Sunday 27th December 2020

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



Luke 2:22-40



The time came for Joseph and Mary to perform the ceremony of purification, as the Law of Moses commanded. So they took the child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as it is written in the law of the Lord: "Every first-born male is to be dedicated to the Lord." They also went to offer a sacrifice of a pair of doves or two young pigeons, as required by the law of the Lord.

At that time there was a man named Simeon living in Jerusalem. He was a good, God-fearing man and was waiting for Israel to be saved. The Holy Spirit was with him and had assured him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah. Led by the Spirit, Simeon went into the Temple. When the parents brought the child Jesus into the Temple to do for him what the Law required, Simeon took the child in his arms and gave thanks to God: "Now, Lord, you have kept your promise, and you may let your servant go in peace. With my own eyes I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples: A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles and bring glory to your people Israel."

The child's father and mother were amazed at the things Simeon said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, "This child is chosen by God for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against and so reveal their secret thoughts. And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will break your own heart."

There was a very old prophet, a widow named Anna, daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She had been married for only seven years and was now eighty-four years old. She never left the Temple; day and night she worshipped God, fasting and praying. That very same hour she arrived and gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were waiting for God to set Jerusalem free. When Joseph and Mary had finished doing all that was required by the law of the Lord, they returned to their home town of Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew and became strong; he was full of wisdom, and God's blessings were upon him.

Activity

Today we hear about Jesus and his family and a special trip they took to Jerusalem. We hear about the special things that happened to him there and all that was said about him. Jesus's parents Mary and Joseph took him to the Temple, to present him to God as was their custom. There were two other people in the story today too, who see the baby Jesus and recognise how important he is. Simeon is an old man, who has been promised by God that he will see Christ - the Saviour of the world. When he sees the baby Jesus, Simeon knows that the child is the Son of God. He tells everyone how special Jesus is.

Even though he was just a baby, Simeon and Anna, filled with faith, could see just how important Jesus was. They did not judge by what Jesus looked like, they knew in their hearts how special and important he was. Have you ever decided what someone is like as a person, just by looking at them?

Prayer

Dear God,

Help our families to be places of love, respect and support for each other and help us to value all people.

Amen.

