
The Bulletin

MASS IN ENGLISH HELD IN THE CHAPEL OF THE LOURDES HOME IN
THE PARISH OF OUR LADY OF LORETO, GHAJNSIELEM
SATURDAY EVENINGS AT 6:00PM (NOV – MARCH) OR 7:00PM (APRIL– OCTOBER)

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Cycle A)

1st February 2014

Theme: Jesus, Light of the world

Mary and Joseph, by bringing Jesus to the temple, fulfilled the legal requirement. They came for the purification of Mary under the law and at the same time they consecrated Jesus to God; they were returning to God, with thanksgiving, the very gift that he had given them. Their offering expressed the depth of their devotion and love of God. Simeon and Anna also gave God the worship of their hearts. Simeon longed to set his eyes on the Christ and Anna had spent years in the temple longing and praying for the Lord's coming. Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna all rejoiced as they recognized that Jesus was the longed-for Christ. It was the Holy Spirit who gave birth to this desire, longing, recognition and delight in their lives. The Spirit wants to give us a similar longing for the return of Christ. He wants to purify our hearts so that we may desire to see the light of Jesus' face. *Bible Alive*

Responsorial Psalm:

Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord.

Gospel acclamation: (*say together*)
Alleluia, Alleluia! The light to enlighten the Gentile-s and give glory to Israel your people.
Alleluia!

Prayer of the faithful:

Lector: Lord hear us:

Response: Lord graciously hear us.

Mass intention for today:

For the repose of the souls of Rose & Massino Vellat and family.



Confession is available in the sacristy before Mass.

There is a new translation of the Order of the Mass. Please use the prayer cards in the benches.

There is a calendar available for Mass intentions. Please place your offering of €8.00 - €12.00 into the collection basket.

The English-speaking **Legion of Mary** meets on Wednesdays at 1:00pm at Legion Headquarters, Victoria. New members are welcome.

There are several **Masses in English** on Gozo. Please see the poster at the door for the days, times and places.

The English-speaking Catholic Community at the Seminary has a website: www.esccgozo.org.

Lessons in **Maltese conversation** are on Thursdays from 10am to 11:30am at Good Shepherd Parish Centre, Victoria. All are welcome. **Temporary change!** Beginning February 3rd the lessons will be on Mondays through the end of March.

Submit any news to be included to Mary Mizzi at 2155 9754 by Wednesday of each week.

NEWS:

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- In Jesus' day, Presentation of a firstborn child to God concluded the days of purification of the mother, and involved making a sacrifice. The Book of Leviticus gives a necessity for this sacrifice: killing of a year-old lamb or another animal. Poor people such as Joseph and Mary could not afford a first-born lamb, so they were allowed to sacrifice just a pigeon or turtledove. For much of history, the realm of the gods was considered something far off from the daily world of earth. Here on earth there was suffering, death, sin, warfare, uncleanness. In the godly realm there was none of this, or at least not much of it. Could there be a way to disconnect something from this world and send it somehow as a peace offering into heaven, in order to find favor with the gods? The gift would have to be of high value, of course, and so it was often the "first fruit," or the first born lamb, etc. How was it sent to the heavenly realm? By putting it to death. This part of the ritual would release the animal from our world and discharge it into the heavens. Presiders were appointed, priests, set aside from ordinary life so they would not hold back the sacrifice. God too wants oneness with earth. So, to give us someone as a perfect go-between, God becomes human. Jesus is the *firstborn child* of Mary and of God the Father through the Holy Spirit. Jesus is able therefore to be a pure gift from earth, since he is completely human. Crucifixion was the way he underwent "sacrifice", followed by his resurrection. In the very act of dying Jesus would show the essence of Godliness, which is love and union. *John Foley S. J.*