

2 FEBRUARY

A candle may be lit.

1. Today is 40 days after Christmas Day. The feast is called “Candlemas” or “The Presentation of the Lord”.
- 2 It was 40 days after the birth of Jesus that his parents presented him to God the Father in the Temple in Jerusalem. At his Presentation in the Temple, Jesus was recognised for who he was by two people - Simeon and Anna. They were elderly and had spent their lives growing closer to God. Now they meet him face to face and recognise him in their midst.
- 3 Simeon prays: “*Now, Master, you can let your servant die in peace because my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared for all nations to see. He will be a light to enlighten all people.*”
4. Because Simeon referred to Jesus as the one who brings light to all nations, candles are lit this day, and the feastday is often called “Candlemas”.
- 5 *The response to our prayers will be:
May your light be reflected in us.

May your light be reflected in us.*
- 6 **Lord Jesus, 40 days after your birth
you were taken to the Temple
and presented by your parents
to God our Father.**
Make us aware that we are the Temple
of your Holy Spirit who lives in us.

May your light be reflected in us.
- 7 **Simeon’s eyesight grew dim,
but he recognised who you were.**
Open our eyes
that we may always recognise you
in our midst.

May your light be reflected in us.
- 8 **Simeon prophesied
that Mary would be pierced
to the heart.**
As Mary stayed with Jesus
in his suffering,
we pray that we may help
those who are part of our lives.

May your light be reflected in us.
- 9 **You said
that you are the light of the world.**

May your light be reflected in us.

This is an excerpt from the page of this date in
'Praying Each Day of the Year',
a 3-volume book
by Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC.

For details:

<http://www.matthew-james.co.uk/>

Could make use of a search engine
to research this topic further.

This material is part of
the prayer and education website
of the De La Salle Brothers
in Great Britain:

www.prayingeachday.org