



# Together London New Year 2017

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DIOCESE OF LONDON

## Welcome !

Welcome to the fifth edition of 'Together London'.

There's more of a breather between Christmas and Ash Wednesday this year, but Lent will soon be with us. This year's pre-Lent Quiet Afternoon takes place in the Chapel of Quanton Hall School, Harrow. This preparatory school, founded in 1897, is owned by the Walsingham College Trust Association. Do join us if you can. The conductor will be Brother Christian Pearson SSF.

Fr Rayner Wakeling  
Clerical Chairman

## Forthcoming events

### Quiet Afternoon In preparation for Lent



**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

**Quanton Hall School Chapel,  
Hindes Road, Harrow HA1 1 RX**

Conductor : Brother Christian Pearson SSF  
Honorary Assistant Priest,  
S.Mary, Rotherhithe

Beginning with Mass at 12 Noon.

Bring your own sandwiches or soup lunch  
provided. Drinks also provided.

The afternoon will conclude with Benediction  
(at 3.30 p.m.)

There is no charge.

Donations welcome on the day.

To help with planning, please book a place for  
this event organised by FiF London with

Fr Wakeling: 020 7837 4228  
forwardinfaithlondon@gmail.com

*The school is walking distance from Harrow on the Hill  
Station, or catch bus H14 to Hindes Rd*

## Lent Stational Masses

As last year, the Bishop of Fulham will be celebrating three Stational Masses during Lent, each followed by lunch, an address, and a celebration of healing ministries. Watch for further details.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March at S.Mary, Kenton.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March at S.Silas, Pentonville.

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April at S.Stephen, Lewisham



## Ascension Day

The Bishop of Fulham will celebrate a Solemn Mass for Ascension Day on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 6.00 p.m. at St Andrew, Holborn. This will mark the beginning of 'Thy Kingdom Come', a national prayer initiative running from Ascension Day to the Feast of Pentecost. Parishes are asked to give enthusiastic support to the initiative.

## CBS National Festival

The National Festival for the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June at St John the Baptist, Coventry.

12 Noon Concelebrated Mass  
2.00 p.m. Annual Meeting of Associates  
3.00 p.m. Exposition, Procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction

## Glastonbury Pilgrimage

This year's Glastonbury Pilgrimage will take place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July, with Mass at 12 Noon.

## Bishop of Fulham's Autumn Festival

This will take place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October at Southwark Cathedral, beginning with Mass at 11.00 a.m. (details to be confirmed)

### Longing

#### *Reflecting of the Presentation of the Lord*

They met in the temple, Mary and Joseph, Anna, Simeon, Jesus. How did they get there? What brought them to that place of meeting? What brings us to the temple, the place where God resides?

Mary and Joseph came in obedience to the law, to present Jesus to the Lord and offer a sacrifice according to what was written in the law. Behind the legalities, however, was longing.

Anna never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. This is not, however, about a rule of life or asceticism. It is about longing.

Simeon was guided by the Spirit. He was righteous, devout, and looking for the consolation of Israel. But it was more than piety that took him to the temple. It was longing.

Jesus is brought to the temple, not as a passive baby but as the embodiment of his Father's longing for humanity.



The Feast of the Presentation, sometimes called the Feast of Meeting, is, at its core, a feast of longing. This feast reveals the longing between humanity and divinity. Our deepest longings are to know and be known. That can only ever really happen in relationship to God. This is not about gathering information or learning about God. This kind of knowing is of the heart not the intellect. It is about the union that sets us

free, the oneness that allows us to depart in peace, and the relationship that is salvation. For this to happen we must live with and offer the fragility, vulnerability, and joy of an open and longing heart. That heart is the temple of meeting, the place where today we find Mary and Joseph, Anna, Simeon, and Jesus.

Longing is not an absence or emptiness waiting to be filled. Longing is a presence and fullness waiting to be expressed, manifested. Two persons do not long for each other because they are apart. They long for each other because they are in love.

We are sometimes too quick to quench the longing, to satisfy the desire. That never takes us to the temple. It keeps life superficial and us moving from one "fix" to another. Longing, however, if trusted and followed always takes us to the temple, the place of meeting, and we discover that we already hold the baby.



### A Collect for the Presentation of the Lord

Almighty ever-living God,  
we humbly implore your majesty that,  
just as your Only Begotten Son  
was presented on this day in the Temple  
in the substance of our flesh,  
so, by your grace,  
we may be presented to you  
with minds made pure.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen

### Contributions & Contacts

Contact us by e-mail to submit newsletter contributions or make enquiries :  
forwardinfaithlondon@gmail.com.  
or call Fr Wakeling, Clerical Chairman  
on 020 7837 4228