



FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

2 FEBRUARY 2025

Vox Populi

30 January 2025

In 1997, Pope St John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life.

This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord this Sunday, February 2.

Forty days after His birth, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple for the rites of purification and dedication as prescribed by the Torah.

This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolising Christ who is the light of the world.

So the Presentation is a proclamation of Christ — Messiah and Priest, Lord and Savior. He is the light who came into this world to dispel sin and darkness.

For this reason, traditionally at least since the seventh century, candles have been blessed at Mass on this day that will be used throughout the year, hence coining the term “Candlemas.”

Also on this day we thank God for the gift of the different forms of consecrated life and pray that our Church will continue to be enriched by the life and witness of consecrated men and women.

In the Church, the religious sisters, brothers, and priests stand as a rich testimony to the blessings and grace God bestows upon those who have embraced the consecrated life.

All are welcome to join Bishop Anthony on Sunday for the 9.30am Holy Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara as we pray for all those who have made commitments to the consecrated life and thank them on their special day.

May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ, reflecting His light to all peoples as they continue to respond generously and courageously to God’s gift of their vocation.