

who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (Lk 2:32)  
Alleluia, alleluia!

The light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel, your people. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL (Shorter Form)** (Lk 2:22-40)  
The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Profession of Faith** (Nicene Creed)  
I believe in one God, / the Father almighty, / maker of heaven and earth, / of all things visible and invisible. / I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, / the Only Begotten Son of God, / born of the Father before all ages, / God from God, Light from Light, / true God from true God, / begotten,

not made, consubstantial with the Father; / through him all things were made. / For us men and for our salvation / he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, / and became man. / For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, / he suffered death and was buried, / and rose again on the third day / in accordance with the Scriptures. / He ascended into heaven / and is seated at the right hand of the Father. / He will come again in glory / to judge the living and the dead / and his kingdom will have no end. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, / who proceeds from the Father and the Son, / who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, / who has spoken through the prophets. / I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. / I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins / and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead / and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The priest introduces the Prayer of the Faithful.

**THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), ...

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

**Eucharistic Prayer**  
The Lord be with you. And with your spirit. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right and just.

**Sanctus**  
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. ...

**After the Consecration**  
The mystery of faith.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

**THE COMMUNION RITE**

Behold the Lamb of God, ...

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

**Communion Antiphon** (Lk 2:30-31)  
My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

darkness of winter ushering in a new season of hope and growth on the land and the birth of animals on the farm and on the wild.

Our rural ancestors celebrated the day with a festive meal and a host of customs. All aimed at securing St. Brigid's protection and the promise of new life and abundance for the year ahead. St. Brigid was associated with the rebirth of nature. St. Brigid's day was one of those days that marked a transition from one season to the next.

**Blessing of St. Brigid's Crosses**

Father of all creation and Lord of Light, you have given us life and entrusted your creation to

us to use it and to care for it. We ask you to bless these crosses made of green rushes in memory of Holy Brigid, who used the cross to recall and to teach your Son's life, death and resurrection.

May these crosses be a sign of our sharing in the Paschal Mystery of your Son and a sign of your protection of our lives, our land and its creatures through Brigid's intercession during the coming year and always. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

The crosses are sprinkled with holy water: May the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be on these crosses and on the places where they hang and on everyone who looks at them. Amen

**Saint Brigid's Blessing**  
May Brigid Bless the house wherein we dwell.

Bless every fireside, every wall and door. Bless every heart that beats beneath its roof

Bless every hand that toils to bring its joy

Bless every foot that walks portals through

May Brigid bless the house that shelters us.

**International Day of Awareness and Prayer against Human Trafficking – 8th February**

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church. O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us. Amen.

**Prayer for Spring**  
God of love, you enter into our spring seasons, into our deepest places of inner dwelling, into the heart of our transformation. You give us glimpses of the truth.

May we allow our experience of spring to speak to us of necessary change and growth. Grant us an openness to the continuous process of letting go and moving on that is a part of the human condition.

We are grateful that you are our faithful companion on this journey. Amen

# The People's Mass

2 February 2023  
THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD / C

## THE BLESSING OF CANDLES AND THE PROCESSION

**Antiphon**  
Behold, our Lord will come with power, to enlighten the eyes of his servants, alleluia.

The Priest greets the people and blesses the candles, saying:

Let us pray  
O God, source and origin of all light, who on this day showed to the just man Simeon the Light for revelation to the Gentiles, we humbly ask that, in answer to your people's prayers, you may be pleased to sanctify with your blessing these candles, which we are eager to carry in praise of your name, so that, treading the path of virtue, we may reach that light which never fails. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Priest sprinkles the candles with holy water. He takes the lighted candle prepared for him and the procession begins with the acclamation:

Let us go in peace to meet the Lord. In the name of Christ.

All carry lighted candles. As the procession moves forward, the following Antiphon or another appropriate chant is sung.

**Antiphon** (Lk 2:29-32)  
A light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace, in accordance with your word. (Ant.)

For my eyes have seen your salvation. (Ant.)

Which you have prepared in the sight of all peoples. (Ant.)

As the procession enters the church, the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass is sung. The Gloria in excelsis (Gloria to God in the highest) is said or sung and the Mass continues in the usual manner.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

**Entrance Antiphon** (Cf. Ps 47:10-11)  
Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple.

Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth;

your right hand is filled with saving justice.

**Gloria**  
Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God,

heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING** (Mt 3:1-4)  
A reading from the prophet Malachi.

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fullers' alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Ps 23:7-10)

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

O gates, lift up your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! **2.**

Who is the king of glory? The Lord, the mighty, the valiant, The Lord, the valiant in war. **3.**

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! **4.**

Who is he, the king of glory? He, the Lord of armies, he is the king of glory. **SECOND READING** (Heb 2:14-18)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those

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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

**Parish of Banogue and Croom**  
Canon Willie Fitzmaurice P.P. 061 397231 / 086 2423 728

Email: croomchurch@eircom.net  
Croom and Banogue Parish Website:  
https://www.croomparish.com/

Diocesan Web Page: www.limerickdiocese.org

Link for Live Church Services:

Croom Parish - ChurchCamLive.ie

Banogue Parish - ChurchCamLive.ie

Croom Church Eircode: V35 R972

Banogue Church Eircode: V35 WN59

Banogue Adoration: Tuesdays 3pm – 6pm

Croom Hospital Mass: Sunday 8am, Thursday 11am,  
Followed by Holy Hour. Public Welcome

Last Sundays Offertory Collection:

Banogue €300  
Croom €1,550

### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February Feast of St. Brigid.

Sunday – Feast of the Presentation of our Lord – also Candlemas Day. We celebrate and remember the Light of our Lord in our lives.

Monday – Feast of St Blaise – Mass in Croom at 10am

Blessing of throats afterwards.

First Friday - 7<sup>th</sup> February

Masses Banogue 9.30am; Croom 7pm

### Banogue School

Open Night at Banogue School on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>

February at 5.30pm All are welcome.



### St. Brigid

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darkness of winter ushering in a new season of hope and growth on the land and the birth of animals on the farm and on the wild.

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Bless every foot that walks portals through  
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