With joy we celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple in which we look back and forward. We look back to Christmas which gave us divine assurance that Christ has come to save us by being one with us in our human flesh. At Candlemas we look forward to His saving work of redemption through His Cross and Resurrection. We recall Our Lady and St. Joseph presenting their Divine Son in obedience with the Mosaic law at the Temple. Our Lady, with humility, submits herself to the purification after the virginal birth. They meet Simeon and Anna who give wisdom of age and make this, one of the greatest mysteries in the life of Christ.

In Anna, the Prophetess, we see that the focus of her life is the worship of God in the Temple. She seeks nothing but holiness. We don’t hear the words of her prophecy, but we know the fruits of it as in the Baby Jesus, she experiences the presence of her God and Saviour, she helps us to recognize the fulfillment of all the prophecies of the Old Testament that point to this moment - the Temple for the first time truly houses it’s God. This gives Anna a deeper sense of thanksgiving and courage to speak about Jesus to those in the Temple, whom she knew believed, and looked forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. Her holy work was to help others hope for their freedom, and like Simeon, she too looked forward to the comfort of Jerusalem. Anna looks back at the Birth of Christ to see with spiritual eyes our freedom in Christ. In the temple at this moment the holy priest, Simeon, who had been told by the Holy Spirit that he will not die until he has seen the Messiah, holds Jesus in his arms and praises God the Father, just as the priest holds the same Lord in the Sacred Host, he proclaims: “For my eyes have seen your salvation.” (Luke 2:28–32). Having seen the Messiah, he is now prepared to die. Simeon opens our eyes to the mystery of what this child will do for us. He also gives depth to Our Lady’s maternal heart which is open to all. Our Lady is the loving consoler of those touched by many physical and moral sorrows which afflict and torment humanity. For she knows our sorrows and pains because she too suffered, from Bethlehem to Calvary. Mary is our Spiritual Mother, and she understands her children and consoles us in all our troubles. Her mission is to love us as she loves Her Son. This love is put into action at the Cross, to love us always, so He can save us! Mary consoles us by pointing the way to the Crucified One, and leads us to Paradise, to be with Him in the upcoming seasons of Passiontide and Easter.

Today, there will be a Blessing of all Candles used in church and for the procession. The symbolism of the candles is described by Dom Prosper Guéranger, OSB, in his Liturgical Year, “According to Ivo of Chartres, the wax, which is formed from the juice of flowers by the bee, always considered as the emblem of virginity, signifies the virginal flesh of the Divine Infant, who diminished not, either by His conception or His birth, the spotless purity of His Blessed Mother. In the flame of our Candle, a symbol of Jesus who came to enlighten our darkness.” St. Anselm, speaking on the same mystery, bids us to consider three things in the blessed Candle: the wax, the wick, and the flame. The wax, he says, which is the production of the virginal bee, is the Flesh of our Lord; the wick, which is within, is His Soul; the flame, which burns on top, is His divinity. Light candles in your homes today and enjoy this wonderful day.

Happy Feast and greetings from Singapore.
**Woking Foodbank Collection on 1st/2nd February**

There will be a collection point in the Narthex over this weekend. Supplies are running low and all donations of non-perishable foodstuff, toiletries and nappies (size 4&5) will be very much appreciated. However they do have plenty of tea, baked beans, canned peas, pasta, cereals, soups & jams. Thank you.

**LENTEN COURSE**

This year for our Lent Course we would like to do it in the way that Jesus always did. Even though he had many followers and chose 12 to be his disciples, he had three friends he spent extra time with; Peter, James and John. He invested even extra time in Peter, knowing he would lead the Church. We can lose the sense of friendship in parish life as it’s so big and I would ask all of you to try and find the opportunity to join this cleansing, find the opportunity to join this Lenten Course, and not just leave it to the few faces we see for everything. Let us invest time this Lent for each other to discover more of Christ, so that we can be evermore Faithful, Available, Contagious, and open to the will and love of God.

We will have six sessions with one after Easter.

The Course is called ‘Discovery’ and its purpose is to present the Kerygma of our Faith:

1. God is love and created us for a relationship with him.
2. That relationship has been broken through sin.
3. Jesus exclusively restores that relationship through his death and resurrection.

We are all personally invited to accept a gift of salvation.

We realise that it’s time to make this faith our own.

**The Course will take place on Thursdays from 8.30pm - 9.30pm in the Parish Hall starting on Thursday 5th March.**

Please join us and bring a friend.

**Woking Street Angels**

All Churches are invited to Woking Street Angels Commissioning and Worship Service on Sunday the 9th February at 4.00pm for about an hour, followed by cake and tea, at All Saints Church. Woodham Lane, Woodham, Woking GU21 5SH

**Jackpot Club:** Subs are £1 per month and the more members, the bigger the prizes! 50% of the monthly subs go into parish funds and 50% in prize money. £100 annual draw on the Feast of St Hugh. **You have to be in it to win it!!!**

Further details can be found in the porch and to join the Jackpot Club, please contact Anne on 01483 480677 or email: am.rushton@btopenworld.com.

**Retrouvaille:** A Lifeline for Married Couples: Disillusioned or bored in your marriage? Unable to communicate with each other. Do you want to try again? Retrouvaille helps couples nationwide work through challenging times. Email info@retrouvaille.org.uk’

Program Details - Location Welwyn Garden City

Residential weekend: 28th February to 1st March 2020

4 Post days are: 7th March, 21st March, 4th April and 18th April 2020
Would you be interested in becoming a CAFOD Parish Volunteer in your Church?

The main activity would be promoting the two CAFOD Fast Days collections (Lent and Harvest), emergency appeals and World Gifts. Additionally you would ensure CAFOD’s work is held in prayer through Bidding Prayers plus Lent and Advent liturgies. Occasionally you would organise the signing of campaign cards and placing notices in your parish Newsletter. Contact Jenny Finlayson for an informal discussion CAFOD Coordinator. Email: arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk Tel No: 01483-898866

Dates for your Diary

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 04 Feb</td>
<td>First Holy Communion - Session 5</td>
<td>6.15pm - 8.00pm in the Parish Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 08 Feb</td>
<td>Confirmation - Away Day</td>
<td>Tyburn Convent/ Westminster Cathedral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 11 Feb</td>
<td>Mass at 7.30pm in honour of “Our Lady of Lourdes”</td>
<td>with Procession</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 15 Feb</td>
<td>“Anointing of the Sick”</td>
<td>at 11.15am Mass - All Welcome</td>
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| Fri 21 Feb | Presentation at 8.00pm | in the Parish Hall by Author Andre Regnier on “How the parish can attract people to a deeper love of Christ’.
| Wed 26 Feb | Ash Wednesday | Masses: 7.30am, 9.00am (School), 12noon, 7.30pm |

Would you be interested in becoming a CAFOD Parish Volunteer in your Church?

Bakhita Day: Saturday 8th February is the Feast Day of St Josephine Bakhita - the patron Saint of victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. On this day Catholics are urged to dedicate their daily Rosary or a time of Prayer with the intention of an end to slavery and trafficking, and for all its victims and those engaged in fighting it.

Racial Justice Sunday: Racial Justice Sunday is on 9th February 2020. The theme this year is “Dignity for all workers”, recognising the problems faced by people due to racism and ethnic discrimination in the workplace.

‘Superstar’ – Ecumenical Lenten Discussion Groups: Why not join us with other Christians from the Churches in Knaphill (C4K) group. The 5 sessions are: ‘Who is Jesus?’, ‘Miracles’, ‘The Psalms’, ‘The Church’ and ‘Cross Purposes’, which will be held at the Vyne Community Centre on the Mondays starting on 2nd March at 7.30pm. See poster at the back of church for details. Please indicate your interest by adding your name to the sign-up sheets at the back of church so that adequate number of booklets can be ordered. All are welcome.

World Day of Prayer on Friday 6 March at 11.00am. It is St Hugh’s turn to host this Ecumenical Service, this year prepared by the Christian women of Zimbabwe. If you would like to help as a reader, welcomer or with refreshments, please contact Anne am.rushton@btopenworld.com asap. All very welcome to attend, especially if you have not attended one of these services before.
**THE MEMORARE**

“Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, our Mother; to thee do we come, before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in thy mercy, hear and answer us. Amen.”