



Vox Populi
29 January 2026

Just over a month after celebrating the Nativity of the Lord, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, on Monday, February 2.

The Feast honours the Blessed Virgin and Saint Joseph taking the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem 40 days after his birth, to perform the rites of ritual purification and redemption of the firstborn son. In recognition of this, the Church also celebrates this Feast 40 days after Christmas.

The episode shows the obedience of Mary and Joseph to their faith. The Blessed Virgin did not require purification, nor did Jesus require redemption.

For Pope Benedict XVI, the Presentation of the Lord was a foretelling of Christ's salvation on the Cross, as the Son was offered to the Father.

"The 'salvation' that Jesus brought to his people, and which he embodies in himself, passed through the Cross, through the violent death that he was to vanquish and to transform with the sacrifice of his life through love," he said.

"This sacrifice was already foretold in the act of the Presentation in the Temple, an act without any doubt motivated by the traditions of the old Covenant, but that was deeply enlivened by the fullness of faith and love, which correspond to the fullness of time, to the presence of God and of his Holy Spirit in Jesus. Indeed, the Spirit moved over the whole scene of the presentation of Jesus in the Temple."