Vox Populi

11 November 2026

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is not found in Sacred Scripture.

Instead, it's an event recounted in the Protoevangelium of James, which gives a detailed account of the Blessed Virgin Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, bringing her to the Temple to be consecrated to God.

Through this event, Mary completely surrenders herself to God, laying the grounds for her "fiat", her unconditional "yes" to God's Will. It prepares her to become the temple of the Son of God.

Through this act, we are called to imitate Mary. While we may not consecrate ourselves in the same way, we are called to surrender ourselves to God and to give ourselves completely to His Will for our lives.

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is deeply connected to Christ's own Presentation at the Temple in Jerusalem.

Just as her parents took her to the Temple to be consecrated, Mary and her husband Joseph, take the young Jesus Christ to the Temple to be consecrated to the Lord.

In both of these Presentations, the totality of the Blessed Virgin Mary's fidelity to God is revealed, in giving herself and her son, completely to God.

"The incarnation of the word cannot be conceived apart from the freedom of this young woman who by her assent decisively cooperated with the entrance of the eternal into time," Pope Benedict XVI wrote in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Verbum Domini*.

“Mary is the image of the Church in attentive hearing of the word of God, which took flesh in her. Mary also symbolises openness to God and others; an active listening which interiorises and assimilates, one in which the word becomes a way of life.”

The Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on 21 November, presents an opportunity for us to re-dedicate ourselves to God, with freedom and fidelity.