

Reflections on the Presentation of the Lord 25C.

Mass: Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm: 24; Hebrews 2:14-18; Gospel: Luke 2:22-40.

Once again, we hear the echoes of battle as Malachi tells us of the coming of one who will purify the Temple. When I began studying for teacher training, I was blest with being inspired by a wonderful Sacred Heart Sister called Sr. Frances Makower. She was a convert from Judaism, and she spoke to us about the power of the symbol of the Temple. At the time Israel had just taken over the whole of Jerusalem and what are now the occupied territories. She described the yearning of the Jewish people to rebuild the Temple and just how much it meant after two thousand years. We do not build temples but there in the Book of Revelation is the new Temple. It represents, as did the old Temple, a restored Jerusalem. A vision of hope in a troubled world. For the real people in today's Gospel this was a hope yearned for also. A Temple set free, and a world restored. The Temple remains an image of a renewed world. Simeon and Anna represent all of us gazing into the eyes of each child, each person, and saying 'you are the hope of Israel, you are the Christ child'.