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*Candlemas*

Noble and of great price was the gift that Holy Mary gave to God, when she presented her son in the Temple.

Was there ever anything so precious nor such a rich gift as Holy Mary gave to St Simeon in the Temple, when she offered her son Jesus Christ and he took him in his arms and joyfully laid him on the altar?

This what the Blessed Virgin did, when the forty days were accomplished since she gave birth to her son, and so, in accordance with the Law, she presented him in the Temple with two turtle doves and a pair of doves.

Simeon, that holy man to whom she presented him, continually asked God that before he died he should be allowed to see the son whom He would send to save the world.

As soon as he saw the child he took him in his arms and wept with joy as he kissed his feet, saying, "Now that I have seen this, may God who has allowed me to live until this day take me in peace.

As my eyes can see you, who are the Saviour of those who wait for you, and the keeper of Israel, and man and God, and Lord of the world, I ask you not to let me live any longer."