

Lectio Divina

- **Read and re-read**, out loud and slowly the Gospel
- **Pray** - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition
- **Meditate** on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life
- **Action** – Attitude (Call to change / to act / to do)

January 1st 2012 4th Feast of the Holy Family – Year B – Luke 2:22-40

In this week's gospel we see Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus to the temple for purification as it was the law of Moses that every first born male must be consecrated to the Lord and also to offer in sacrifice a pair of two turtledoves or two young pigeons. Also in the temple was a very good devout man called Simeon who was told by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he set eyes on Christ of the Lord. He was led by the Spirit to the temple and when the parents arrived with the baby he took Jesus in his arms and blessed God. Many good things happened in the temple at that time, a time when the priests were absent. Simeon and Anna are symbols of God's faithful people with no official status, free enough to recognise a great moment of grace.

As children of the family of God are we open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to bring the Good news and hope of the Child Jesus to all or are we so full of our own importance that we miss our special moments of grace.

Prayer:

Lord we thank you for the times you sent devout people like Simeon into our lives, who welcomes us with enthusiasm and encourages us to continue on our journey bringing about hope and new life to the family of God.

Forgive us for the times we get tired of trying to be positive knowing that you are ever present in our efforts which sometimes seem pointless and like Mary we can feel a sword of sorrow piercing our hearts because our words or actions may shake the deep seated prejudices of some people.

Help us to be like Simeon to be an example to others to become people of hope and new life in the future and bring the Light of Jesus to the world by our humility and trust in you.