

*St Thomas' Church,
St Nicholas, St Lawrence and
St James
Mothering Sunday Service*



Mothering Sunday was also known as Refreshment Sunday because the fasting rules for Lent were relaxed this fourth Sunday.

In the past when young people who worked away from home, on the fourth Sunday in Lent they were encouraged to return home to be mothered (fed on this non-fasting day) Employers often sent them home with a bunch of flowers for their mothers.

THE GREETING **Welcome:** [Steven](#)

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
And also with you.

We will now sing HYMN: **For Mary, Mother of our Lord**

THANKSGIVING Finley

Lord God our heavenly Father we give thanks for each family and home where we belong:

For mothers, who love us whatever happens, ***thank you.***

For fathers, who protect us and guide us, ***thank you.***

For brothers and sisters, who enrich family life, ***thank you.***

For grandparents, who have time to listen, ***thank you.***

Today we celebrate all that our families mean to us ***thank you.***

PENITENCE Revd Brigid

Listen to God's commandment: "Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long." (Exodus 20: 12)

Today, we remember how we often fail to give enough respect or attention to those we love...

Let us confess our sins to God:

***Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
We have sinned against you, and against our neighbour
In thought and word and deed,
Through negligence, through weakness,
Through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
Who died for us, forgive us all that is past;***

***And grant that we may serve you in newness of life
To the glory of your name. Amen***

May Almighty God have mercy on us,
Forgive us our sins,
And bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen***

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY *Cassy*

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. ***Amen***

BIBLE READING 1 Exodus 2:1-10 *Clare*

Baby Moses

2 There was a man from the family of Levi. He married a woman who was also from the family of Levi. ² She became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw how wonderful the baby was, and she hid him for three months. ³ But after three months, she was not able to hide the baby any longer. So she got a basket made of reeds and covered it with tar so that it would float. She put the baby in the basket. Then she put the basket among the tall grass at the

edge of the Nile River. ⁴ The baby's sister stood a short distance away. She wanted to see what would happen to him.

⁵ Then the daughter of the king of Egypt came to the river. She was going to take a bath. Her servant girls were walking beside the river. She saw the basket in the tall grass. So she sent her slave girl to get it. ⁶ The king's daughter opened the basket and saw the baby boy. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. She said, "This is one of the Hebrew babies."

⁷ Then the baby's sister asked the king's daughter, "Would you like me to find a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby for you?"

⁸ The king's daughter said, "Yes, please." So the girl went and got the baby's own mother.

⁹ The king's daughter said to the woman, "Take this baby and nurse him for me. I will pay you." So the woman took her baby and nursed him. ¹⁰ After the child had grown older, the woman took him to the king's daughter. She adopted the baby as her own son. The king's daughter named him Moses,^[a] because she had pulled him out of the water.

We now sing the HYMN: Here I am to worship, light of the world

BIBLE READING 2 Luke 2:33-35 [Ann](#)

³³ Jesus' father and mother were amazed at what Simeon had said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, "Many in Israel will fall and many will rise because of this child. He will be a sign from God that many people will not accept. ³⁵ The things they think in secret will be made known. And the things that will happen will make your heart sad, too."

TALK on Mothers [Revd Steven](#)

Church Motherly Care

Today is Mothering Sunday, a day honouring mothers and mother churches, celebrated in the UK and elsewhere in the English-speaking world on the fourth Sunday in Lent since the Middle Ages. On Mothering Sunday, Christians have historically visited their mother church—the church in which they received the sacrament of baptism. Constance Adelaide Smith revived its modern observance beginning in 1913 to honour Mother Church, 'mothers of earthly homes', Mary, mother of Jesus, and Mother Nature. It gained popularity in response to the American Mother's Day and its narrowly biological definition of motherhood.

In today's Gospel, Simeon holds the Christ-child and recognises that he is holding all heaven in his arms. He can die in peace because God has saved him. He tells Mary that the child will be a sign, a pivot-point in history. Because of Jesus some will fall and some will rise. That which is deep within people will come to the surface: into the light. For Mary: her soul will be pierced. Being a parent is soul-piercing stuff. Imagine the mother of Moses doing all she can to try to ensure her son's safety. How desperate must you be to hide your baby in a basket on a crocodile infested river? Soul-piercing indeed! The act of the women who rescue the baby is one of unexpected compassion, which we see from God and in ways in which we can help and assist each other. With the baby being vulnerable, he and the people of Israel still experience unexpected redemption from God. There is always hope because there is always God – even where there is no divine sign, only a sense of faith in a God who mysteriously works within whatever happens.

Or Mary at the foot of the cross, watching her precious child mocked, humiliated, murdered. Those who are parents or grandparents, or who have responsibility for children and young people, know about soul-piercing – have experienced it to a lesser or greater degree – and others of us can imagine it perhaps when we witness human tragedies on the television or in the press. Children bring a mixture of joy and pain, delight and agony. It's the way of humanity: living life in all its fullness.

On this Mothering Sunday: that pause in the middle of Lent when we draw breath from our Lenten disciplines before launching headlong into Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. It's a day on which to give thanks for our mother, and all she means to us. In the past it was also a day

for returning to and giving thanks for your ‘mother church’ – which some would have seen as their cathedral, where they were baptised, and others as their local parish. Young people in domestic service returned home to mum for the day, and to their mother church to worship, but what does it mean to ‘mother’ our communities? First, being part of the body of Christ makes us family – we are related to one another through our baptism. As mothers of our communities, we are family for everyone – a place where can grow, develop, explore and question, get things wrong, know themselves forgiven, and make a fresh start. It’s important not to be an exclusive and inward-looking club – but open, welcoming, warm and accepting of all. The people of our parishes should be able to look upon their local church with deep affection and with a sense of ownership. They should be able to say, this is our church.

As the body of Christ in this place, we need to show that having the Holy Spirit at work in our lives makes a real difference to the way we interact with one another and with the wider community. St Paul, writing to the church in Corinth, reminds the early Christians and us that, because we bear Christ’s sufferings, we also have Christ’s consolation and we can offer that to others. We are to be people of encouragement and hope for our community. I said this at Candlemas, that we all have endured some kind of soul-piercing during these past lockdowns, so while we have suffered in different kind of ways, we can all console each other in different ways. Let us put aside the things that divide us, because we are all one in Christ and also share his hope.

We know that resurrection follows death and that a new heaven and a new earth is promised (Revelation 21). However difficult life becomes, we know that through the power of God, lives can be turned around by the working of God’s Holy Spirit working in our lives when we come to Jesus in repentance of our sins. This is the message we carry and we state it every time we gather. We celebrate not just for ourselves but always for the whole of our community, whether they come and believe or not. We never give up – that’s what a good mother looks like. (Source: Preacher’s Companion 2021). So let us on this day – give thanks for those who have mothered us down the years and remember our calling to be part of a mother church offering new life to everyone, **Amen**.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From Ephesians 3) [Vicky](#)

Let us declare our faith to God:

We believe in God the Father,

from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named:

We believe in God the Son,

who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,

who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

We now sing HYMN: Lord of all hopefulness

INTERCESSIONS A Mother's Prayer [Verity and Finley](#)

Thank you for mothers who love us, care for us, and support us in all that we do. They look after us and are there no matter what path we go down in life. Jesus knew the security of a strong and loving home. When at the wedding at Cana it was his mother who told him that the wine was running out. She knew that despite his protests he would listen to her and do something.

Help us to have a strong relationship with our mothers or with our children.

Lord in your mercy

hear our Prayer

Thank you for the food we receive and the mothers, who provide, prepare and put it on the table for us.

We pray for the mothers in countries where there is not enough food as they face the pain of not being able to feed their children and so have to watch their starvation.

We thank you for giving us, here in the UK, the advantage and convenience of a fully stocked supply of food. We pray that others in countries less fortunate than us are given opportunities to live their one and only life with a full stomach.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the children who have no mother and, perhaps, have to care for younger brothers and sisters. We also pray for the children of mothers who are too sick or disabled to care for them as they would wish.

May the children keep on loving their mother as they care for them and may the mothers be able to receive the love and care from their children and not feel they have failed in any way.

Merciful Lord, help them in their need.

Theresa

For all parents who have lost a child no matter the age of that child or whether the loss has been through sickness, accident or violence.

Merciful Lord, help them in their need.

A Prayer for all our families in need

O Lord our God, we pray:

For mothers who struggle to bring up children on their own ...

Merciful Lord, ***Hear our prayer.***

For fathers who have to work long hours away from home ...

Merciful Lord, ***help them in their need.***

For children who are disabled or abused ...

Merciful Lord, ***help them in their need***

For all parents who have lost a child ...

Merciful Lord, ***help them in their need.***

Bless all who work with families that are poor, homeless or unable to cope...

Hear our prayers for Christ's sake. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***Lord, remember us in your kingdom,
as we pray in the words you gave us***

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.***

Give us today our daily bread.

***Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.***

***Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.***

***For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.***

Amen.

We now sing HYMN: Lord, the light of Your love (Shine, Jesus, shine)

DEDICATION OF FLOWERS Revd Brigid

*God our Father in heaven,
we will never fully know
what those who have loved us have done for us,
for their countless gifts of love.
But we give these flowers today
as a sign of how much we love them;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

CONCLUDING PRAYER Cassy

O God, as we have been blessed by the love of those who love and care for us, so may we know more of your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God bless mothers for their love:
God bless them for their care and concern;
God bless them for the joys they have shared with us;
God bless them for the pains they have borne for us;
God bless them for all that they give us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all
Now and for ever more.

We now sing or final Hymn: Give thanks with a grateful heart

Simnel cake for Mothering Sunday

The food item specially associated with Mothering Sunday is the Simnel cake.

A Simnel cake is a fruit cake with two layers of almond paste, one on top and one in the middle. The cake is made with 11 balls of marzipan icing on top representing the 11 disciples. (Judas is not included.)



Intersessions 14th March 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqyLnMa3DJw> Chopin – Nocturne No.2, Op.9

Gracious God, we pray for all who are in pain or are suffering at this time. We remember especially those who are facing long or incurable illnesses. In a moment of quietness, we pray for them, and any we know who are in any kind of need at this time

Jo Cable

Gerry Lewsey

Sadie Russell

Fr Lionel Webber and Jean Webber

Elliott

Sue Wilson

Ernest Norman

Sue Watmough

Tony Grinstead



*Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer***

Merciful God, we pray for those we love but see no longer. Grant them your peace, let light perpetual shine upon them, may they rest in peace and rise in glory. We remember before God those who have recently died especially for:

Beryl Dixon. *We pray for Jan and Ron and all Beryl's family at this sad time.*

Sally Stewart *we pray for her brother Roderic and family, and for Penny Lucas who is sorting out the arrangements.*

Monica Hansen *we Pray for her family and for the funeral on the 16th March.*

Maureen Watson *we pray for her family and for the memorial service at St Thomas Church in Bradwell on 26th March.*

Tony Hutson *whose funeral is at St Thomas on April 6th. We pray for his wife Haley and for Sophia and Luke at this difficult time.*

*Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer***

Accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

*our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.***

Notices

Easter Chapel Sunrise Service

We are delighted that the Bishop of Bradwell, Bishop John will be taking the Easter Sunrise Service at the Chapel outside, at 6.30am on Sunday 4th April. **Please let us know if you are coming as numbers are limited.**

Spiritual Communion

Topic: Spiritual Communion

Time: Mar 14, 2021 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84777909000?pwd=Yk04NUlrYU9vS1BaSmPpDZWdKSnJ2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 847 7790 9000

Passcode: 763845

Bible Study

This will continue after Easter whilst we study the Lent Course. Please let me know if there is a specific book that you would like to study.

Lent Course – Where is God?

I am doing the following course – ‘Where is God?’. The times of the sessions and the link to order the booklet is here:-

[Where is God...? - York Courses](#)

Where is God ...?

4. when we contemplate death? – 10-12 Monday & 7.30pm-9.30pm on Monday 15 March

5. when we try to make sense of life? – 12-2 & 7.30pm-9.30pm on Monday 29 March

Lent Course – Where is God? – Session 4 (A) – Monday 15 March – 10am-12pm

Topic: Lent Course - Session 4 (10-12pm)

Time: Mar 15, 2021 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84399286479?pwd=cW5rYUVVYb1l5TVJHRS tmKzI4ZW4xQT09>

Meeting ID: 843 9928 6479

Passcode: 703846

Lent Course – Where is God? – Session 4 (B) – Monday 15 March – 7.30pm-9pm

Topic: Lent Course - Session 4 (7.30pm-9pm)

Time: Mar 15, 2021 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89113257017?pwd=WjhSVFNGZW1pdDdyL OZUZktGa3U1QT09>

Meeting ID: 891 1325 7017

Passcode: 348633

St Lawrence Virtual Coffee Meeting

Topic: St Lawrence Virtual Coffee Meeting

Time: Mar 17, 2021 02:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84138834558?pwd=M25tUmhXTHk0NWZxeE14UGFjSFRpZz09>

Meeting ID: 841 3883 4558

Passcode: 018435

A Foundation Course in Pastoral Care

Following the success of the last two Resourcing Pastoral Carers course, carried out on zoom, we are arranging another to take place starting on 14th April.

Via the online Zoom App. Tuesdays from 7.00pm to 9.30pm

April 13th, 20th, 27th May 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th June 1st, 8th, 15th

If you are interested in this course, please contact Revd Steven.

All songs covered by CCLI have been reproduced under the CCL Licence Number 167162