

Mothering Sunday Reflection—Rev. Sarah

How do you feel about Mothering Sunday?

This year, for the first time, I've noticed that companies who send emails about Mothers' Day are starting to recognise that some people might want to opt out, that it can be a tough time; bringing to the surface feelings of loss and heartache. For others, it is the cancellation of a Mothers' Day family gathering which has been a real blow and one of many unwelcome effects of the coronavirus restrictions.

One of the things which unites us is that we have, at least at the very start of our lives, a mother somewhere. Yet, the closest relationships can bring both the deepest challenges and the greatest joys.

Looking at our readings today, Moses' mother faces the death of her baby son under the orders of the Egyptian king. Moses' survival will depend on the intervention of the feared Egyptian nobility but, by God's faithfulness, he will later lead the Israelites across the Red Sea to freedom.

Mary will watch her son, Jesus, take his final breath on the cross. Later she will learn of his resurrection. From despair comes hope and a new confidence in the purposes of God.

As we struggle to come to terms with the daily updates about the coronavirus, the world can look challenging for us too. Yet the anchor of God's love will hold firm. We will remain God's children, holy and beloved.



Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

NEXT SUNDAY 29th March 2020

SERVICES Public worship suspended for the time being



READINGS

OT: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

NT: Romans 8: 6-11

GOSPEL: John 11: 1-45

CONTACT US

Fr. David Nixon 01392 667192. Day off: Mondays
rev.dave@virgin.net

Fr. Charles Keay 07948600619 Day off: Tuesdays
fathercharles04@gmail.com

Revd. Sarah Cumming 07543604115
rev.sarahcumming@gmail.com

Revd. Dr. Eliza Getman reveliza@gmail.com

Phil Baker, Reader 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com

Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com

Ian Totterdell Churchwarden 01392 848674
07961621001
ian.totterdell@cantab.net

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter

Website: www.stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Twitter: @sttexeter

Office Tel: 01392 437486 Thursday mornings



St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 22nd March 2020

Mothering Sunday

It's odd, to say the least, to be writing something in this space because all the normal events are suspended and cancelled. But I can tell you what we as a staff, including Ian the Churchwarden, have decided. We will continue to say Morning and Evening Prayer daily throughout this period, and staff will also endeavour to say Mass on Sundays and Holy days on behalf of you all, praying for the St Thomas community, for Exeter, for our country and world. Because of current regulations these are necessarily private occasions.

We are beginning to set up pastoral care systems involving telephone calls and emails, recognising that many of you do not have access to electronic media. This will evolve over the weeks ahead. For those with access to the internet, please keep an eye on our website www.stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Please pray for one another, and for us. We all need it!
Fr David



Collect

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**

Exodus 2: 1-10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child

and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

2 Corinthians 1: 3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

John 19: 25-27

And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he

said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Post Communion

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

