

Reflection for Mothering Sunday

March the 14th is Mothering Sunday, a day of celebration since the Middle Ages, to honour mothers and mother churches. It is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of lent. On this day people have historically visited their mother church, the church in which they had received the sacrament of baptism. Children as young as ten, in service or apprenticeships, would return to their mother church and their own mothers, picking flowers on the way, often bringing Simnel cakes for their mothers. At the turn of the twentieth century, its observance had flagged, and its observance was revived by Constance Adelaide Smith in 1913 to honour mother church, mothers of earthly homes, Mary the mother of Jesus and Mother Nature.

It gained popularity in reaction to the American Mothers Day established by Anna Jarvis to honour her mother, and celebrated on the second Sunday of May. By her death Anna Jarvis regretted the commercialisation of the day.

Nowadays the days are often conglomerated, but today mothers are honoured.

Martin Le Fleming



Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 7 February until Easter Day

Meeting ID: 881 6251 3403

Passcode: 337962

Telephone numbers (as previously) 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131

NEXT SUNDAY 21.03.2021 Passion Sunday

SERVICES 10.30 by Zoom, 12 noon in Church

READINGS



OT	Jeremiah 31: 31-34
NT	Hebrews 5: 5-10
Gospel	John 12: 20-33

CONTACT US

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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 14th March 2021

Mothering Sunday

10.30 by Zoom (phone-in available)

12 noon Mass in Church

Blessings to all our mothers living and departed (and to those who have taken on this role) for today. Perhaps a celebration of the specialness of mothers might be extended beyond one day!

Other reasons to celebrate this week include **St Patrick** on 17 March and **St Joseph** on 19 March. Words from *St Patrick's Breastplate*

Christ be with me, Christ within me / Christ behind me, Christ before me / Christ beside me, Christ to win me, / Christ to comfort and restore me / Christ beneath me, Christ above me / Christ in quiet, Christ in danger / Christ in hearts of all that love me / Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

The **House Group** and **Lent Group** continue— never too late to start. Contact Ian and Revd Sarah respectively.

If you would like to make a donation for **flowers on Easter Day** in memory of someone who has died, please contact Pat Metford or the clergy. *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.'

Colossians 3: 12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

NOTICES

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon, and is allowed to continue operating during the period of lockdown. The collecting point will now be in the Church Hall. Judith Southam has **homemade chutneys and marmalade for sale** on Tuesday 16th March. The jars are labelled with a full list of ingredients. All proceeds will be given to the Community Larder. Please continue to be generous.

Knit and Natter Update for March 2021

Very many thanks to all the knitters who have contributed to the five gloriously coloured blankets already made. Number six is nearly done and I have squares for two more! We are thinking to give them as Easter gifts to the residents of Parkland House, and we have the kind offer of a delivery lady as well. If anyone still has any squares completed, please let me have them by Sunday next (21st) either at the Larder collection on Tuesday (10am-12) in the Hall, or at Church Meanwhile, we continue to meet on Thursday mornings, thanks to Vanessa, via Zoom from 11.15am to 11.55am. All details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

House Group. Tuesday evenings. Please contact Ian Totterdell for Zoom details.

Electoral Roll revision Carolyn Bryant is revising the roll this year in advance of the APCM. Because of the current restrictions, we will assume that folk wish to continue on the roll unless they specifically tell us otherwise. If you are not on the roll and wish to be, contact the Parish Office by email or phone, Fr David or Ian Totterdell.

Annual Meeting Sunday 16 May, arrangements to be confirmed

Bingo Is anyone interested in running Bingo sessions when the Hall is re-opened? Nothing is needed to start up, all the equipment and cards etc are available. Please contact Pat Mounce before the beginning of April.