



**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
(Mothering Sunday)
Sunday, March 14th 2021**

First Reading *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.'

Before you read this letter please read the Old Testament reading above!

The Sacrifices Mothers Make

The story above is one example of a mother making a risky sacrifice to save her son's life at great cost to herself. Moses, saved by his mother became a leader who freed all the Israelites from the oppressive Egyptians to (eventually) a new promised land.

Even in normal circumstances the sacrifices a mother has to make can be enormous and last for many years. So it seems fitting that the church gives us an opportunity to thank our mothers in whatever ways covid rules allow us this Sunday.

The church is also our spiritual mother. Psalm 139 verses 12 and 15 speak of God's involvement with us even before we are born.

Psalm 139

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb

15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished;
already in your book were all my members written

Then, shortly after birth we are born again in baptism and welcomed into our new family, the church. And so begins our nurturing spiritually as we grow up among God's people. How does this happen?

1. St. Margaret's has a playgroup for toddlers to help them to socialise and for new mothers to find friends and support.
2. Through our Sunday School, family services, youth groups, choirs, music and liturgy we grow in faith to find God in increasing depth.
3. The church nationally provides thousands of schools, colleges and universities for education and sound learning.

This is how the church continues to support us from birth, right through to the moment of death when the prayers of church see us safely into heaven.

So as we begin to re-build our church after the devastation that coronavirus brought - we need to keep a vision of the Mother Church to which we aspire, realising the cost of doing this requires the dedicated sacrificial giving and service of all of us to the task.

Let us therefore put all our fears and prejudices away. Let us love one another and offer ourselves to serve in whatever capacity we can. A new vicar cannot lead without a powerful force of loving and dedicated people who become a "Mother Church" for the whole community, caring for them from the cradle to the grave.

Fr Bernard

Let Us Pray

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness remake us.
In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

Anselm (1109)

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Collect

Merciful God, 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.**

First Reading *Exodus 2.1-10*

Please see above Fr Bernard's letter for the first reading.

Second Reading *Luke 2. 33-35*

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

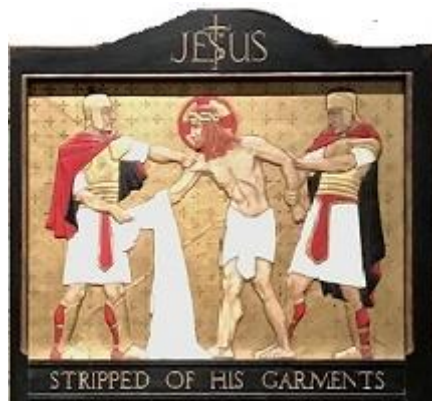
Hymn For Today

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|---|--|
| <p>1. <i>Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.</i></p> <p>2. <i>O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
of this world in the next.</i></p> | <p>3. <i>All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.</i></p> |
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Psalm 107 1-3, 17-23

Listen [here](#)

Sung by Christopher and Isobel Rathbone



Stations of the Cross

10: Jesus is stripped of his garments

The Lord has nothing left – no justice, no mercy, no strength, no dignity, no privacy. If he can live through that and rise (as He does), I suppose I can too. He who created all there is, who is bountiful and generous to His creation, who holds all things in being, now has everything taken away. He only has His life and soon they will take that, too.

PRAY Look upon the world with pity for mankind has lost its way. Lord, show us how to live with less.

11: Jesus is nailed to the Cross

It is hard for us to imagine a God being nailed to a Cross by his own people. It is even more difficult to understand a love which undertakes such an action.

PRAY We are heartily sorry and repent of all our sins and humbly ask forgiveness from Our Lord Jesus Christ.

12 : Jesus dies on the Cross

God is dead! No wonder the earth quaked, the sun hid itself and Mary stood by in terror. But even as Our Lord dies He accomplishes the purpose of God “I, if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all people to me” John 12:32.

PRAY O God our Father, grant through the death of your dear Son, your help and succour to the sick and suffering: comfort the sorrowful and receive the dying into Your Kingdom for Jesus’ sake. Amen

Stations of the Cross, Fr Godfrey

Photograph taken by Catherine Gibson

In our Prayers

Years' Mind

Sunday	Anthony Basil Carter (Pr), Clifford Garlick, Mary Ann Hardy
Monday	John Cuthbert Rawnsley, Dora Storr, Trevor Hearnshaw
Tuesday	John Wormald
Wednesday	Reginald Gerard Rawnsley
Thursday	Tom Burns, Leslie Pickett (Pr)
Friday	Muriel Armstrong, Roy Lockwood
Saturday	Margaret Cullingworth, Charles l'Anson

Please pray for the sick: Trevor Allen, Christine Atkinson, Val Banks, Ann Bruun, Joan Gelder, Lauren Green, Ramone (Ray) Guha, May Hughes, Fr Garth Kellett, Charlotte Lockhart, Peter Kuchartschuk, Peter Waterhouse.

Please contact the churchwardens or Vickie if you would like to add someone to our prayer list.

Morning Prayer on Zoom Wednesday, March 17th

The Readers will be holding a service of Morning Prayer on Zoom on Wednesday, March 17th at 10.00am. We will use the words from Common Worship. These will be shown on the screen or can be downloaded [here](#). Click the link scroll down and click on Morning Prayer for the order of service.

Click the Zoom link to join morning prayer [here](#). The link will be open from 9.50am. All are welcome.



Links to live-streamed worship

St Matthews, Northampton

St Matthews is an Anglican Parish Church, in the catholic tradition. You are welcome to join Fr Nicholas Setterfield and the congregation of St Matthews for their live-streamed Parish Mass at 10.15am [here](#). You can also "like" St Matthew's facebook page to receive live notifications of streamed services.

<https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewschurchnorthampton/> Don't forget you are welcome to join coffee time at St Matthews after the service.
<https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewschurchnorthampton/>

Links to live-streamed services in churches within Leeds Diocese

Click on <https://www.leeds.anglican.org/covid-19/live-streaming#churches> to reach live worship in churches across the Diocese.

St Margaret's Virtual Choir **Remember not, Lord, our offences**

You can listen [here](#)

This week's offering from the St Margaret's Virtual Choir is one of our great favourites, usually sung during the Ashing on Ash Wednesday: it is a glorious anthem by Henry Purcell (1659 - 95), composed around 1680 - he had been appointed organist of Westminster Abbey in 1679. It is in five parts, with two interweaving soprano parts. The penitential mood of the words inspires the most extraordinary chromatic harmony, angular phrases and (as so often in Purcell) imaginative use of 'false relations', often using sharp and natural versions of a particular note of the scale at the same time for highly expressive purposes. As usual, Geoff Cloke has done a most skilful job knitting everyone's individual recording together to make us sound like a choir!

Here is the text (origin obscure):

Remember not, Lord, our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers; neither take thou vengeance of our sins, but spare us, good Lord. Spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and be not angry with us for ever. Spare us, good Lord.

Christopher

Electoral Roll Revision

The 2021 **Electoral Roll Revision** will take place from March 28th to April 10th 2021. If you were added to the roll in 2019 or 2020, you do not need to do anything. If you are not on the current electoral roll please consider adding your name this year. Joining the electoral roll means that you can vote at the APCM and it makes you eligible to stand for PCC and other church committees. It is also a way of demonstrating your ongoing commitment to the life and work of St Margaret's. In order to reduce the risk of infection forms will not be left at the back of church this year. If you would like to apply please contact Catherine Beaumont via stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com and I will post a form to you. Forms can be returned by post or can be left in the safe at the back of church.

Annual Parish Church Meeting

Tuesday, April 20th

We are back on track with the usual time of year for the Annual Meetings, as recommended by the Diocese, and so this year's APCM will be held on Tuesday, April 20th at 7.30pm by Zoom. As usual, I will publish reports prior to that date so that people have a chance to read them beforehand. I realise there may not be much activity to report (if any) from certain groups, but for those who wish to submit a report, please email them to me via stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com by no later than Friday, March 26th. It will not be possible to publish reports received after this date. Many thanks.
Catherine Webster, PCC Secretary.

Practical Support and Help

Ilkley and District Good Neighbours provides a range of support and practical help during coronavirus to include shopping, a regular phone call, collecting prescriptions and other help needed. For more information go to <http://info@goodneighboursilkley.org.uk>

Ilkley Library To reserve books from the online catalogue and for the Home Library Service – ilkley.library@bradford.gov.uk 01943 436225

Ilkley Chat provides the latest news affecting Ilkley as a result of COVID-19 <https://www.ilkleychat.co.uk/coronavirus>

**Daily Hope, is a 24 hour free phone line for Christian worship and prayer.
Call 0800 804 8044**