



## **Mothering Sunday - 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

As we light this first candle:  
We pause to remember with gratitude all those who have truly  
mothered us throughout our lives.

As we light the second candle:  
We give thanks for the gift of mothering, nurturing, deep within us,  
and pray for the grace to let its flame burn bright.

As we light our third candle:  
We pray for all those whom we are called to mother, for the courage to  
love deeply, and to let go freely.

With our fourth candle:  
We ask for forgiveness for the times when our hearts have been closed  
to the love, and need for love, of those in our care.

Gather us now before you, O God,  
as a hen gathers her brood to protect them.  
Like a mother you gather your people to you;  
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.  
As we meet today and follow your example,  
protect us, support us, and feed us  
with your unconditional love.

**Amen**

**Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray.  
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.  
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,  
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Make me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me:  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Cast me not away from your presence  
and take not your holy spirit from me:  
Lord, have mercy.

*cf Psalm 51*

**Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of Love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

*The Collect for the day*

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
shared the life of a home in Nazareth and 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 bring 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 forever.

**Amen**

*Hearing and responding to the Word of God*

*(We encourage you to look at the readings in your own time and will continue with the Gospel)*

**First Reading: Exodus 2.1-10**

<sup>1</sup>A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup>The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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?'

<sup>8</sup>Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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.'

### **Psalm 34.11-20**

- 11        Come, my children, and listen to me;  
            I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
- 12        Who is there who delights in life  
            and longs for days to enjoy good things?
- 13        Keep your tongue from evil  
            and your lips from lying words.
- 14        Turn from evil and do good;  
            seek peace and pursue it.
- 15        The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous  
            and his ears are open to their cry.
- 16        The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,  
            to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
- 17        The righteous cry and the Lord hears them  
            and delivers them out of all their troubles.
- 18        The Lord is near to the brokenhearted  
            and will save those who are crushed in spirit.
- 19        Many are the troubles of the righteous;  
            from them all will the Lord deliver them.
- 20        He keeps all their bones,  
            so that not one of them is broken.

### **Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 1.3-7**

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

**Gospel:** Luke 2.33-35

<sup>33</sup>The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Jesus.

<sup>34</sup>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 <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

*Reflection*

*Prayers of Intercession*

United in the company of all the faithful  
and looking for the coming of the kingdom,  
let us offer our prayers to God,  
the source of all life and holiness.

Merciful Lord,  
strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit,  
that we may live as a royal priesthood and a holy nation  
to the praise of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Lord, have mercy

**Christ have mercy.**

Bless John our bishop and Stephen our Archbishop, and all ministers of your Church,  
that by faithful proclamation of your word  
we may be built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets  
into a holy temple in the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

**Christ have mercy.**

Empower us by the gift of your holy and life-giving Spirit,  
that we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ  
from glory to glory.

Lord, have mercy

**Christ have mercy.**

Give to the world and its peoples  
the peace that comes from above,  
that they may find Christ's way of freedom and life.  
Lord, have mercy  
**Christ have mercy.**

Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love in the  
service of the poor and needy;  
all those who minister to the sick and dying;  
and all who bring light to those in darkness.  
Lord, have mercy  
**Christ have mercy.**

Touch and heal all those whose lives are scarred by sin  
or disfigured by pain,  
that, raised from death to life in Christ,  
their sorrow may be turned to eternal joy.  
Lord, have mercy  
**Christ have mercy.**

Remember in your mercy all those gone before us,  
preserve in your faith your servants on earth,  
guide us to your kingdom,  
and grant us your peace at all times.  
Lord, have mercy  
**Christ have mercy.**

We give you thanks  
for the whole company of your saints in glory,  
with whom in fellowship we join our prayers and praises;  
by your grace may we, like them,  
be made perfect in your love.  
Lord, have mercy  
**Christ have mercy.**

Loving God, we give thanks for all who care for us,  
who have encouraged us and helped us grow,  
who have forgiven us, and cared for us when we were unwell,  
who have supported us when times were hard,  
who have challenged us, who have told us about you.  
Nurturing God, we give you thanks.  
Lord, have mercy  
**Christ have mercy.**

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful:  
watch over us and hold us all the days of our life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

Lord, grant us simplicity of faith and a generosity of service that gives without counting cost.  
A life overflowing with Grace poured out from the One  
who gave everything, that we might show the power of love to a broken world,  
and share the truth from a living Word.

Lord, grant us simplicity of faith, and a yearning to share it.

**Amen**

*For the Nation*

Loving Father God,  
be with us in our distress;  
be with our families, friends, and neighbours,  
our country and our world.  
Give health to the sick,  
hope to the fearful,  
and comfort to mourners.  
Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers,  
insight to our Government,  
and patience to us all.  
Overcome disease with the power of your new life,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Benefice Prayer*

God who made everyone and who may be found in every place, bless our parishes and  
Benefice, prosper our attempts to be faithful to you and to draw others to you.  
Inspire us by the power of your Holy Spirit that we may be a caring people, the true  
community of the body of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

Let us go from here rejoicing  
that God loves us and  
welcomes us with open arms.  
As the children of God  
we take his love into the world  
that others may also rejoice  
and be part of his family.

**Amen**

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all now and evermore. Amen.**