



*Welcome to*  
St John the Baptist, Midsomer Norton  
**The 4th Sunday of Lent**  
**Mothering Sunday**  
**14.03 2021**

**Sunday Services on YouTube**

During lockdown we will be recording and uploading the 9.30 service to YouTube. You will be able to watch the service from around 11am each Sunday. The link to our YouTube channel is on the front page of the [church website](#).

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***Please pray for:-***

**The Residents of:** Radstock Road, South View Place & Railway View Place.

**The Sick:-** Miranda Cooper, Rose Stenner, Paul & Margaret Knott, Irene Leet, Fr Roy Boots, Nicholas Hambleton, Betty Chiplin, Ethan Horwood, Patricia Flagg, Pat Gilham, Bishop Peter Hancock, Vince Marriot, Christopher Watts, Faye McDermott, John Norman, Joan Martindale.

**The Departed:** Daphne Spooner

**Years Mind:-** (S) Richard James (M) Colin Emery, Elsie Gulliford, Ivy Legrove (T) George Box, Mabel Gregory, Gilbert Moore (W) George Foster, Ronald Swift, Jean Edwards (T) Joyce Gay.

## **The 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.

## **A Reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians chapter 3 verses 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.  
Blessed are those who have endured temptation;  
they have stood the test and will receive the crown of life. *James 1.12*

## **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John chapter 19 verses 25 - 27**

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

## **A Reflection from Fr Guy**

“Here is your mother.”

Motherhood has changed a lot since the time when Mothering Sunday began as the day when live-in servants who were little more than children were allowed a home visit.

Often there are huge expectations placed on mothers and on their relationships with their children. With increased equality in the workplace for women and men, similar demands, rightly, are beginning made of fathers as well. Parents' lives are expected to revolve around their children. It is a very challenging role, yet those who decide against taking it on are seen as odd, or even selfish.

We must also acknowledge that Mothering Sunday is a time of heightened emotions and feelings; especially for those who mourn the death of a mother or child; for those whom this day brings pain and regret to the fore. And for those whose experience of being mothered isn't as positive as we might expect.

The Bible is, on the whole, fairly unsentimental about motherhood. At the time it was written, producing a child who lived to adulthood was a challenge in itself. The Old Testament regards children as a blessing from God to be

welcomed and celebrated, and assumes that in the extended family each generation will look after the other in turn.

But it also recognises the demanding nature of motherhood. Eve is warned of the trauma, both physical and emotional, that becoming a mother entails. Moses' mother takes extraordinary measures to save her baby boy, including allowing him to be adopted by her oppressors. Hannah, distraught from the stigma of childlessness, is finally granted her wish; but she gives the child back to God when he is a small boy, seeing him only once a year when she touchingly goes to the holy place where he lives and gives him a new coat to keep him warm as he grows.

And then there's Mary the mother of Jesus, having to watch as her boy grows away from her, creates for himself a new family of followers, wilfully puts himself in danger, and finally is painfully executed. No wonder Simeon tells her right at the start of Jesus' life, that a sword will pierce her soul. But like Hannah and like the mother of Moses, Mary knows that the best thing parents can do for their children is to let them go and do what they have to do for themselves.

God is spoken of in the Bible as a father, but also occasionally as a mother. If good human parents know that they need to let go and allow their children the freedom to grow up and make their own way, how much more must God our father, our mother, know that same truth?

Sometimes we are tempted to make the parenthood of God an excuse to adopt a childish attitude to our relationship with God. We expect God to tell us what to do, to answer all our prayers and manage our life for us. As God's children, we evade our responsibilities. We go to church to be told what to think and what to do, and avoid the hard work of thinking and decision-making that goes with being an adult.

But God is a good parent, one who knows about giving up control and letting children grow up. God wants us to be adults, to make our own choices, even if that means we make a mess of things. God also wants us to keep in touch, to talk about what has gone right and what has gone wrong, and to get a fresh perspective. God is still, as it were, waiting for the phone to ring.

Whether we are female or male, God calls us to share his love with others. We are called to be Christ to our neighbour, and to see Christ in our neighbour.

So, on this Mothering Sunday we give thanks for our own mothers and all that they do or once did; for those who have been like a mother to us; and for God's mothering love for each of us. May we know that love and share it with others. Amen

## **Prayers of Intercession by Ann Munton**

Heavenly Father,

We pray for the church of God both here in Midsomer Norton and throughout the world.

We ask for your blessings on Father Guy, our parish priest, and all those that support him in his ministry. We pray for the family of churches that make up the Diocese of Bath and Wells and we pray for the work of our bishops Peter and Ruth.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for all those in positions of power and responsibility throughout the world. We think of Syria and other parts of the world where there is conflict and war and we pray for peace and reconciliation. We pray that our government will act with wisdom, compassion and integrity to tackle the problems our country faces.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

This Mothering Sunday we thank you for our mothers and for the gift of life. We thank you for the hard work and sacrifice of mothers and all those who nurture children. We pray for strength, resilience and patience for mothers to help them deal with the challenges that face them day to day.

We pray for mothers who are worried about their child's development because they have missed schooling due to Covid pandemic. Help them to know that their love and care will support their children in dealing with the problems they face in life.

We pray for mothers who are not able to hug their children and grandchildren. Give them strength to bear the separation with fortitude and to look forward to the time when they can meet face to face again.

We give you thanks for the joy and happiness of spending time with family and we ask for your blessing today on all mothers.

We pray for our local community and today we pray especially for those who live in Radstock Road, South View Place and Railway View Place.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are unwell and for those who care for them. We pray for the NHS staff who have worked so hard over the past year caring for the sick.

We pray for the health of Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh will improve. We pray especially today for those on our prayer list: Miranda Cooper, Rose Stenner, Margaret & Paul Knott, Irene Leet, Fr Roy Boots, Nichollas Hambleton, Betty Chiplin, Ethan Horwood, Christopher Watts, Faye McDermott, John Norman & Joan Martindale.

We pray for the departed and especially we pray for Daphne Spooner who has died this week. We pray for those who mourn her especially Sally & Dave. In their sorrow may they find peace in the light of your love.

We pray for: (S) Richard James (M) Colin Emery, Elsie Gulliford, Ivy Legrove (T) George Box, Mabel Gregory, Gilbert Moore (W) George Foster, Ronald Swift, Jean Edwards (T) Joyce Gay, the anniversary of whose deaths occurs this week.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

## **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**

## **THIS WEEK**

<b>TUESDAY</b> 16 March	10am – 12 Noon	Private Prayer
<b>THURSDAY</b> 18 March	7.00pm – 8.30pm	Lent course via zoom
<b>SUNDAY</b> 21 March	9.30 am	Holy Eucharist

### **Because of Covid Restrictions**

A reminder to let Carol know by email or phone if you hope to be able to come to our 9.30am service on Sunday 21 March ([carolmoore226@yahoo.com](mailto:carolmoore226@yahoo.com) or 01761 412226

*For further information please refer to our website [www.stjohnschurch.org.uk](http://www.stjohnschurch.org.uk)*

### **Third National COVID 19 Lockdown**

In the light of guidance from Her Majesty's Government, the Church of England and the Diocese of Bath and Wells, our Parish Church will be open for public worship, private prayer, and funerals.

The Parish Eucharist will be celebrated on Sundays at 9.30am. This this will be recorded and streamed on our YouTube channel at 11.00am.

The church will be open for private prayer on Tuesdays from 10.00am to 12noon.

During lockdown the population are asked to stay at home. Public worship is permitted so long as the provision can show that it is COVID-safe.

We encourage everyone to follow this guidance:

Persons with any symptoms should not attend church.

Persons shielding (Clinically Extremely Vulnerable) should not be in wider circulation during the third national lockdown (commenced 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021).

We advise that anyone with an underlying health condition such as asthma or heart disease or in the clinically vulnerable group through age (70 years of age and over) should not attend public worship at this time.

Definitions for CEV and CV are available on the [NHS website](#).

Thank you for your cooperation and stay safe.