

Reflection John 19.25–27; Luke 2.33–35 Mothering Sunday

This Sunday marks the 4th Sunday of Lent, Refreshment Sunday, or more commonly now, Mothering Sunday. It's also called Laetare Sunday from the traditional entrance antiphon (or verse): 'Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her, you who love her; rejoice with her, you who mourned for her, and you will find contentment at her consoling breasts.' Traditionally the rigours of Lent were slightly relaxed on this day, and the colour of vestments in churches changed from purple to rose. More often now of course, it is the last minute rush to buy cards, presents and flowers, and catch the post to get them to mum in time. Giving thanks for our mothers, whether alive or departed, is provided for in the church's liturgy by the stories of Mary in the Gospel. From young bride and mother, to mature woman grieving at the foot of the cross, the whole range of human emotion is demonstrated in Mary, the mother of our Lord.

The lectionary provides two alternative readings for today – the one on the pewsheets at the end of Jesus' life from St John, and that brief glimpse of Jesus between being a baby and being an adult from St Luke: '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.'"

It's also worth pondering the juxtaposition of this invocation to rejoice with the current situation in Israel and Palestine.

Fr David

WARM SPACE ST THOMAS PARISH HALL



THURSDAY 3-5PM

Free refreshments in a warm space

NEXT SUNDAY 17.03.2024 Fifth Sunday of Lent
10.30am in the Hall

READINGS: OT Jeremiah 31: 31-34
NT Hebrews 5: 5-10



GOSPEL John 12: 20-33

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St Thomas, Exeter

10th March 2024

Mothering Sunday

10.30am in Hall

Today

10.30am in the Hall

Hymn Numbers

137 For the beauty of the earth
227 I come with joy, a child of God
448 Sing we of the blessed Mother

Tuesday 12th March

7.30pm House Group. Lent Course 'Come and See'. John 11: 1-44. At Helen's house.

Wednesday 13th March

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 14th March

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12 noon Knit & Natter, 19 Maple Rd.

Details from Jenny 01392 498725

3-5pm Warm Space in the Hall

Friday 15th March

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

11.30am Stations of the Cross



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

Lent Reflection Activity we will be returning to the St Thomas History Time-line after the Eucharist on Sunday mornings. Please bring your memories, ideas and inspirations.

Community Larder There will be a collection

box in the hall on Sundays for food donations. The need remains great so please be mindful of our wider community.

House Group is using the Diocesan Lent Course 'Come and See'. The group meets weekly until Easter at Helen's house. Details from Helen or Ian.

There will be a **Sunday Evensong** from 18th February until 17th March at 5pm. Zoom codes:

Meeting ID: 863 2592 5604 Passcode: 645534

Tel Nos: 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196,
0203 481 5237

Parish Website when we reviewed the website to include more details about the bell ringers we noticed that the last Blog entry was in 2022. We are looking for a small team of people who would be prepared to write something occasionally for this Blog. Please speak to one of the staff team.

Electoral Roll It is now time to revise the parish electoral roll ahead of the APCM in May. Please see Carolyn Bryant if you wish to be added to the roll or if you have moved house or changed any other details in the past year. Forms will be available from Carolyn or Ian. If you have any questions please contact Carolyn after the Sunday morning service or call 07780 707183.

