

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Fourth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday
19 March 2023

There are many different traditions about Mothering Sunday and how this day has been celebrated in the past. These days it is primarily a day on which we say thank you to all mothers, for their love and care and the special place that they have in our lives. Yes, fathers are important too and we should surround both parents with our love and gratitude. However, there are other mothers that we might also think about this Sunday. Mary, and the care and love that she gave to Jesus; Mother Church, and the continual sustenance of our spiritual lives; and mother earth, and the continual provision for our physical lives. We give thanks for all of these, but particularly for our own mothers.

Brian & Jane

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Fourth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday (19th March 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Ralph Colbran & Margaret Thistlethwaite

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Hymns: 138, 136, 318 (vv. 1-3 & 7), 537, 394

6.00 Choral Evensong

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) *(in church & online)*

Readings: Isaiah 49: 8-15; John 5: 17-30

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) *(in church)*

Readings: Exodus 32: 7-14; John 5: 31-end

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) *Readings: Fourth Sunday of Lent (in church)*

Next Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Lent (26th March 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

12.00 Holy Baptism

For services live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website

The Collect for Mothering Sunday of Lent

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 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.

The Post Communion Prayer:

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.**

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.

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.'

A thought: (Mothering Sunday) John. 19. 25-27

Our Gospel reading today are the words of Jesus from the Cross to his mother and to the people with her. It gives us the other side of motherhood, the times of darkness and grief. Mary who had given birth to Jesus and nurtured Him was now standing at the foot of the Cross, watching her beloved Son suffer. Like all mothers in her position, it would be a time of agony, anguish, and sorrow. A time of deep heartbreak.

But Jesus even when He was on the Cross the bond of love between him, and his mother was one of deep love.

And we also see that deep love and concern for his mother in his words from the Cross, "When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.'"

In the 16th century Mothering Sunday was the day when people returned to the church where they were baptised, it was called their 'Mother Church'. And so we give thanks for Mother Church, who gave spiritual birth to us through Baptism. The water of Baptism is special, because it gives those who are Baptised new life in Jesus.

Some words from the Baptism Service,

"Here is the door of faith through which we enter the kingdom of heaven. As children of God, we are adopted as his sons and daughters, and called out to proclaim the wonders of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvellous light."

So, through our Baptism we have entered the door of faith we have become God's adopted sons and daughters. And through the Scriptures and the Sacraments we are fed and nurtured by Mother Church, so that we can help others enter that door of faith.

A prayer for this time of Vacancy:

Send us your Holy Spirit at this time of change and uncertainty, to fill us with vision, energy and faithfulness in prayer that we may be true to our calling to bring new life to our community; and guide with your heavenly wisdom those who are to choose a new priest for this Benefice, so that the one whom we receive may be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people, ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith, and to lead us by example, in loving obedience to your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen

Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate need: Paul Simpson, Martin Packham, Becky Parker, Eileen Caple, Karen Leese, Jim Knight, Peter Graydon, Val Thompson

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Joshua and Reggie, Wendy, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Wendy Hibling, Yvonne Godsmark, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, Eileen Knight, Maureen Griffiths, Liz Graydon,, Eileen Macdougall, George Snashall,

Those in Care Homes: Mary Watts, Ruth Baker,, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card,

Please remember the recently departed and their families:

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 19th Tay Clarke, 20th Ruth Simson, Stanley Woods, 21st Richard Laker, Nancy Wilkes, Jack Leppard, 22nd Elsie Hemstead, Alexander Glasgow, Elizabeth Cadman, 23rd Gordon Thomas, 24th Nina Mackie, Valerie Bray, Michael Josling, 25th Michael Buck, Phyllis Green, Sheena Berkeley