

The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice of

St Saviour
Mortimer West End

St Mary and St John
Stratfield Mortimer

St John the Baptist
Padworth

St Mary's Church of England School

St John's Church of England School

Diocese of Oxford



From a window at St Mary's church,
Stratfield Mortimer

The Parish Eucharist *for* Mothering Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

14th March 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

Online at zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>

Prayer Thought for Mothering Sunday 2021. Each year on the fourth Sunday of Lent people around the world celebrate Mothering Sunday. In normal non Coronavirus times this typically involves lavishing mothers with gifts and attention and celebrating those who have nurtured us. The origins of the thanksgiving are not completely clear, but we can recognise some of the traditions that have shaped Mothering Sunday into the celebration we recognise today.

The Journey to the Mother Church. On Mothering Sunday in the 16th Century people would make a journey to their 'mother' church once a year. This might have been the home parish church where they grew up. The service which took place at the 'mother' church symbolised the coming together of families. It would have meant a significant journey on foot for many people.

A day off to visit Mother - Another tradition was to allow those working hard day in, day out as servants and farmworkers to have the day off to go home to visit their mothers and perhaps go with them to give thanks in church. Before the days of cars and public transport family get-togethers were far more rare and online facetime was still a long way off. This variation on the theme of visiting the 'mother' church was a move towards an occasion which brought 'family' into clearer focus. In normal non Coronavirus times this tradition continues, of course, as grown up children often visit their parents on Mothering Sunday.

Traditions today - This Mothering Sunday 2021 we are not able to travel to visit one another and the day may be very difficult for some. Yet we can still show our appreciation by coming online to our mother church, by thanking the woman who mothered Jesus, and by contacting those who have mothered us to thank them. And we can say a prayer at home - and, perhaps, even pause to light a candle - to give thanks for our mothers in heaven.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for the love of those who have mothered us: thank you for their care and concern; thank you for the joys they have shared with us; thank you for the pains they have borne for us; thank you for all that they give us still; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Parish Eucharist

Present rules and guidelines about attendance in churches will be followed and only the priest and the zoom operator may be at St John's church.

HYMN

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.**

THE GATHERING AND GREETING

The greeting proclaims the presence of the Lord with us. The Penitential Rite, the Gloria and the Opening Prayer follow. The purpose of these preliminary rites is to help the people, gathered for the celebration of the Eucharist, to join with each other as a worshipping community, and to prepare to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist - the Great Thanksgiving.

Priest In the name of God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
All Amen.

All The Lord be with you
And also with you.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

We call to mind our sins to repent of them / turn from them and to ask forgiveness of God and each other.

The Invitation to Confession

Priest My brothers and sisters, let us call to mind our sin, our failure to value the love of others and our failure to love as Christ has loved us.

Silence for reflection..

All Your love gives us life.
For the times when we have failed to live as your children,
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

All You call us to do good.
For the times when we have been self-centred and selfish,
Christ, have mercy.
All Christ have mercy.

All You hear us when we cry for help.
For the times when we have ignored the cries of others,
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

THE NINE-FOLD KYRIE

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

The Absolution

All + May the Father of all mercies forgive you and cleanse you from your sins,
and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE COLLECT

The priest invites us to pray.

Priest Let us pray.

Together we spend a few moments in reverent silence realising that we are in the presence of God our Father to whom we make our prayers. The priest 'collects' our prayerful thoughts into theme of this Christmas Day celebration in the Opening Prayer, which is either sung or said.

Priest 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.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Liturgy of the Word consists of readings from the scriptures; a sermon/homily, which expounds the readings; the Profession of Faith, which is the Creed of God's people; and the Prayer of the Faithful or General Intercessions in which the people of God intercede for all humankind. In the Liturgy of the Word God speaks to us of redemption and salvation and nourishes us with his word. We are not only listening to past history. The God who speaks to Israel and to the early Church speaks to us today through the power of the Holy Spirit working within us as we listen to him and as he reveals the pattern of his plan for our lives. 'The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double edged sword but more finely....it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts' (The Letter to the Hebrews 4:12).

THE FIRST READING - Colossians 3: 12 - 17. Read by Elizabeth Porter

Reader A reading from The Letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

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.

At the end of the reading:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Now we hear the Gospel (the Good News) and acknowledge that we are his people and called to be part of his mission to the world inasmuch as we share his message and his life with faith, hope and love.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Happy are those who hear the word of God and keep it. *Luke 11:28*

All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

THE GOSPEL READING - JOHN 19: 25 - 27.

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you .

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

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 beloved disciple 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.

At the end of the Gospel

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

We are a Eucharistic community in word and sacrament. Through the readings God has spoken to his people of his redeeming and healing love and of the nourishment which his Spirit gives. Our priest now reflects with us on the readings of the day relating them to our Eucharistic celebration and to our ordinary life.

After the sermon there is a short period of silent reflection.

THE PROFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH - THE CREED

We make the profession of faith in response to the word of God written in the Gospels and spoken in the sermon. We testify that God is our Father who gives us new life through his Son and who calls us together in the power of his Spirit to be a Eucharistic people, a 'thanksgiving people', a living community of his abiding love and care.

**All We believe in God the Father,
 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
 who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
 who strengthens us with power from on high.**

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL OR GENERAL INTERCESSION

We are invited to pray for the needs of the Church and all people. Through baptism we have been made one with Christ, our great high priest, and we share in his intercessions before the Father for the needs of his Church and of all people. Our intercessions flow from our listening to the Gospel and sermon by which we have been made more aware of our Christian commitment.

This Prayer of the Faithful or General Intercession is announced and consists of a series of intercessions; we pray for the universal Church and its mission and for our bishop and for our benefice - our parishes, our two Church schools; for the world, for our Queen and country, for our local communities and families; for the sick and all in pain, for all who are working on the front line at this time of Covid 19; and for the departed. And in communion with Blessed Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all the Saints of God we entrust one another and all people to God's saving love.

**Priest As sons and daughters of our loving God who always listens,
 let us pray to the Father through the Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit;
 and let us give thanks.**

The deacon or leader continues.

Loving God, you call all people your children. Help us to manifest your love in our homes that they may be places of love, security and truth.

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

Loving God, Jesus, your Son, was born into the family of Mary and Joseph; bless all parents and all who care for children; strengthen those families living under stress and may your love be known where no human love is found.

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

Loving God, we thank you for the family of the Church. We pray that all may know that they can find in her their true home; that the lonely, the marginalized, the rejected may be welcomed and loved in the name of Jesus. Bless and guide Justin our Archbishop; Steven our bishop; Olivia our area bishop; our parishes and our schools - St Mary's and St John's.

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

Loving God, bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen, our Government, our District and Village Councils and all in authority, that they may guide us in the ways of grace and truth, of justice and peace.

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

Loving God, as we see the brokenness of our world we pray for healing among the nations; for food where there is hunger; for freedom where there is oppression; for joy where there is pain; that your love may bring peace to all your children...

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

Loving God, when your Son Jesus Christ our Lord was dying he called Mary and John to care for one another. Give us grace to provide today for those who lose their loved ones and for all who are bereaved.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Loving God, we remember before you those who have died... May they know the joy of heaven.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Loving God, in communion with Mary, the Blessed Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ, St Joseph, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all the saints, we offer you our hearts and souls.

Priest Loving God, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

At the Last Supper Christ 'took some bread and when he had given thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying "This is my body which will be given for you; do this in remembrance of me". He did the same with the cup...' (Luke 22:19-20). The Church, joyfully obedient to the Lord's command, celebrates the Eucharist taking care that our 'liturgy' corresponds carefully to the words and actions of Christ: 1) Taking bread and wine in The Preparation of the Gifts we take our gifts to the Altar. Gifts or money for the poor and the Church's ministry to the poor are also presented. 2) Giving thanks (the meaning of the word Eucharist) in the Eucharistic Prayer the priest, in the name of us all, says the great hymn of our thanksgiving to God for the whole work of salvation, in which the offerings become the Body and Blood of Christ. 3) The breaking of the one bread is a sign of the unity of the faithful. 4) And in the giving of Holy Communion we receive the Body and Blood of Christ as the Apostles did from his hands. In this way Sunday by Sunday and day by day the Church carries out in loving obedience to his command what the Lord asked his disciples to do in remembrance of him.

THE PEACE

We acknowledge and give thanks for our unity with one another in Jesus Christ our Lord, which his death and resurrection have brought to us. He is the peace between us. The sign of peace echoes Christ's own resurrection greeting to his disciples. Before we share in the same bread we express our love for one another and pray for peace and unity cf Luke 1.78,79.

Priest 'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.' *Isaiah 66: 13.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

The peoples' gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar.

The offerings of money is made and promised to support the ministry and work of the Church.

Taking the Gifts: The priest gives thanks to God for the gifts in the following words.

Priest **BREAD**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

WINE

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

OUR TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE/MONEY

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have the gifts of our time, talents and money to offer. May our offerings of our gifts be a sincere sign of our gratitude and our dedication to your service.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

The priest prays quietly: Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble, contrite and thankful hearts. The priest washes hands as an expression of the desire for inward purification, praying quietly: Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

We are all invited to draw near in prayer:

Priest Pray my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

All May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Church.

Priest Amen.

Loving God, on this Mothering Sunday may our thanksgiving and the offerings of our hearts and souls be acceptable to you and cause us to grow in your love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer is the centre and high point of the whole Christian celebration. This great prayer of praise and thanksgiving proclaims the wonderful works of God and through it we join ourselves with Christ in praise and thanksgiving to God the Father and in offering ourselves to him in union with Christ's self-offering on the cross. We express our share in the prayer, which is said by the priest on behalf of all the people, by listening inwardly and joining in the acclamations (joyful shouts or songs) and the Sanctus (the Holy, Holy, Holy which concludes the preface), the memorial acclamation and the great 'Amen' which concludes our Eucharistic Prayer.

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Preface praises God for his mighty acts:

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever!

From the beginning you have created all things

and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise:

The Acclamation

All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

We pray to the Father for the sending down of the Holy Spirit and recall the Lord's Supper.

Priest How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord!

As a mother tenderly gathers her children you embraced a people as your own.

When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,

to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends, and taking bread, he gave you thanks.

He broke it and gave it to them, saying:

Take eat: this is my body which is given for you

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,

which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

All Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;

we remember his dying and rising in glory,

and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.
As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us into the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.
Remember Lord your Church in every land.
Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace.
Bring us at the last with Mary, John the Evangelist, John the Baptist and all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by him, with him, and in him,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:
Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

The communion rite of the Church lays strong emphasis on peace, unity and our prayer for forgiveness. We come together to the Lord's table in accordance with the Lord's command, 'Take, eat... take, drink', as a community bound together by love. We are confident in Christ's mercy as we respond to his call to come to his table. Our communal recitation of the Lord's Prayer - the prayer he taught us - prepares us for Holy Communion with our Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

All **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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The priest takes the host and breaks it over the cup, praying quietly:

May this mingling of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.

'Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread' (1 Corinthians 10:17)

Christ's gesture of breaking bread with his disciples at the Last Supper gave the entire Eucharist the name of the 'breaking of bread'. This gesture signifies that we who share one bread and one cup are made one. Through the breaking of the host the Eucharist is seen more clearly as a sign of unity and charity since the one bread is being distributed among the members of one family of God.

Priest We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

The priest prepares quietly for Holy Communion. We may all join quietly in this prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit your death brought life to the world. By your holy body and blood free me from all my sins and from every evil. Keep me faithful to your teaching, and never let me be parted from you.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Priest Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. *cf. John 1: 29*
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The sign of communion is more complete when given under both kinds since then the sign of the eucharistic meal appears more clearly. However, we live in exceptional times when, for the time being, communion can only be given in one kind for those who can come to church. Whilst others join faithfully online. Please God, may we all soon be able to come together again to receive Holy Communion under both kinds at the Lord's table. The priest takes the host, raises it a little and shows it saying: The Body of Christ. And the same with the cup saying: The Blood of Christ.

When receiving Holy Communion the response and assent to Christ is:

+ Amen.

ANTHEM DURING HOLY COMMUNION

Ave Maria

After Holy Communion we may keep a further period of silence.

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

Priest Let us pray

The priest invites us all to pray that the Holy Eucharist will have its effect in transforming our lives and bring us to God's kingdom. All pray together silently for a while before the Post Communion prayer.

Priest Loving God, as a loving mother feeds her children 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.

All Amen.

THE NOTICES FOR THE COMMUNITY ARE GIVEN.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Priest The Lord be with you.

All and also with you.

THE BLESSING

Priest Almighty God, who gave birth to all creation,
who became incarnate by an earthly mother,
and who watches over you as a mother over her children,
bless you, + Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All Amen.

 Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forever more!**

