

ST MARY'S, CILCAIN

MOTHERING SUNDAY

26TH MARCH 2017

11 O'CLOCK



**THE FOURTH SUNDAY
OF LENT**

GATHERING AND WELCOME

Welcome to our Mothering Sunday service. In this service we have come to celebrate the act of Mothering, and the people who undertake the difficult, joyful, complex, wonderful task. Mothering in our service speaks to the act of mothering, and seeks to praise and pray for those who undertake it. All people at some point in their lives will find themselves mothering, caring and nurturing others, be they children, or elderly relatives, or everything between. Expressions of Mothering are expressions of love, of care, of nurturing. It is a powerful state, and one that God seeks to express in the abundance of love.

Let us Praise God who loves us.

Praise God who cares.

(A large candle is lit.)

We light this candle to remind us that the love of God is like a light in our darkness.

Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for all who have nurtured and cared as Mothers. For all those that have gathered chicks under their wings.

Blessed be God forever.

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they cared for their children.

Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have wept in sorrow and joy for their children.

Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love, and for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love.

Blessed be God for ever.

1st Hymn Bind us together Lord. (CAH No 72)

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

(Please sit or kneel)

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer,
This is your world and we are your people:
come among us and save us.
We have willfully misused your gifts of creation

Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

We have seen the ill-treatment of others
and have not gone to their aid.

Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

We have condoned evil and dishonesty
and failed to strive for justice.

Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

We have heard the good news of Jesus Christ,
but have failed to share it with others.

Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin

We have not loved you with our whole heart,
nor our neighbours as ourselves.

Lord, be merciful:
forgive us our sin.

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 MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The collect for Mothering Sunday

(Please sit)

The First Reading from the Bible

The Second Reading from the Bible.

After each reading the response is

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

2nd Hymn All our blessings, All our joys
(to tune All things bright and beautiful)

SERMON

3rd Hymn Brother sister let me serve you (CAH No 88)

(After which we remain standing for the)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

At the end of each section of prayer this may be said

Lord in your mercy
“Hear our prayer.”

We pray today for all parents who, for whatever reason, are not able to be with their own children.

We pray today for all children who, for whatever reason, are not able to be with their own parents.

We pray for all whose relationships with their mother are difficult.

We pray for all mothers whose relationships with their children bring tears.

We pray today for all families, that that they may be sanctuaries of love.

We pray for all those who although not mothers themselves have shown, offered and provided nurture, care and love.

We pray today for all people, that they may know love that is the family of God.

Help us to be a little kinder to other people, to understand when they are hurting and to help them when they are sad.

(In ending, the person leading the prayers may say)

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,

Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Together we say the prayer that Jesus taught us..

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil,
For the Kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen**

DISTRIBUTION OF FLOWERS

Loving God, thank you for all mothers, be they mothers, grandmothers, godmothers or any other person, who care for us and have cared for us. May these flowers be a sign of our thanks and the love we all share through you .

Amen

Final hymn He's got the whole world in His Hands (CAH No 819)
(During which a collection may be taken)

We join together in saying

**Thank you God for the love of our mothers;
thank you God for their care and concern;
thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;
thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;
thank you God for all that they give us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Praise God who loves us.

Praise God who cares.

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us:
may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us:
may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us.
May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

By tradition this middle Sunday in Lent was a time when young children who had left home to work in a big house or on a farm were allowed home for the first time in the year.

Lots of children had to work for very low wages, sometimes only their keep, and it was very hard. They missed their homes and the care of their mother. At home much had been done for them. Now they had to look after themselves.

It was lovely to come home and be looked after and loved. Usually the children had little they could bring as they had little. They may have been allowed to make a cake.

More often they would bring a posy of flowers they picked on the way. Perhaps the first time they had thought of giving their mother flowers and saying 'Thank you' for all that their mother had done for them.

What most of us learn about love, grace and goodness has its foundation in our own homes.

ALL OUR BLESSINGS

Tune: All things bright and beautiful

*All our blessings, all our joys
With thankful hearts we sing,
True, compassionate, loving God
Accept the praise we bring.*

For parents and for children,
For husbands, wives, and friends,
For those whose care enfolds us
With love that never ends.

All our blessings, all our joys.....

For fellowship and friendship
We both receive and give,
For those who've shared our journey
And taught us how to live.

All our blessings, all our joys.....

For all who've shared our sorrow,
Walked with us in our pain,
Who've held our hand through darkness
And showed us light again.

All our blessings, all our joys.....