

The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

# Mothering Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Lent - Refreshment Sunday



**All-age Mass for the Parish Family**  
with the Welcome of the recently Baptised

Sunday 30 March 2025

10.15 am

# Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church



**Safeguarding** St Matthew's is committed to providing a safe environment for all who come. If you have any concerns, please speak with one of our welcomers or a churchwarden who may be identified by their lanyard. They will be happy to help you.

**Live streaming** Please note that this service is being streamed. You may sit where you wish. If, however, you prefer not to be seen online, please sit in a side aisle. The administration of Holy Communion will not be shown.

**GDPR** Some of St Matthew's services (most Sunday mornings and some special services) are live-streamed or recorded for those who cannot attend church in person. Under GDPR, the church must gain the consent of anyone whose image may be captured, as this constitutes collection of "personal data". This includes clergy, readers/intercessors, musicians and congregation. Whilst every attempt is made not to capture the faces of members of the congregation, this may occasionally happen if people turn around or move around the church during the service. The exception is communion, when the congregation is not filmed. The side aisles and back of the nave are so far as possible film-free areas not covered by the camera. Any-one whose personal data is collected must give their consent. Consent forms are available both in church and on the website. The full policy can be read on our parish website or on the noticeboards in church.

**Toilet and baby changing facilities** may be found at the base of the church tower. There is also a small servery.

**For younger children** In the north aisle (nearest to Collingwood Road), a carpeted is provided for infant children. Please feel free to make use of these facilities.



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## Collection - 'Building a Generous Church'



### Our response to God's generosity

*We believe in a generous God, who longs for us to share his generosity with others. A generous life is therefore a hallmark of our faith and a testament to it, as the more generous we are, the more we reflect the generous God we believe in. Generosity is, therefore, at the heart of our faith, and our own generosity is a sure sign of our faith in action. Generosity is a spiritual gift, and we need to encourage people to seek this gift as they grow in their faith. The ministry and mission of St Matthew's is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*We invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew's Church. You may do so using any of the following methods:*

***Cash, cheques, stewardship envelopes*** - using the receptacle provided at the back of church. If you are a taxpayer please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may also benefit from the Gift Aid (an extra 25p for every pound given) associated with your giving.

***Contactless giving*** - using the terminal provided. Just press the button for the amount you wish to give - £5, £10, or £20, and then hold your bank card over the reader.

***Giving on your smart phone*** - using the QR code printed below. It gives you the option of any amount, Gift Aid, and making a regular payment.

***Giving online*** - click the donate button on the parish website or Facebook page and follow the instructions.

*Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.*



# Mothering Sunday

In this country The Fourth Sunday of Lent is also known as Mothering Sunday. There are traditions associated with Mothering Sunday in England which date back as long ago as the 16th century. It is told that this was the day when people were encouraged to return to worship in their 'mother' church where they had been baptised. People who usually attended the local parish church, would make a longer journey to the 'mother church' or cathedral of the Diocese. Girls in domestic service would bake to show their mothers their new skills in the form of a gift, traditionally a simnel cake. On this day many girls who were in service were allowed time off from domestic chores to visit their mothers and their family. Apprentices, generally boys, were likewise given time off to return home.

Today, Mothering Sunday is a popular day when Christians choose to use the occasion to think about all things which concern motherhood. We give thanks for the Church as Mother, the Virgin Mary as the mother of Jesus, we remember that God cares for us like a mother and, last but not least, we give thanks for our own mothers. Mothering Sunday is a time of special thanksgiving. It is also the one day of joy in Lent, when flowers may abound in churches and when people are allowed a time off from the rigours of the otherwise penitential season. It is also known as Mid-Lent Sunday, Refreshment Sunday or *Laetare* Sunday. The Latin name of *Laetare*, means 'rejoice'.

## Setting

The Salisbury Service

*Grayston Ives b 1948*

# Order of Service

## ¶ Gathering to Worship God

*§ All stand at the sound of the bell*

### Call to Worship

*Priest* Jesus Christ lived in a family at Nazareth. As we come together to worship him, may we learn more about what it is to love one another as God loves us.

### Hymn

*§ The procession enters and the flags are presented*

*All*

**OUR Father God in heaven  
On whom our world depends,  
To you let praise be given  
For families and friends;  
For parents, sisters, brothers,  
A home where love belongs,  
But on this day for mothers  
We bring our thankful songs.**

**What wealth of God's bestowing  
For all the world to share!  
What strength of heart outgoing  
To children everywhere!  
Our deepest joys and sorrows  
A mother's path must trace,  
And earth's unknown tomorrows  
Are held in her embrace.**

How well we know the story  
That tells of Jesus' birth,  
The Lord of heaven's glory  
Become a child of earth;  
A helpless infant sleeping,  
Yet King of realms above,  
Who finds in Mary's keeping  
The warmth of human love.

Our Father God in heaven,  
To you we lift our prayer,  
That every child be given  
Such tenderness and care,  
Where life is all for others,  
Where love your love displays:  
For God's good gift of mothers  
Let earth unite in praise!

*Words* Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

*Music* Morning Light  
George James Webb (1803-1887)

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
*All* **Amen.**

## The Greeting

*All* The Lord our redeemer be with you  
**and also with you.**

*Our celebration is introduced*

## Saying Sorry to God

God knows us and loves us as his children.  
Through his Son Jesus Christ we ask forgiveness  
for those times when we have fallen short.

*We reflect on our wrongdoing*

## Confession

*All*      **Father of all,  
we confess that we have not followed your commandments.  
We have failed to honour parents;  
we have not encouraged children;  
we have not respected one another in obedience to Christ.  
Lord forgive and heal us, we pray,  
and help us to love those we live with,  
as you have loved us,  
for Jesus' sake.  
Amen.**

## God's Forgiveness

Father in heaven,  
you ask us all to live together in harmony,  
have mercy on you,  
forgive † your sins  
and bind us together in unity and love,  
for the sake of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*      **Amen.**

## The Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

God of love,  
your 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 our joys and in our sorrows  
we may know your presence to heal and make whole;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*      **Amen.**

§ *Sit*

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

*Reader*      A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians.

God has chosen you and made you his holy people. He loves you. So always do these things: Show mercy to others; be kind, humble, gentle, and patient. Do not be angry with each other, but forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you, then forgive him. Forgive each other because the Lord forgave you. Do all these things; but most important, love each other. Love is what holds you all together in perfect unity. Let the peace that Christ gives control your thinking. You were all called together in one body to have peace. Always be thankful. Let the teaching of Christ live in you richly. Use all wisdom to teach and strengthen each other. Sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Everything you say and everything you do should all be done for Jesus your Lord. And in all you do, give thanks to God the Father through Jesus.

Colossians 3:12-17

*All*      This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

§ *Stand*



# Gospel Reading

## Acclamation

1. *Choir*      2. *All*



Praise to you, O Christ, King of e - ter - nal glo - ry.

*Choir* Children are a heritage from the Lord  
and the fruit of the womb is his gift.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

*S* We turn to face the Book of the Gospels

*All* The Lord our redeemer be with you  
**and also with you.**

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



*All* Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Jesus' mother stood near his cross. His mother's sister was also standing there, with Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother. He also saw the follower he loved standing there. He said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son." Then he said to the follower, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this follower took her to live in his home.

John 19.25b-27

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



*All* Praise to you, O Christ.

## Hymn

*§ During which the choir move to the nave bringing their candles with them*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1</b> FATHERS and mothers,<br/>Sisters and brothers,<br/>All those who love us,<br/>For whom we care:<br/>Help and befriend them,<br/>Keep and defend them,<br/>Jesus our Saviour,<br/>This is our prayer.</p> | <p><b>2</b> And for those others,<br/>Fathers and mothers,<br/>Children who hunger,<br/>They must be fed:<br/>We would be caring,<br/>Readily sharing,<br/>One with another<br/>Our daily bread.</p> |
| <p><b>3</b> Sisters and brothers,<br/>Fathers and mothers,<br/>We who together<br/>Offer our praise:<br/>Hear our thanksgiving,<br/>God ever living,<br/>May we walk with you<br/>All of our days.</p>               |  |

Words Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Music Buessan  
Gaelic melody

## Talk - Presentation

*§ Sit*

*The themes of the day are briefly explored*

As God's family, let us declare the faith of the Church.

*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.**

## Prayer action

Jesus was a mother's son. He shared with us the most common fact of our humanity: we all have a mother. In our prayers today we are going to remember our own mothers, to pray for all those who are mothers and all those who wish they could be. Let's fill the church with light as a sign of our prayer.

*§ The acolytes move down the centre aisle lighting the candle of those on the end of each row. Please share the light with your neighbour until everyone's candle is lit.*

*§ You are invited to place your lit candle on the card daffodil in front of the Madonna and Child sculpture, dedicating it to God with a personal prayer intention.*

*At the end*

*Priest* Mothering God,  
*All* we pray for the mothers we have,  
the mothers we have lost,  
the mothers we are and  
the mothers we would like to be,  
in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

## Our Prayers to God

*Priest* God watches over us with a parent's care,  
and shares our joys and sorrows.  
Let us bring before him the needs of our brothers and sisters  
in the Church and in the world.

*§ Kneel*

*§ The first section is led by children*

For our parents and the love that they give us,  
God, we thank you  
*All* and we praise you.

For our mother's love and care,  
God we thank you  
*All* and we praise you.

For our father's love and protection,  
God, we thank you  
*All* and we praise you.

For the love we share with our brothers and sisters,  
God, we thank you  
*All* and we praise you.

*All* For our homes and all that you give us,  
God, we thank you  
**and we praise you.**

*S* *Led by parents*

We pray for Mother Church that helps us to grow in the faith,  
for our clergy and all who minister to us and care for us,  
for all who help us to know and love God.

*All* Loving Father  
**hear us and help us.**

We remember today all homeless peoples,  
all who are separated from their loved ones  
through war or troubles.

We pray for any who are taken into care,  
whether they are young or old.

We ask your blessing upon all who have lost loved ones this year  
and upon all who are feeling lonely or unwanted.

*All* Loving Father  
**hear us and help us.**

We give thanks for our own homes  
and ask your blessing upon our families and friends.

We ask you especially to bless our mothers at this time.

We pray for mothers throughout the world;  
may they never be taken for granted and always respected.

*All* Loving Father  
**hear us and help us.**

We pray for all who are ill at home or in hospital.

For the acutely ill ...

We remember families where the mother is ill  
or where she is tending an ill child.

We ask your blessing upon families where there is poverty or the inability to cope.

*All* Loving Father  
**hear us and help us.**

We give thanks, O God, for your loving care and we ask your blessing upon all our loved ones and friends who have departed this life:

The recently departed ...

Those whose anniversary falls this week ...

May they be at peace in your kingdom.

*All* Loving Father  
**hear us and help us.**

*Priest* Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

[Uniformed Organisations]

*At this point, members of the uniformed organizations may be invested or presented with awards etc.*

# ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

*A collection is taken. Please give as you are able.*

Hymn

§ Stand

All

FOR the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies:  
*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon and stars of light:  
*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our sacrifice of praise.*

For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above,  
For all gentle thoughts and mild:  
*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our sacrifice of praise.*

For each perfect gift of thine,  
To our race so freely given,  
Graces human and divine,  
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:  
*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our sacrifice of praise.*

**For thy Church that evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore  
This pure sacrifice of love:  
*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our sacrifice of praise.***

Words Foliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917)

Music England's Lane  
Geoffrey Turton Shaw (1879-1943)

## Invitation to Prayer

Pray, my brothers and sisters,  
that our sacrifice 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.**

## Prayer over the Bread and Wine

Lord, accept the prayers and gifts we offer in faith and love.  
May this eucharist bring us together as one family  
in the glory of heaven.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

*All* The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All* Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

*All* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**



*Children*  
*Adults*

Why is it right to give thanks and praise?  
**Listen, and we will hear.**

Lord of all life, you created the universe,  
where all living things reflect your glory.  
You give us this great and beautiful earth,  
to discover and to cherish.

You give us sun and moon and star-lit sky,  
everything that gives us light,  
light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds.

You give us Mary, the mother of Jesus,  
a wonderful example of faith, hope and love  
that we may learn to care better for our mother, the Church,  
and be thankful for our own mothers.

You made us all,  
each wonderfully different,  
to join with the angels and sing your praise:

*All sing*

**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 thank you, loving Father,  
because, when we turned away,  
you sent Jesus, your Son.  
He gave his life for us on the cross  
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine  
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

*Children* Why do we share this bread and wine?  
*Adults* **Listen, and we will hear.**

On the night before he died,  
when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread.  
He gave thanks, broke it,  
and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,  
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,  
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So, Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.  
As you feed us with these gifts,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

*Children* How do we follow Jesus Christ?  
*Adults* **Listen, and we will hear.**

Help us, Father, to love one another,  
as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended,  
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with Mary and Joseph and all your saints  
we give you glory,  
through Jesus Christ,  
in the strength of the Spirit,  
today and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*§ If you are able, please remain standing*

## The Lord's Prayer

As God's children, and heirs with Christ  
we pray to God our Father.

*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.**

## Sign of Christ's Peace

We are children of God.  
Let the peace of Christ our Brother rule in your hearts,  
and be thankful.

*All*      **The peace of the Lord be always with you  
and also with you.**

Let us share a sign of Christ's peace.

## Breaking of the Bread

*All* We break this bread,  
**communion in Christ's body once broken.**

## Invitation to Communion

*All* God's holy gifts for God's holy people.  
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*The clergy receive Holy Communion*

## Giving of Communion

Jesus said, 'Whoever does the will of God is my brother  
or sister or mother.'

*S* *Those who are baptised and are communicant members of their  
church are welcome to receive holy communion. Alternatively, if you  
wish to receive God's blessing, please bring this booklet with you as  
a sign. Thank you.*

## Spiritual Communion - *for those watching at home*

## Act of Reception

*All* In union, blessed Jesus,  
with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church  
where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day,

*(and remembering particularly my own parish ...)*

I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving,  
for creation and all the blessings of this life,  
for the redemption won for us by your life, death,  
and resurrection,  
for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

*(and particularly for the blessings given me ...)*

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament,  
and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,  
I pray you to come into my heart.  
I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart,  
my soul, and my mind.  
Let nothing separate me from you;  
let me serve you in this life until, by your grace,  
I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.  
Amen.

*The choir sing Lamb of God*

## Motet

Choir Ave Maria

Anton Bruckner 1824-1896

Ave Maria, gratia plena; Dominus tecum;  
benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.  
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,  
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,  
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.  
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis.  
Amen.

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.  
Holy Mary, pray for us.  
Amen.*

*S All sit for a period of silent reflection and thanksgiving*

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

*S Stand*

Loving God,  
as a mother feeds her children at the breast  
you feed us with the food and drink of eternal life:  
help us who have tasted your goodness  
to grow more like Jesus within the household of faith,  
today and every day.

*All*     **Amen.**

## Hymn

*All*                    **GOD of Eve and God of Mary,  
                          God of love and mother-earth,  
Thank you for the ones who with us  
                          Shared their life and gave us birth.**

**As you came to earth in Jesus,  
                          So you come to us today;  
You are present in the caring  
                          That prepares us for life's way.**

**Thank you that the Church, our Mother,  
                          Gives us bread and fills our cup,  
And the comfort of the Spirit  
                          Warms our hearts and lifts us up.**

**Thank you for belonging, shelter,  
                          Bonds of friendship, ties of blood,  
And for those who have no children,  
                          Yet are parents under God.**

**God of Eve and God of Mary,  
Christ our brother, human Son,  
Spirit, caring like a Mother,  
Take our love and make us one!**

*Words Fred Kaan 1929-2009*

*Music Love Divine  
John Stainer 1840-1901*

## Notices for the Community

§ Sit

### Welcome of the recently Baptised

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:  
Primrose Daisy, by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

*All* **We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;  
we are children of the same heavenly Father;  
we welcome you.**

*The certificate of baptism of presented*

### ¶ Going out to serve the Lord

§ Stand

*All* The Lord our redeemer be with you  
**and also with you.**

### God's Blessing

May God who gave you life,  
who watched over you in your mother's womb,  
protect, nurture, and guide you as you grow in his love.

And may the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son †, and Holy Spirit,  
rest upon you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

*Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Organ Voluntary

Rosace [Esquisses Byzantines, No 3]      *Henri Mulet 1878-1967*

*S Please remain standing until the procession has departed*

*S Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish to listen to the organ voluntary.*

*S Refreshments are served after Mass in the parish centre.  
Please do join us.*

Our next all age service:

**Good Friday**

18 April at 10.30am

**Stations of the Cross for all ages**

*followed by hot cross buns and other refreshments*



# Easter Day

Sunday 20 April

10.15am The Parish Mass of the Resurrection

5.30pm Solemn Choral Evensong and Benediction

*Please do come and help us celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead,  
the greatest event in history!*

*Children worshipping with us on Easter morning  
will be given a Real Easter Egg  
made from high quality fairtrade chocolate  
with an illustrated Easter activity book.*

*Our thanks are due to 32nd St Matthew's Guides,  
Brownies and Rainbows who have generously financed  
the production of this week's service booklet.*

**Please take this booklet home  
as an aid to prayer and reflection during the week,  
and then re-cycle it.**

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