

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP  
Registered Charity Number: 1133977  
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

## MOTHERING SUNDAY

14<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### NOTES

***Due to Covid restrictions, list entries in italics are private services. Please do not come to these unless you have been personally invited.***

***Joining instructions for online services and events are provided in the notices below.***

***Please be aware that all services and events are subject to late changes, and get in touch before finalising your plans.***

### TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist  
10:30 am Said Eucharist

### THIS WEEK

#### MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer

#### TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer  
7:30 pm Parents' Fellowship on Zoom

#### WEDNESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer  
9:30 am Said Eucharist  
11:00 am Coffee and Catch-Up on Zoom  
7:00 pm Lent Course on Zoom

#### THURSDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer  
1:30 pm *Funeral – Colin Fear*

### NEXT SUNDAY – 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

#### *Passiontide Begins*

9:00 am Said Eucharist  
10:30 am Said Eucharist

### READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH</u>
Jeremiah 31:31-34	Daniel 3:14-20, 24-25, 28
Psalms 51:1-13	Canticle: Bless the Lord
Hebrews 5:5-10	John 8:31-42
John 12:20-33	

### FROM THE VICAR

What are the most controversial days of the church year? In my experience, Mothering Sunday is certainly one.

This is not because people disagree violently about the importance of mothers, or of motherhood. It's not even (or at least not very often) because people feel that it's unfair to have a Sunday on which we give thanks for mothers when there is nothing quite the same for fathers.

The real reason for the controversy is that very few people have had straightforwardly positive experiences in this area of their lives.

Some have (or had) difficult relationships with their own mothers and still carry the wounds. Others lost their mothers in traumatic circumstances. Many have very happy memories of childhood, but most of us also have regrets and resentments that shape our entire lives.

If *having* a mother isn't always easy, it's also true that *being* a mother is rarely plain-sailing. My knowledge of this is, of course, indirect, but in my life and ministry I have met many women who want to be mothers who struggle or fail to conceive, and others who have faced the devastating choices of unwanted pregnancy. None except those who have themselves experienced it really understand the agony of miscarriage, or the grief of out-living a child they bore.

There is a way of keeping Mothering Sunday that keeps its eyes and ears resolutely closed to all of this. It wraps motherhood and mothers in a satin box tied up with a silk bow and makes everyone whose experience doesn't match that (suffocating) illusion feel there's something wrong with them.

The truth – and as Christians we ought to care about truth – is that this joyful Sunday in which we rightly give thanks for our mothers and celebrate motherhood represents a lot of pain to a lot of people. And if we deny that pain, we perpetuate it.

The good news is that if we use this opportunity to bring the full reality of our experiences of mothers and motherhood to God we can receive the comfort and healing that only God can give. We give thanks for our mothers, but our thanksgiving is at its best when it is honest, when it recognises the complexity of this most basic of human relationships. Yes, we celebrate motherhood, but our rejoicing is at its best when it is compassionate, when it honours the delight *and* the disappointment, the joy *and* the suffering of real women rather than idealising and sentimentalising their experience and the persistently under-valued contribution they make to the world.

May God bless you all,

Hugh

### PARISH INFORMATION

Vicar: Rev'd Dr Hugh Jones

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Notices for next week's sheet by Wednesday please.

Online & Social Media

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www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

## NOTICES

### POST-COVID VOLUNTEERING

We are hopeful that over the next few months things at St Nicholas will return to a more familiar pattern. Much of this depends on things beyond our control – the progress might in fighting the virus, Government policies, national church advice. *But some of it depends on you!* In order to be able to do everything we would like to do, we need volunteers, lots of them. There are opportunities to get involved in church opening, stewarding services, church cleaning, various roles in worship, and many other things. Please get in touch if you are willing to help.

### MORNING PRAYER

Morning Prayer has now resumed in the church building. Please do join us if you would like. Morning Prayer will also continue on Zoom for those who want it and are able to organise it. Please speak directly to Fran Bell about this.

### COFFEE AND CATCH-UP ON ZOOM

Join us on Wednesdays at 11am for a coffee and a catch-up! A chance to see one another and share fellowship and fun, until we can meet in person again. The Zoom details are below; please get in touch with Alice if you have any questions or problems.

**Topic: Wednesday Coffee and Catch-up**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87638167553>**

**Meeting ID: 876 3816 7553**

### LENT COURSE

This year's Lent Course is a series of reflections, with worship, on the Collect for Ash Wednesday. It will take place on Zoom (**using the same link as above**) continuing on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, at 7:00 pm. Please download the notice circulated by e-mail for fuller details. Please note that you do not need a password to access this meeting.

### PARENTS' FELLOWSHIP

Having started on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30 pm, Kate Mitchell will continue to host an informal coffee, chat, and fellowship group for parents of senior school children. The group will meet on Zoom for around 40 mins on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays thereafter.

Please do join as your other commitments permit and feel free to spread the word to anyone else you feel may be interested. Contact Kate on [kimitchell882@gmail.com](mailto:kimitchell882@gmail.com) to register interest and be sent the recurring Zoom link.

Kate says: 'I hope that this will be a relaxed space in which we can get together over a coffee to draw encouragement and inspiration off each other about growing our own faith as parents, sharing our faith with our children, and living with teenagers who have had their school and social lives tipped upside down due to school closures and social distancing.'

Bring a drink of your choice for a catch up and then we will close with a restful compline for the last 5-10 mins. If you can't make the entire time you can just drop in and drop out as you need to.'

### EASTER EGGS

If you'd like Traidcraft Easter Eggs this year, please order them direct, at [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk).

### BUILDING REPAIRS

It's almost a year since the first lockdown was announced. We are all missing meals out with friends, cancelled holidays and theatre trips and that new spring outfit. But have you noticed that your bank balance has increased? Please consider making a donation to the church so that vital repairs to the East Window can take place and the work of mission and ministry at St Nicholas' can continue apace when we eventually re-open. *Joan Beresford*

### SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

Did you know that you can forward the e-Church bulletins to your families and friends? Just click the 'forward' arrow in your email system. This is a terrific, and very easy, way of sharing the good news. Our materials are already being accessed by people all over the world, but there's plenty of room for lots more. People can also 'like' the videos on YouTube and subscribe to our mailings either by contacting the Parish Office or clicking on the button in the front page of the website. Do get in touch if we can help with any of this.

### QUIET DAY FOR LENT OR HOLY WEEK

The Community of St Francis in Metheringham will host a Zoom Quiet Day – *The San Damiano Cross - Sights and Insights* – on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, repeated on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March. To register, or for more information, please email Sr Maureen at [metheringhamcsf@franciscans.org.uk](mailto:metheringhamcsf@franciscans.org.uk).

## READINGS

### *Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March*

#### **COLLECT**

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful:  
watch over us and hold us all the days of our life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

#### **FIRST READING**

EXODUS 2:1-10

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.'

#### **PSALM**

PSALM 34:11-20

*Refrain: The Lord is near to the broken-hearted.*

Come, my children, and listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.  
Who is there who delights in life  
and longs for days to enjoy good things? **R**  
Keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from lying words.  
Turn from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it. **R**  
The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous  
and his ears are open to their cry.  
The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,  
to root out the remembrance of them  
from the earth. **R**  
The righteous cry and the Lord hears them  
and delivers them out of all their troubles.  
The Lord is near to the brokenhearted  
and will save those who are crushed in spirit. **R**  
Many are the troubles of the righteous;  
from them all will the Lord deliver them.  
He keeps all their bones,  
so that not one of them is broken. **R**

#### **SECOND READING**

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.

#### **GOSPEL**

LUKE 2:33-35

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Jesus. 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.'

#### **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**

## Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March

### COLLECT

Merciful Lord, you know our struggle to serve you:  
when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts,  
come to our aid and turn us back to you again; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### FIRST READING

ISAIAH 49:8-15

Thus says the Lord:

In a time of favour I have answered you,  
on a day of salvation I have helped you;  
I have kept you and given you  
as a covenant to the people,  
to establish the land,  
to apportion the desolate heritages;  
saying to the prisoners, 'Come out',  
to those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.'  
They shall feed along the ways,  
on all the bare heights shall be their pasture;  
they shall not hunger or thirst,  
neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them  
down,  
for he who has pity on them will lead them,  
and by springs of water will guide them.  
And I will turn all my mountains into a road,  
and my highways shall be raised up.  
Lo, these shall come from far away,  
and lo, these from the north and from the west,  
and these from the land of Syene.  
Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!  
For the Lord has comforted his people,  
and will have compassion on his suffering ones.  
But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me,  
my Lord has forgotten me.'  
Can a woman forget her nursing-child,  
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?  
Even these may forget,  
yet I will not forget you.

### PSALM

PSALM 145:8-18

**Refrain: Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised.**

The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
long-suffering and of great goodness.  
The Lord is loving to everyone  
and his mercy is over all his creatures. **R**  
All your works praise you, O Lord,  
and your faithful servants bless you.  
They tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your mighty power,  
To make known to all peoples your mighty acts  
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.  
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;  
your dominion endures throughout all ages. **R**  
The Lord is sure in all his words  
and faithful in all his deeds.  
The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up all those who are bowed down. **R**  
The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,  
and you give them their food in due season.

You open wide your hand  
and fill all things living with plenty.  
The Lord is righteous in all his ways  
and loving in all his works. **R**

### GOSPEL READING

JOHN 5:17-30

Jesus answered, 'My Father is still working, and I also  
am working.' For this reason the Jews were seeking all  
the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking  
the sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father,  
thereby making himself equal to God.

Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do  
nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father  
doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does  
likewise. The Father loves the Son and shows him all  
that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater  
works than these, so that you will be astonished.  
Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives  
them life, so also the Son gives life to whomsoever he  
wishes. The Father judges no one but has given all  
judgement to the Son, so that all may honour the Son  
just as they honour the Father. Anyone who does not  
honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent  
him. Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word  
and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and  
does not come under judgement, but has passed from  
death to life.

'Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now  
here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of  
God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father  
has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to  
have life in himself; and he has given him authority to  
execute judgement, because he is the Son of Man. Do  
not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when  
all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will  
come out—those who have done good, to the  
resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to  
the resurrection of condemnation.

'I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge; and my  
judgement is just, because I seek to do not my own will  
but the will of him who sent me.

### POST COMMUNION

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back  
to the smiters and did not hide his face from shame:  
give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present  
time with sure confidence in the glory that shall be  
revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**