



**St John the Divine Church,  
Selsdon  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
The Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Mothering Sunday**

## **Welcome**

Welcome back to St John's it is so lovely to have the congregation back in the church. We hope that you enjoy today's service whether you are in the church or in the comfort of your own home. We thank all those who have helped keep the services running over the past few months and look forward to spring in the church. The service today will be taken by The Reverend Michael Skinner and The Reverend Stephen Wright.

### **PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU**

#### **Opening Prayer**

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. **Amen**

#### **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**

**Psalm Today :** Verses from Psalm 34

#### **First Reading**

A reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians:

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tender hearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you.

Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body, you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives.  
Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives.  
Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.  
And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

This is the Word of the Lord

## **THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **Gospel**

Meanwhile, 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 disciple whom he loved 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.

*John 19:25b-27*

#### **For your prayers:**

#### **We pray for God's love to surround:**

Tano Grima, Margaret Rapp, Robin Sullivan

#### **We pray for those who have died recently:**

Gloria Sayer

#### **We pray for loved ones on the anniversary of their death:**

14th March	Ethel Northwood	(1977)
	Henry Naisbett	(1992)
16th March	Ernest Wright	(1958)
17th March	Harry Mercer	(1972)
	Edith Wilson	(1997)
	Diane Defries	(2014)
18th March	John Barford	(1978)
	Sister Gladys C.R.	(1981)
20th March	John Salmon	(1992)
	Dorothy Mather	(2014)
	Roger Stunell	(2017)

*If you'd like prayer either for yourself or for another, please email [rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com](mailto:rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com) And if you would like to include the name of a loved one among the list of the departed on the anniversary of their death, please email Amanda on the above email.*

**Please give NOTICES for inclusion in the weekly service sheet to Amanda [bookingsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:bookingsstjohns@gmail.com) preferably by e-mail, or in writing. It would be helpful to receive this before \* Tuesday \* each week.**

If you'd like to discuss arranging a baptism (christening), a wedding or a funeral, please call

Tel: 0208 6572343 or email [rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com](mailto:rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com)

## **The Parish Office**

**Will be open Mon- Thur 9am -2pm**

**Tel: 0208 6**

**mobile number 07958 682103**

**email [bookingsstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:bookingsstjohns@gmail.com)**

**St John's Website address is:**

**[www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk)**

**To find our Facebook page simply (Google) search**

**St John the Divine Selsdon**

## **Sunday Services at 10 am**

**Could we remind everyone of the following:**

**Coronavirus is highly infectious. Older people and those with underlying health problems are at increased risk of severe illness and potentially death**

**It is critical that we follow strict rules if we wish the church to remain open**

**1 Everyone must wear a mask properly unless they have a compelling reason not to do so and must sanitise on entry to and departure from church**

**2 Spacing is critical, please do not huddle together and please keep 2m apart unless you are in a bubble, sit on chairs which have a green square on them**

**3 Leave church in a measured way, not in a scrum and do not stand at the back of the church talking to others**

**4 Windows need to be open, as does the back door**

**We hope to have a slow return to normal services and will still be streaming the service live on our facebook page at 10 am and there will also be a link on the website for a week**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO KEEP THE CHURCH OPEN AND PROTECTING OUR CONGREGATION**

## BOOKS BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS

### A message from Gill Sharpe

I have been (slowly!) working through the church library which, as you probably know, has been very much enlarged by the legacy of Douglas and Sandra Walford, to weed out books which now need a new home.

I have delivered the first lot to Book Aid, and received the following letter from the Director. I thought the congregation would like to see it, as I will certainly be asking them for spare bibles (see last paragraph).



*Dear Gillian*

*Thank you for your phone call today and I hope that you manage to drop off the boxes of books successfully! Book Aid has been closed during this recent lockdown hence the lack of a response recently. However we are poised waiting for the go-ahead to reopen, unsure, of course, when that will be!*

*We are always grateful to receive good books to send abroad on our programme. Last year we sent approx. 400,000 in shipping container loads to our partner bookshops in Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria which help to maintain Christian bookshops in those countries. The ministry is founded on the principles of making books available 'at locally affordable prices' so that the shops can support themselves and last for many years.*

*The next country we will be packing for is Zimbabwe although they are in such need that they have asked us for half the shipping container to be filled with Bibles. We know that humanly speaking this is just not possible so we have to trust God to provide. Would St John's 'Spread The Word' about this for us? There is some urgency and Bibles in usable condition would be a real blessing.*

*Once again many thanks Gillian  
God bless*

*Christine Pulsford- Director Book Aid Charitable Trust*

**We don't know when our own book sales will come back to St John's in these uncertain times so we ask you to keep your books until we announce there is a sale so we don't have any books lying around the church and hall as we need all the space we can get at the moment.  
Thank you for your co-operation in advance**





# Plant Sale

**SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2021**

**AFTER THE 10 AM SERVICE**

**With this in mind, please sow an extra seed or two, or pot up any spare plants from your garden.**

**Maybe make an extra pot or two of marmalade or put an extra cake in the freezer to sell on the day. Thank you.**

# Father Michael's Diary

12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## ROPES AND BEADS



One of the problems sometimes encountered in mental prayer is concentration – keeping your mind on the job. One answer to this is to use some form of mechanical prayer to engage the upper level of consciousness thus setting the rest of mind free for further exploration. Many religions, Hindu, Buddhist, Islam, Sikh among them use beads as an aid to prayer, and this practice predates Christianity. The form prayer beads most Europeans are familiar with is the Dominican rosary. This consists of 5 large and 50 small beads in 5 groups of 10 between the large beads. Each group of one large bead and ten small ones is dedicated to incident in the life of our Lord, called a mystery. Traditionally there are 15 of these arranged in three groups: Joyful (relating to the incarnation), Sorrowful (relating our Lord's passion) and Glorious (relating to the Resurrection). As well as a means of mediating on the mysteries the rosary can also be used as a means of intercession.

Among Orthodox Christians a prayer rope is used in place of a rosary. This consists of a rope made of black wool in which a large number, typically 33 or 100, knots are tied. Its use is very simple at each knot you recite the Jesus prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner." The use of the rope made it possible to pray the Jesus Prayer unceasingly, whether inside the cell or out, in accordance with St Paul's injunction to "Pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17).

The traditional rosary makes no provision for mediating on our Lord's life and ministry but was remedied first by the Anglican theologian, Austin Farrar, and later in 2002 by Pope John Paul II who introduced a further set of five meditations called the Mysteries of Light. Finally, some Episcopalians in the USA have developed an Anglican rosary. This consists of 5 large beads and 28 small ones arranged in four groups of seven and can be used with a variety of prayers depending on the occasion and the season.

The use of prayer beads can deepen and transform our devotions into a richer spiritual experience. It helps us to take time to notice what we are doing, feeling and thinking as we are actually doing them, by slowing these processes down, one bead at a time. God is part of our everyday lives, paying attention to God and focussing on God's kingdom is part of the whole process of Christian mindfulness.

## READINGS AND PRAYERS

14 March – Lent 4 – Mothering Sunday – John 19.25b-27- Mary at the Cross – all mothers and all who exercise the ministry of mothering.

15 March – Monday – John 4.43-end – the healing of the centurion's son – for all who exercise the ministry of healing.

16 March – Tuesday - John 5.1-3,5-16 – the healing of the paralytic – that we may want to be healed.

17 March – Patrick, patron of Ireland – Luke 10.1-12 – the people of Ireland

18 March – Thursday – John 9 – the healing of the man born blind – for the gift of enlightenment.

19 March – Joseph of Nazareth – Matthew 1.18-end – for all fathers

20 March Saturday – John 7.40 –end – can this be the Messiah? – for the gift of faith.

**Singing hymns and spiritual  
songs...**  
**A weekly roundup from Ian  
Brentnall**



Mothering Sunday. The day when families up and down the land try to give mum a special day, flowers, even breakfast in bed. Then dad and the kids make a valiant attempt at the weekly Sunday roast, little realising that the state of the oven afterwards presents mum with a cleaning challenge lasting at least the whole of the following week!

History reminds us that Mothering Sunday has its origins in the 16<sup>th</sup> century when people returned to their mother church on the fourth Sunday in Lent, being the church in which they were baptised. This may have been their parish church, a larger town church or even a cathedral, the mother church to all churches in the diocese. A service would have been held to mark the coming together of families. Another tradition was for the landed gentry to allow their workers to visit their mothers on the fourth Sunday in Lent. As with other days of ecclesiastical significance, Mothering Sunday has been widely adopted and commercialised by the secular world. Nevertheless, we still take this opportunity to reflect on the role our mothers have played in our lives, to honour them in person (if we are able to in these troubled times) or to honour their memory. Our Gospel this morning recalls Jesus' love for his own mother, even in the midst of his mortal suffering on the cross.

So, we take this opportunity to remember Mary, mother of our Lord and the significant role she played in his earthly life. A hymn which may be somewhat less familiar to most is "Sing we of the blessed Mother" which reminds us of the joys and sorrows of Mary throughout her life, an experience surely recognised by every caring and loving mother. George Boorne Timms (1910-1997) was a priest who served in a variety of parishes before being made Archdeacon of Hackney in 1971. He was a noted author of religious texts and penned many hymns, the best known of which is This hymn to the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is one of several hymns we sing to the tune "Abbot's Leigh" written by Cyril Taylor, almost an exact contemporary of Timms. The tune was composed whilst Taylor was stationed in the village of Abbot's Leigh in Somerset during the Second World War.

## **“Sing we of the blessed Mother”**

1 SING we of the blessed Mother  
who received the angel’s word,  
And obedient to his summons  
bore in love the infant Lord;  
Sing we of the Joys of Mary  
at whose breast that child was fed  
Who is Son of God eternal  
and the everlasting Bread.

2 Sing we, too, of Mary’s sorrows,  
of the sword that pierced her through,  
When beneath the cross of Jesus  
she his weight of suffering knew,  
Looked upon her Son and Saviour  
reigning from the awful tree,  
Saw the price of man’s redemption  
paid to set the sinner free.

3 Sing again the joys of Mary  
when she saw the risen Lord,  
And in prayer with Christ’s apostles,  
waited on his promised word:  
From on high the blazing glory  
of the Spirit’s presence came,  
Heavenly breath of God’s own being,  
Manifest through wind and flame.

4 Sing the chiefest joy of Mary  
when on earth her work was done,  
And the Lord of all creation  
brought her to his heavenly home:  
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,  
Raised on high and crowned with grace,  
May thy Son, the world’s redeemer,  
Grant us all to see his face.



# Diary Dates

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Eucharist Service taken by  
The Archdeacon Rosemarie Mallett

The service will also be shown live on our facebook page and placed on our website for you to watch in your own leisure during the week.

# *Coming up.....*

## **Palm Sunday Service**

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 10am in the church

## **Easter Services**

Maundy Thursday Service

Good Friday – Pre Recorded

Easter Sunday Service

## **Plant Sale**

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May after the 10am service

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