



St John's Weekly News 14th March 2021

A message from Fr Christopher's desk.

Happy Mothering Sunday everyone! We would traditionally be visiting our mothers today, and while some of us might be able to because of bubbles or be able to go for a walk with them, most of us sadly cannot. Mothering Sunday originated with people going back to their mother church, which is of course something that we at St John's can't do quite yet either. We are really excited about welcoming you all back on Palm Sunday though, and I'm thrilled that we'll be open for Holy Week and Easter this year, having streamed our services from Rámond's and my home last year.

So, as the daffodils are out, and as we look forward to returning to church, as well as restrictions lifting more generally, have a very blessed week, and stay safe and well.

God bless you!

Fr Christopher.

Loving God,

Thank you for mums and children and for all the joy of family life. Be with those who are grieving because they have no mother; Be close to those who are struggling because they have no children; Be near to those who are sad because they are far apart from those they love. Let your love be present in every home, and help your church to have eyes to see and ears to hear the needs of all who come.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Luke 2:33-35 – Mary the Mother of Jesus – A Mothering Sunday Reflection

*And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 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.**"*

An updated reflection.

On Mothering Sunday we give thanks for those who Mother us, for those who today and in years gone by have given themselves to and for us. For those who have made sacrifices so that we might enjoy life. In families across our our land, grandparents, aunties, uncles, fathers, foster parents and social services carers and many more, provide motherly love and care to many children. This is a day when we celebrate all who have and do provide motherly care.

Our Gospel reminds us that loving and caring in this way is a sacrifice of self-giving. A vocation to which many of us are called. A vocation which not only means a daily grind of tiredness and worry, but one which often can involve experiencing the deepest of pain – sometimes because that care is rejected by those we love, sometimes because of the hurt done to those we love and care for. Mary understood that pain. At the death of her Son, she bore in her body the pain of the cross – she felt the nails being hammered into the wrists of her son, she agonised as she watched him die the most painful of deaths. She had to release her child into God's eternal care long before his time. And as those things happened I'm sure she will have felt a mixture of all the emotions a mother can feel – anger, guilt, shame, and deep aching loss. Like any mother, her grief was unbearable. Mary also understood the joy of motherhood – she watched her precocious child grow to be a wonderful man. She felt the joy of being part of the making of this special son.

Mothers today face all of these emotions. Today we stand with them, pray for them and celebrate their self-giving love. We pledge ourselves again, for another year to work for the stability of family life, to help those who find the burden of caring too difficult.



This week please pray for: All those who have cared for us, Jean, Linda, Wayne, all those celebrating their birthdays this week and everyone living on Arkindale Road.

**CHURCH IS
REOPENING ON
PALM SUNDAY.**

**Join us at
10.30am in
church.**

**Doors open from
10.00am**

A message from Fr Christopher

I am delighted to announce that I have been appointed to the position of Associate Vicar of St Mary Abbots, Kensington, which I will take up in June. I will be taking a short break before starting there, and so my last Sunday at St John's will be the 16th May. Rámond and I will really miss everyone here, whom it has been a real privilege to live and serve alongside, but are obviously also very much looking forward to getting to know our new community later in the year. There will be a big service there at some point which it would be wonderful if people could come to (depending on any restrictions still in place then), and I will let you know about it in due course.

With much love,

Fr Christopher