



Service for Week 24th -30th
March 2025 4th Sunday in Lent.
Mothering Sunday By
Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer

Living God, we thank you for the loving relationships in our lives. For Mothers, Fathers, Guardians and for those who have loved and looked out for us over the years. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

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

Bible Reading Ex 2:1-10

Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

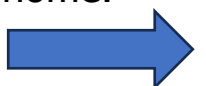
Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" "Yes, go," she answered.

And the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."



Second Reading Jn 19:25-27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. Holy words, Holy wisdom,



Thanks be to God.

Reflection

This week it is Mothering Sunday this coming Sunday 30th March. Mothering Sunday originated in the 16th century as a tradition where people returned to their "mother church" on the fourth Sunday of Lent, eventually evolving into a day to honour mothers and motherhood. This was a time for families to reunite, especially for those who had moved away or worked as servants or apprentices. This tradition of families coming together continues today.

Our bible readings are both about Mothers. Firstly, we have the account of a mother who went to extreme lengths to protect her baby when she put him in a basket amongst the reeds on the riverbank. She was not certain but was hoping that he would be found by the Pharaoh's daughter who bathed there.

Then there is the account of Mary, Mother of Jesus who having witnessed the sickening and heartbreaking crucifixion of her son waits at the cross with the other women. Jesus seeing her there and taking pity on her anguish and distress asks John – the one that he loved, and the author of this

gospel, to love and look after her as his own mother.

These two accounts, one at the start of a baby's life, the other at the ending of a son's life here on earth both speak to us about the intense love between parents or guardians and their children, and between children and their parents or guardians. It is because of such accounts that makes reading the bible so captivating.

Captivating because we recognize very human emotions and aspects of us in them, we know they are not made-up stories- they are real people we can identify with. The baby in the basket is found and is safe even though his mother has had to give him up to another family, and the Mother of Jesus is welcomed and taken into another family, even though she has had to give up her son to his murderers.

There have been things in all of our lives, perhaps not so dramatic but nevertheless important things which remind us of the depth of a mother's love -and that is what we celebrate on Mothering Sunday this week. **Amen.**

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, take the love that I have for my family, friends and others, nurture, deepen, and expand it. **Amen.**

Prayers inspired by Prayerfully Yours by Nick Fawcett