

# St Mary's Newsletter 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 Mothering Sunday

As services are suspended across the country, we will be sending out this newsletter weekly. This will be both in hard copy and also electronically via email and on the church website: [www.stmarysacocksgreen.org](http://www.stmarysacocksgreen.org)

## **I invite you to sit down in your home between 10am and 11am on Sunday morning**

Use the attached Service (similar to our usual service) together with the Collect and Bible passages plus Prayer Suggestions, so that we can continue to worship at the same time, whilst we may be separately in our homes.

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## **Service, Collect & Readings on separate sheets, together with the following resources:**

### **Hymn for the week**

Either search 'Be still for the presence of the Lord Aled Jones' on Youtube (*8 years ago*)

Or follow the link below (*or copy and paste it into your browser*).

<https://uk.video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-arh-001&hsimp=yhs-001&hspart=arh&p=youtube+aled+jones+be+still+for+the+presence+of+the+lord#id=1&vid=948a89a413a4662fcf8fd70d9f900875&action=click>

### **Thought for the week**

Sunday's Gospel is the story of the young Jesus visiting Jerusalem for the Passover, to celebrate the Exodus, when God delivered the Israelites from cruel Pharaoh and lead them to the Promised Land. Jesus stayed behind in the Temple while his parents began the journey back to Nazareth. They took it for granted that their son was with friends and relatives, they hadn't noticed that they had left him behind. They took the situation for granted. They took Jesus for granted. They became worried, anxious – where was he?

When they found Jesus, Mary took him to task for making them anxious, but Jesus responds, 'Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' Mary and Joseph did not really know their son at that point, they hadn't noticed what his love for God meant.

Today we observe Mothering Sunday. These are anxious times for us and our families, in the middle of the Corona Virus outbreak. The reading cautions us not to take each other for granted, to take an interest in our dear ones, to notice what they are doing. To notice Jesus too – don't take God for granted. Talk to him each and every day. Speak to him now in your prayers.

### **Intercessions**

Remember St Mary's people and friends who belong to our church.

Pray for items on the news, especially all who are ill with the Corona Virus.

Use the Archbishops prayer for all those affected by the Corona Virus:

*Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy,  
Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

Remember our leaders: The Queen, PM, Parliament and Birmingham Council.

Give thanks for your loved ones and blessings you have received.

Pray for all Doctors, Nurses and Health Workers.

Pray for the sick, especially.... **Liam Lumber, Muriel Cooke, Marc Sirett, Sue Peckett, Maxine Powys, Hazel King, Jeff Croft, Jean Myers, Robert Smith, Jean & Denis Ward, Donna Cockran, Mike Kidd-White, Colin Cardinal, Norma Birch, Jean Parsons, Alan Pallett, Vicky Hogg, Donna Roe, Mark Kelly, Gary Hickox, Ken Hughes, Christina Hanson, Dave Dixon, Helen Lumber and any others who are on your mind....**

And departed: those who have died recently, especially....**Sam Handley and Craig Ruston....**

and in our Year's Mind....**Eric Northey, Elsie Fisher, Roy Geraghty and Annette Bryan**

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## **Services on TV, Radio and Online**

**Radio 4 - Sunday 22nd March 8.10am** Live Lent - Stars and Seasons (you can listen again on the BBC radio 4 website or record on your TV if you have virgin media it is channel 904)

“Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” On Mothering Sunday, Ruth Valerio looks to the cosmos, reflecting on how we care for the environment and nurture the natural world. As author of the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Lent Book, 'Saying Yes to Life', she takes up the theme of 'Care for Creation'. The service comes live from Kerith Community Church in Berkshire.

### **The Archbishop of Canterbury’s service**

**Local Radio stations, eg Radio WM – Sunday 22nd March 8am**

The Rt Revd Justin Welby will be leading a service from the Crypt at Lambeth Palace in London.

**The Bishop of Birmingham leads Holy Communion Services at Birmingham Cathedral Sunday 22nd March 9am & 11am**

**Live Streaming on [www.birminghamcathedral.com/events/view/990/live-streaming-our-holy-communion-service-bishop-birmingham/](http://www.birminghamcathedral.com/events/view/990/live-streaming-our-holy-communion-service-bishop-birmingham/)**

### **Songs of Praise**

**BBC 1 Sunday 22nd March 1.15pm**

To celebrate Mothering Sunday, Katherine Jenkins joins members of the Mothers’ Union at Worthing Hospital to hear about their work providing emergency maternity bags for new mums, and about their history with four million members worldwide. Pam Rhodes meets inspirational mother and daughter Diane and Katie Piper to hear how Katie’s faith helped her to recover from life-threatening injuries following an acid attack in 2008. Twelve-year-old Romeo from London explains how his mum’s battle with cancer inspired his book.

*If you have received this by email please do print off and deliver to someone you know who doesn't have an email address. If you have received this in paper form and have an email address please let Andrew know at [andrewbullock2@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:andrewbullock2@blueyonder.co.uk) and he will add you to the list.*

### **Lent Bible Studies**

To all those of you who were enjoying the Lent bible studies - you might like to follow the link to read the weeks we will not be able to complete. <https://ctbi.org.uk/lent/>

If you do not have internet access but do have access to the church, paper copies of the weeks we did not complete will be available on the table in the Vicar’s vestry.

If you have a church key, please do collect newsletters to deliver or Lent Bible Studies from the Vicar’s Vestry. If you go further into the church, please wash your hands and try not to touch too many surfaces. We will keep cleaning door handles.

### **Church Finances**

Please remember that St Mary’s still has to pay its bills.

If you have envelopes, please do continue to put your collection in them each week and save them for when we return to church. If you would like to pay online by BACS, St Mary’s bank details are as follows:  
Barclays Bank, Solihull Branch – Sort Code: 20-77-62 Account No: 53215512

Many thanks for your continued support.

**Thank you from Gillian & Andrew....**to everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls and messages. Gillian is recovering slowly from her flu symptoms (high temp, cough, aching limbs). Andrew is well but we do have to self isolate for 14 days.

Please continue phone contact with your St Mary’s friends and reassure them with your prayers.

**For further support, please ring Fr Andrew on 0121 706 9764 (answerphone available)**