

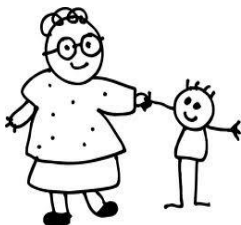


Introduction

Mothering Sunday, which occurs on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, is a day honouring mother churches, the church where one is baptised and becomes "a child of the church", celebrated since the Middle Ages in this part of the world. On Mothering Sunday, Christians have historically visited their mother church—the church in which they received the sacrament of baptism.

Constance Adelaide Smith revived its modern observance beginning in 1913 to honour Mother Church, 'mothers of earthly homes', the Virgin Mary (mother of Jesus), and Mother Nature. It gained popularity in response to the originally American Mother's Day. Mothering Sunday is now often known as "Mother's Day" and has become a secular celebration of mothers and motherhood.

So, on this day we give thanks to God who gives us New Birth, and for the Church which, like a mother, nurtures us in the life of the Spirit. We also give thanks for our own human mothers, for those who give us an experience of a mothering, nurturing kind of love, be the mothers or others in our lives, and we give thanks for all the qualities of mothering, given and received in our homes and in this community.



[Please stand, if you are able]

Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all
and also with you.

Opening Responses

Young and old,
friends and strangers,
God welcomes us.

Lost and bewildered,
found and rejoicing,
God welcomes us.

Proud of our success,
afraid of our poverty,
God welcomes us.

This morning, this day,
this night, for ever,
God welcomes us with a hug of love.

Hymn No. 642 (Amazing Grace)

Amazing grace (how sweet the sound!)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved:
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and
snares

I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus
far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall
fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
a life of joy and peace.

The Introduction to Baptism

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us
that to enter the kingdom of heaven
we must be born again of water and
the Spirit, and he has given us
baptism as the sign and seal of this
new birth.

Here we are washed by the Holy
Spirit and made clean. Here we are
clothed with Christ, dying to sin that
we may live his risen life.

As children of God, we have a new
dignity and God calls us to fullness of
life.

[Please kneel or sit]

The Penitence

O God our Creator,
we thank you for the gift of this
precious child Grace; pure and
innocent.

We now turn to you, to ask you to
take from us those things that on our
lives' journeys, have tarnished our
purity and shattered our innocence.



*[Silence as we bring to mind those things for
which we desire God's forgiveness.]*

The Absolution

May the God of love and compassion
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our
Lord. **Amen.**



Thanksgiving

We thank God for giving us others to
share in our lives:

For parents, and the love which
brought us to birth:
we praise you, O Lord;
and bring you thanks today.

For mothers who have cherished and
nurtured us:
we praise you, O Lord;
and bring you thanks today.

For fathers who have loved and
supported us,
we praise you, O Lord;
and bring you thanks today.

For brothers and sisters with whom
we have shared our home:
we praise you, O Lord;
and bring you thanks today.

For children and their parents:
we praise you, O Lord;
and bring you thanks today.

For other relatives and friends, who
have been with us in our hopes and
joys and times of sadness:
we praise you, O Lord;
and bring you thanks today.

For all who first spoke to us of Jesus,
and have drawn us into the family of
our Father in heaven:
We praise you, O Lord;
and bring you thanks today.

***Help us to live
as those who belong to one another,
and to you, our Father, now and
always. Amen.***

The Collect of the Fourth Sunday of Lent

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.

The Collect for Mothering Sunday

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 our Lord. ***Amen***

[Please sit]

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The First Reading - Colossians 3: 12-17

The first reading is from the epistle to the Colossians, chapter 3, beginning at verse 12.

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear 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. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let 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. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

[Please stand, if you are able]



Hymn - As a Mother Cradles her Child

[Written by David Ogden, based on words of St. Anselm]

As a mother cradles her child,
so you enfold us,
gently in your arms.
As a mother comforts their pain,
you calm and quieten our souls with
your love.

As a mother teaches her child,
so, Lord, you guide us,
leading us through life.
As a mother listens and cares,
O Lord, you hear us and answer our
prayers.

*Jesus as a mother,
you gather us all to you.
In your compassion bring forgiveness
and grace.
in your tenderness restore and
remake us,
in your love, bring us joy, give us
peace.*

As a mother cries for her child,
so, Lord, you are weeping
over our sins.
As a mother feeds us from our birth,
you daily nourish us with the bread of
life.

*Jesus as a mother,
you gather us all to you.
In your compassion bring forgiveness
and grace.
in your tenderness restore and
remake us,
in your love, bring us joy, give us
peace;
in your love, bring us joy, give us
peace.*

[Please sit]

The Second Reading - Mark 10: 13-16

The second reading is from the Gospel according to Mark, chapter 10, beginning at verse 13.

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.'

¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

The Presentation

We welcome this child who comes to be baptized. I invite her sponsors to present her now.

Sponsors:

We present Grace Georgia O'Sullivan to be baptized.

Parents and godparents, will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing Grace Georgia for baptism and answer on her behalf? By your own prayers and example, by your teaching and love, will you encourage her in the life and faith of the Christian Community?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism this child begins her journey of faith.

You speak for her today.

Will you care for her and help her to take her place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

In baptism, God calls us from darkness to his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?
I do.

Do you then renounce the devil and all his works?
I do, by God's help.

Will you obey and serve Christ?
I will, by God's help.

The priest says to the whole congregation:
You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ.
Will you support them in this calling?

The congregation answers:
We will support them.

[Please stand, if you are able]

Hymn No. 558 (Abba Father)

Abba Father, let me be
yours, and yours alone.
May my will for ever be
evermore your own.

Never let my heart grow cold,
never let me go.
Abba Father, let me be
yours, and yours alone.



The Baptism

The priest, Grace Georgia, her family and godparents gather at the font and the priest begins the thanksgiving prayer.

Praise God who made heaven and earth.
Who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

[Shortened version of the Blessing of the Water]

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life, and we thank you for the water of baptism.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, she may be cleansed from sin and born again.

Renewed in your image, may she walk by the light of faith and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The priest asks the parents and godparents:

Do you believe and accept the Christian faith into which Grace Georgia is to be baptized?
I do.

The priest addresses the whole congregation:

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess, together with these candidates the faith of the Church.

[Using a shortened version of the Apostle's Creed in question-and-answer form.]

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. Amen.

The priest baptizes by pouring water over Grace Georgia saying:

Grace Georgia, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



The priest makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of Grace Georgia, saying:

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of the cross.

Live as a disciple of Christ, fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith.

Confess Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, look for his coming in glory.

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. Amen.

The priest continues:

God has called you into his Church.

The congregation joins the priest, saying:

We therefore receive and welcome you as a member with us of the body of Christ, as a child of the one heavenly Father, and as an inheritor of the kingdom of God.

Presentation of Bible and Candle

The Churchwardens, on behalf of the parish, present Grace with a Children's Bible and a lit candle. The Bible is to help her to learn more about God and his Son Jesus Christ and to grow in her faith, and the candle symbolises the light of Christ,

which has been passed down through the centuries and which is, today, extended to Grace, that she may shine forth the light of Christ throughout her life.



[Please stand, if you are able]

Hymn - My Mum

My mum's one in a million,
I'm sure that you would agree.
I wouldn't say that she's perfect, but
she's the best one for me.
Sometimes she can get grumpy, and
sometimes she gets upset, but I still
know that she loves me,
and that I'll never forget!

Oh! This is a Mother's Day song for you.

Mum, you're ever so special and I'm gonna find ways to say I love you too!

My mum's ever so clever,
she always looks after me,
and she can help with my homework,
and that's what matters to me.
Sometimes she can be stressy,
sometimes even she shouts!
But I still know that she loves me,
and that's what certainly counts!

Chorus Twice

My mum's one in a million,
I'm sure that you would agree.

I wouldn't say that she's perfect, but
she's the best one for me.

[Please kneel or sit]

The Prayers of the People

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

Prayers for Grace Georgia O'Sullivan and her family

Father, we thank you that Grace has now been born again of water and the Holy Spirit, and has become your own child by adoption, and a member of your Church.

Grant that she may grow in the faith in which she has been baptized;
grant that she herself may confess it when she comes to be confirmed;
grant that she may bear witness to it by a life of service to others;
and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in her;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Almighty God, bless the home of this child Grace. Bless her mum Charlotte, her dad Alan, her big brother Joshua and in a special way, we remember, today, her brother George; bless her godparents Derek, Oliver and Orla. Give such grace and wisdom to all who have the care of her, that by their

word and good example they may teach her to know and love you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

As we come to the blessing, we have a time of quiet:
we give thanks to God for the gift that Grace is...
we ask God's blessing on all those who are a part of Grace's life, all who have helped to make her into the precious little person that she is...
We think of all who are a part of her family...

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, and the
power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.***

The Blessing

The God of all grace,

who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the Blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



Collection

We recognise that many people give online and via Standing Order, and do not put any collection in the basket. If you wish to donate to the church online or electronically, the treasurers would be happy to give you the required details.

[Please stand, if you are able]

Hymn No. 634 (Blaenwern)

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art,
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,

never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

The Closing Responses and Dismissal

God has delivered us from the
domination of darkness and has given
us a place with the saints in light.

Grace, you have received the light of
Christ; walk in this light all the days
of your life.

***Shine as a light in the world to the
glory of God the Father.***

Go in peace to love and serve the
Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

*In the interests of trying to keep all who
come to our churches safe, please take
away this service sheet and any other items
that you may have brought with you or used
in church this morning. Thank you.*

Stay well and stay safe.



Tea/Coffee/Juice

*You are warmly invited to join us for
tea/coffee/juice in the South
Transept after the 11.00 service in St
Philip and St James' Church.*

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sunday 30th March 2025 – Mothering Sunday

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church
9.30 Service of the Word in St Thomas'
Church
11.00 Holy Baptism in St Philip and St
James' Church

Wednesday 2nd April 2025

***10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St
Thomas' Church***

Sunday 6th April 2025

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St
James' Church
9.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church
11.00 Holy Communion in St Philip and St
James' Church

Wednesday 9th April 2025

***10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St
Thomas' Church***

Sunday 13th April 2025 – Palm Sunday

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St
James' Church
9.30 Morning Prayer in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Morning Prayer in St Philip and St James' Church

18.30 Sausage Service in St Philip and St James' Church



Holy Week

Monday – 20.00 in St Thomas' Church

Tuesday – 20.00 in St Philip and St James' Church

Wednesday - 10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church
20.00 in St Thomas' Church

Maundy Thursday – 20.00 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

Good Friday – 14.00 Prayer at the Cross in St Thomas' Church

19.00 - Ecumenical Prayer around the Cross in The Church of the Assumption

Sunday 20th April 2025 – Easter Day

6.30 Sunrise on Sandymount Strand **TBC**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

9.30 NB Time Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

Wednesday 23rd April 2025

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

Sunday 27th April 2025

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

10.30 United Service of the Word in St Thomas' Church

Wednesday 30th April 2025

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church



St Thomas' Sunday Club will meet at 9.30 in the Monk Gibbon Hall and St Philip and St James' Sunday Club will meet at 11.00 in St Philip and St James' Parish Centre on the following Sundays:

Sunday 6th April 2025

All children who are toilet-trained are welcome.

The leaders have been Garda-vetted and have undergone Safeguarding Trust Training.



Healer Prayer Group

Monday 28th April 2025

19.30 hours *via Zoom*

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Tuesday afternoon 3.30pm—4.10pm

In the Canon Osborne Barr Room of St Philip and St James' Parish Centre

Contact Irene on 087-2755423

irene.reid1052@gmail.com



Lenten Challenge

Gillian is off again!

This year, she is walking/cross-training/cycling/rowing at least 5km every day of Lent 2025.

Wednesday 5th March – Saturday 19th April 2025 inclusive!

Lent is the season for examining ourselves and seeing how we can more fully reflect the life and love of Christ and his commandment to us to love our neighbour as ourselves. That means respecting and caring for others and for ourselves.

Therefore, again, this Lent, I am encouraging people to take up something that gives you a focus each day and that benefits you physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

This year, I will doing 5km each day - using a variety of ways of moving as I have been battling with plantar fasciitis for the last year! - for my physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing and for the Irish Cancer Society and Blackrock Hospice.

You can make a donation by online banking to **Boooterstown and Mount Merrion Account**
IBAN: IE30IPBS99062932796541
BIC: IPBSIE2D

What to do in Lent!

Join **Christ Church Cathedral** and **Fr Kieran O'Mahony**

OSA present 'Salvation in the Gospel of John'.

This is a 6 week course beginning at 19:30 each Wednesday in Lent. You are warmly encouraged to attend.

Keys for unlocking the message today.

This is a free hybrid event. Participants can attend in person in the Music Room at Christ Church or via Zoom.

Please note that the Music Room is only accessible by stairs.

<https://christchurchcathedral.ie/enten-series-2025.../>

EASTER GENERAL VESTRIES

Both Easter General Vestries will be held in person.

MOUNT MERRION
EASTER GENERAL VESTRY
TUESDAY 8TH APRIL 2025
20.00 HOURS
ST THOMAS' CHURCH

BOOTERSTOWN AND CARYSFORT
EASTER GENERAL VESTRY
THURSDAY 10TH APRIL 2025
20.00 HOURS
ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES' CHURCH