

## 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]*

## The 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 - 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 sit]*

### **Thanksgiving**

Today, we come, to give thanks for our  
 families, and for those who cared for  
 us and nurtured us.

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.***

Meditation on God - Father and Mother

Loving God,  
*you father us and mother us  
 all our days.  
 Even before we acknowledged you  
 you loved us;  
 you laboured to bring us to birth,  
 new birth,  
 and how joyful for you was that  
 birthing.  
 In the secret places of our lives  
 you nourish us,  
 offering us the feeding  
 that we need  
 to grow as human beings.*

*No matter how often  
 we desert you  
 you never turn your face away from  
 us,  
 and your abiding concern  
 is always for our good.  
 You weep for us,  
 you laugh with us,  
 you rejoice in our successes  
 and are in anguish at our pain.*

*Yours are the arms  
 reaching out to cradle us  
 when we collapse in death.*

*Loving, mothering God,  
 strong and tender,  
 tried and true,  
 we worship you today.*

The Collect of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in 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 Old Testament Reading: Joshua  
 5: 9-12

*The Old Testament Reading is from the Book of  
 Joshua, chapter 5, beginning at verse 9.*

<sup>9</sup>The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I  
 have rolled away from you the  
 disgrace of Egypt.' And so that place  
 is called Gilgal to this day.

10 While the Israelites were encamped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Here ends the Reading.

### **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 New Testament Reading - Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32**

*The New Testament Reading is from the gospel  
according to Luke, chapter 15, beginning at verse 1.*

**15**Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the

scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable:

11 Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned

against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

25 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

<sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." '

Here ends the Reading.

*[Please stand, if you are able]*

### **Hymn No. 352 (GTWAGH)**

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because he's given  
Jesus Christ, his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because he's given  
Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say 'I am strong'.  
Let the poor say 'I am rich',  
because of what the Lord has done for  
us.

And now let the weak say 'I am strong'.  
Let the poor say 'I am rich',  
because of what the Lord has done for  
us.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because he's given  
Jesus Christ, his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because he's given  
Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say 'I am strong'.  
Let the poor say 'I am rich',  
because of what the Lord has done for  
us.

And now let the weak say 'I am strong'.  
Let the poor say 'I am rich',

because of what the Lord has done for  
us.

Give thanks.

### **The Sermon**

*[Please stand, if you are able]*

### **The Response**

Let us declare our faith in God:

*[written by two fourteen-year-old boys at a worship  
workshop on Iona]*

***We believe in God,  
who made the sun and the sky,  
the stars and the sea,  
who calls us to live responsibly.***

***We believe in Jesus Christ,  
who became human  
who healed the sick  
who talked to children  
who made friends with sinners.  
He burned brightly and offended  
many.***

***His journey was one of life and  
death and resurrection.  
His light continues to shine in  
darkness.***

***We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who inspires the scriptures  
and whose breath we breathe.***

***We believe that God calls us to be a  
community,  
committed to one another  
offering a welcome to everyone***

*old and young  
rich and poor  
strong and weak.*

*We believe that God calls us to be  
peacemakers  
workers for justice  
brothers and sisters  
a light for our world. Amen.*

*[Please stand, if you are able]*

### **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.

*[Please kneel or sit]*

## **The Prayers**

### **[A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER]**

And let us praise God for the one  
from whom we are sent, the one to  
whom we are summoned, whose image  
we are, whose flesh we share, whose  
love is all. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **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 Blessing



### Tea/Coffee/Juice

*You are warmly invited to join us for  
tea/coffee/juice in the Monk Gibbon*

*Hall after the 9.30 service in St  
Thomas' Church.*

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

*10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St  
Thomas' Church*

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025

*10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St  
Thomas' Church*

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025**

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

## **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> March – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 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/lenten-series-2025.../>

## EASTER GENERAL VESTRIES

*Both Easter General Vestries will be held in person.*

## MOUNT MERRION

**EASTER GENERAL VESTRY**  
**TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025**  
**20.00 HOURS**  
**ST THOMAS' CHURCH**

## BOOTERSTOWN AND CARYSFORT

**EASTER GENERAL VESTRY**  
**THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**  
**2025**  
**20.00 HOURS**  
**ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES'**  
**CHURCH**

## Colouring Section



