

This week: Divine Office - Psalter Week 4

- Mon.** 9.00am Mass (Is 65 v17-21; John 4 v43-54)
Int: Guild of All Souls
- Tues.** 10.30am Mass Int. All who suffer disabilities
(Ezekiel 47 v1-9, 12; John 5 v 1-3, 5-16)
11.00 – 1.00 PM: Tea, coffee, cake & soup in church
- Wed.** 9.30am Mass Int. Funeral directors and Registrars
(Isaiah 49v 8-15; John 5 v17-20)
7.00pm PCC, Friends Committee & Armoury Core Group: Heritage Fair
planning meeting in Old Schoolroom
- Thurs.** 9.30am Mass (Ex 32 v 7-14; John 5 v 31-47)
Int: Victims of disasters
7.30pm Deanery Synod - Earl Stonham
- Fri.** 9.30am Mass Int: All in prison
(Wis 2 v 1,12-22; Jhn 7 v 1-2,10,25-30)
- Sat.** 10.00am 1st Mass of Sunday. Int. Society of Holy Cross
4.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
(Readings as on Sunday.)

NEXT SUNDAY: LENT V – PASSIONTIDE.

- 9.30am Parish Mass address
(Jer. 31 v. 31-34; Hebrews 5 v. 7-9; John 12 v. 20-33.)
Annual Parish Church Meeting follows Parish Mass.

NOTICES:-

1. Please note Friends of St Mary's Egg Draw is on Easter Day after Parish Mass. Hazel has tickets.
2. Friends Quiz Evening is Sat 6th April at 7.30pm in Mendlesham Primary School Hall. Entry - £5 a person. Teams of up to 6 people. Tea, coffee and nibbles available.
3. Sunday 26th March will be the last day for ordering Easter Candles for the departed.
4. List for nominations to PCC is on the Table.
5. List for refreshments after 1st Mass of Easter

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM**LENT 4 (B) - MOTHERING SUNDAY**

THEME: Amid the joys and sorrows, and monotony and upheavals which go to make up our lives, our gathering proclaims the guiding conviction of our hearts. God is love and in Jesus we are enfolded in that love.

Entrance Hymn: 331 v. 1 - 5

PENITENTIAL RITE

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, when our homes have not been places of light, centres of love and havens of joy. Lord have mercy.

People: *(sing)* **KYRIE ELEISON** *(Ukrainian setting)*

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for our unnecessary and trivial arguments. Christ have mercy.

People: **CHRISTE ELEISON**

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of patience and forgiveness. Lord have mercy.

People: **KYRIE ELEISON**

Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness

OPENING PRAYER: *Let us pray for a greater faith and love.* Father of Peace, we are joyful in your word, your Son Jesus Christ, who reconciles us to you. Let us hasten toward Easter with eagerness of faith and love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 36 v. 14-16, 19-23. The history of the Israelites mirrors our own lives, with their continual infidelity and even rejection of God's messengers. The story ends with a challenge to do something.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 136

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

1. By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept;
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps. ®
2. For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy;
'Sing to us' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.' ®
3. How could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil ?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! ®
4. O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! ®

2nd Reading: Ephesians 2 v. 4-10. Salvation comes as a free gift from God. We have not done anything to deserve it. So credit is due only to God.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Hymn: 331 v. 6.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to you O Christ! God loved the world so much that he gave his only son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life. Glory and praise to you O Christ!

Gospel: John 3 v. 14-21. In his talk with Nicodemus Jesus stresses God's love. If we believe in him and live in truth then shall we be saved.

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

ADDRESS CREED - Apostles' Creed (page 8 of hymn book)

Blessing of candles & placing on Lady Chapel Altar as a sign of prayer for our mothers, whether living or departed.
Hymn: 365 in procession.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:

Celebrant: Let us turn to our loving God, confident that he will listen to our prayers.

Reader: We pray that all who are living in the dark may come to see the light who is Christ, and learn to accept the great love of God.

Let us pray for the Church in war-torn countries; that it may be a powerful instrument of reconciliation and peace and not be afraid to speak out for justice. We especially remember those suffering in Ukraine, Russia, Gaza and Israel.

On this Mothering Sunday let us pray for all children who have been damaged by a disturbed or violent upbringing or who are growing up in hatred and cruelty; that they may be healed by love. We pray for the Children's Society & Save the Children.

Let us pray for God's blessing and guidance in all our homes; that in each problem and difficulty, God's loving wisdom may steer us in the right direction.

We bring to God's love our mothers, whether living or departed, all foster mothers and all those in labour now; that they may be blessed and strengthened.

Let us pray for those in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any adversity: that the Lord, will heal them – remembering especially Angie Wilson, Jim Wilson, Jean Martin, Taylor Birch, Ken Davis, Julie & Andrew Gray, Jan Ross, Penny Sugden and all prayed for at Shrine Prayers.

Let us pray for the dying and the departed, especially Anne Herron, Audrey Handscombe, Michael Denny, Robert Mutimer, Pip Godfree, Beatrice Goodwin, Peter Warren, Herbert Knock, Malcolm Finbow, Lilian Freeman, Ethel Kent, Peggy Giraud-Saunders, Josephine Baker, Michael Smith, Cecil Hart and Frederick Charles, whose anniversaries are at this time.

We ask Mary to pray for us that we may learn to love Jesus more: **Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

SILENCE

All: Heavenly Father, we thank you for loving us so much and sending us your Son. Help us to show your love to others. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen
Mass continues on page 8 of hymn book

Offertory Hymn: 609 v. 1 **Offertory Prayers** Hymn 609 v. 2- 4.

Sanctus & Mystery of Faith (John Allen Lent setting – words & music on paper)

Blessed and Praised by Jesus Christ, in the most Holy Sacrament. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in excelsis.

Communicants of other denominations are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you are not a Communicant and/or would like a blessing, please carry a hymn book to the altar rail.

Agnus Dei (John Allen Lent setting)

Hymns at Holy Communion: 401 and 126. (Please join in.)

Hymn at Ablutions: 623

Post Communion Prayer Angelus Notices **Blessing**

Recessional Hymn: 608