

This week: Divine Office - Psalter Week 4

Mon. 9.30am Mass (Is 62 v17-21; John 4 v43-54)
Int: The sick; Ministry of Healing

How many teachers did you have at school? Give 10p for each you remember

Tues. 9.30am Mass Int. All suffering from Covid
(Ezekiel 47 v1-9, 12; John 5 v 1-3, 5-16)
7.30pm ZOOM Bible Study - Father is reconciled with his son
Give 50p for every home improvement you have made in the past.

Wed. St. Patrick, Patron of Ireland

9.30am Mass Int. People of Ireland(Isaiah 49v 8-15; John 5 v17-20)

Give 10p for each car or bike in your household.

Thurs. St. Cyril of Jerusalem (Global Recycling Day)

9.30am Mass Int. Guild of All Bishops(Ex 32 v 7-14; John 5 v 31-47)

Give 50p in thanks for recycling in the UK.

Fri. St. Joseph (Solemnity)

9.30am Mass Int: The dying
(II Sam 7v4-5,12-14: Rom 4v13,16-18,22: Matt 1 v16,18-21)

Give 10p for every kind of digital communication you use.

Sat. 2.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation. (Confessions.)
3.00pm 1st Mass of Sunday. Int. Society of Holy Cross
(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.)

NOTICES:-

1. Please check Electoral Roll to see if details are correct. Are there others who should be on it.?
2. Orders for Easter candles for the departed £9 each (3 candles to burn throughout Eastertide) to be blessed on Easter Sunday
3. Would members of the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham make every effort to attend Mass of Annunciation of Our Lord on Thurs 25th March at 9.30am.
4. Please look at the Facebook post from Goff oil and vote for St Mary's Mendlesham so we can win 500 litres of oil for the church. We are one of only 10 chosen in the country and the only one in Suffolk.

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM
LENT IV (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.

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: **LORD HAVE MERCY.**

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

People: **CHRIST HAVE MERCY.**

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

People: **LORD HAVE MERCY.**

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 Israel is a mirror for our own lives. Their continual infidelity, 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!

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| 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. O 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 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') **Blessing of candles & placing on Lady Chapel Altar.**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:

Celebrant: Confident that our loving God will listen to our prayers, let us turn to him now.

Reader: We pray that those who are living in the dark may see the light who is Christ, and learn to believe that God is love.

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.

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 (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, sickness, or any adversity: that as we bring them before the Lord, He will heal them - especially Doug Hales and all prayed for at Shrine Prayers.

Let us pray for the dying and the departed, especially Michael Denny and Lorna Cox recently departed (pause while candles are lit) and Lillian Freeman; Peggy Giraud-Saunders; Ethel Kent; Edith Farmbrough; Josephine Baker; Michael Smith; Cecil Hart; Gladys Tye; Mike Foreman; Alice Freeman; Iris Fulcher Fr. Ralph Wallace; Harry Hunt and Olive Bunn whose anniversaries are this week and all who have died in the anguish of violence and war; that they may know the lasting peace that was denied them in life.

We ask Mary to pray for us that we may learn to love Jesus more: **Hail Mary etc.**

S I L E N C E

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

Offertory Prayers: Sanctus. Mystery of Faith: **Lord, by your Cross and resurrection you have set us free: you are the Saviour of the world!**

Agnus Dei. Post Communion Prayer, Angelus & Blessing