

Greatham, Empshott, Hawkley with Priors Dean

Mothering Sunday 22nd March 2020

Introduction

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Mothering Sunday Prayer

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 your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord^[a] has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ^[b] 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.^[c] ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Second Reading

Luke 2:33-35

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon^[a] blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Silence

A time of silence to think about the people you love and care for and those for whom you are especially worried. It might help to write down their names here and, in the quietness, pray that God will hold them and each of us, in his loving arms.

You might like to light a candle as a focus for your prayers.....



Prayers

For those who are anxious

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light.

For those who are ill

Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure; for doctors, nurses and medical researchers; for those returning to medicine after retirement and for carers working in the community; that through their work many will be restored to health.

For leaders of nations

For those who are guiding our nation and all nations at this time, and shaping national policies, that they may make wise decisions.

For schools and teachers

For all still working in our schools and for the children they are helping. Strengthen them with your Spirit.

For the most vulnerable

For the vulnerable and the fearful, for the homeless and those in trouble, for the gravely ill and the dying, for those whose sources of income have ceased and for all of us as we play our part to help those in need.

A Prayer of St Benedict

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God. **Amen.**

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

The Blessing

May God bless you and keep you and all those you love.
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.