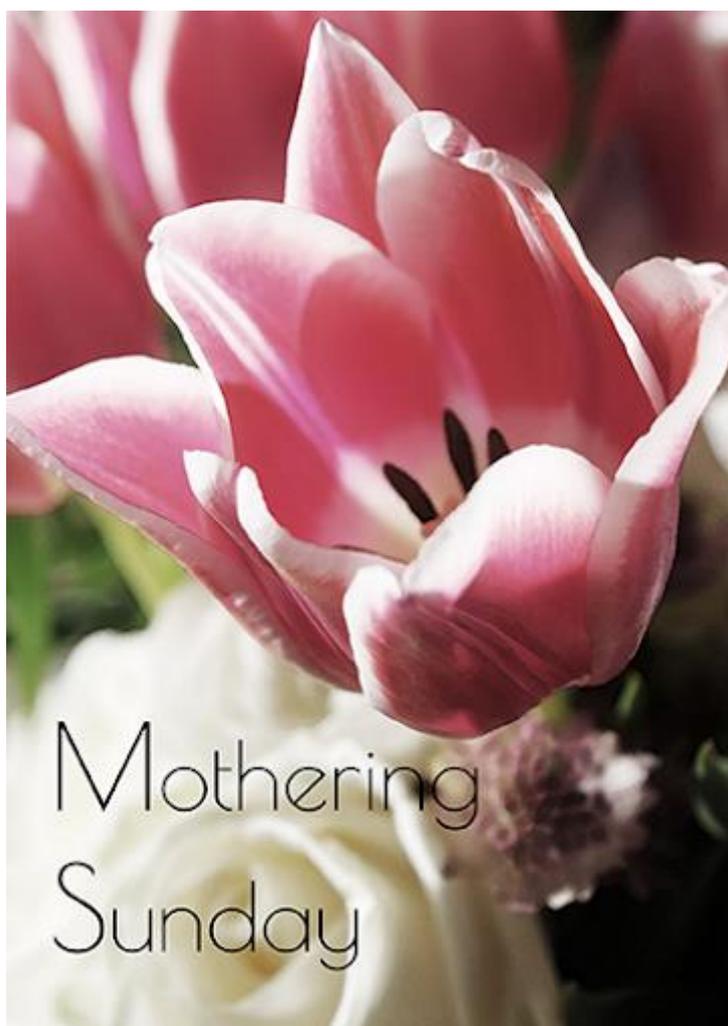


St. Mary's Church Cublington



Sunday 14th March

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday 14th March

Dear Friends

As we prepare to celebrate Mothering Sunday in the church calendar, I am reminded that as Christians we are still very much in the Lenten Period, where Christ himself faced many challenges for 40 days and 40 nights. It does seem slightly strange that we are preparing for a Christian celebration during a time of Christ's suffering.

Witnessing the suffering of our own loved ones and as a mother myself, I understand well the challenges of being a parent. I give thanks and feel blessed that I have experienced the joys of parenting whilst understanding that there can be difficult times for us all as mothers, fathers or carers.

Over the many years I have been in attendance at Mothering Sunday Services in various different churches. It has become very apparent with regard to how much has changed in the way these services are delivered by the clergy.

'Inclusivity' (rightly so), is now very much at the forefront of sermon preparation for Priests.

Historically, the focus of sermons was usually with regard to the celebration of Mothers, Mothering and Motherhood, but with societal shifts, sermons are often now written whereby people who have not wanted to be (or not had the opportunity to be) 'Mothers', can still be upheld and celebrated with having 'Mothering Qualities' that dwell within each of us as Christians, indeed qualities which we all strive to maintain.

These qualities will hopefully encompass love, kindness, wisdom, teaching, guidance, patience and understanding (all qualities similar to the Fruits of the Holy Spirit that I wrote about a few weeks ago).

When my mother-in-law was alive, we knew how dearly she appreciated her Mothering Sunday greetings card. As a committed Christian she always appreciated a relevant bible verse that was usually highlighted within the card. It is really

difficult to find cards which simply have the words 'Mothering Sunday' written on them. 'Happy Mother's Day' cards are available in abundance... a sign of the times I guess.

This week, we give thanks for our own church's named Saint: Saint Mary, described in various different ways such as: Mary, the mother of Jesus, Mother of God, The Virgin Mary and Blessed Virgin Mary. St. Mary is one of the most admired figures in Scripture and considered by many to be the greatest of all Christian saints.

Mary was a willing servant who trusted God and obeyed His call and whilst her life held great honour, her calling also required great suffering. Though there was joy in her motherhood, there was also great pain in the privilege of being the mother of God.

Despite these things, she responded to God with great obedience and submission to His plan.

Perhaps as we all prepare to celebrate Mothering Sunday, we can try to be as Mary was, remaining faithful to God in good times and in bad.

Yours in Christ's love
Sam

Luke 1: 46-56

'And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation....'

"Mary's Song"
Luke 1:46-56



Prayers for Revd. Graham

We pray for the renewal of the Church in faith,
love and service.

We pray for Revd. Graham and for the life of this parish.

We give thanks for the gift of your word,
the grace of the sacraments
and the fellowship of your people.

Amen.

Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. **Acts 4: 30-31**

Amen.

I do hope that you are all keeping well and safe.

If you would like prayers for yourself or someone you know, please let me know.

It is with great sadness that I have to announce that **Bob Griffiths** passed away on **Tuesday 9th March**.

St. Mary's is open each day from **10am until 2pm** for Individual Private Individual Prayer as usual.

Sue – Churchwarden



**Mothering Sunday
and our readings are**

2 Corinthians 1: 3-7



Praise to the God of All Comfort

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵ For just as the sufferings of Christ flower over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. ⁶ If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷ And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

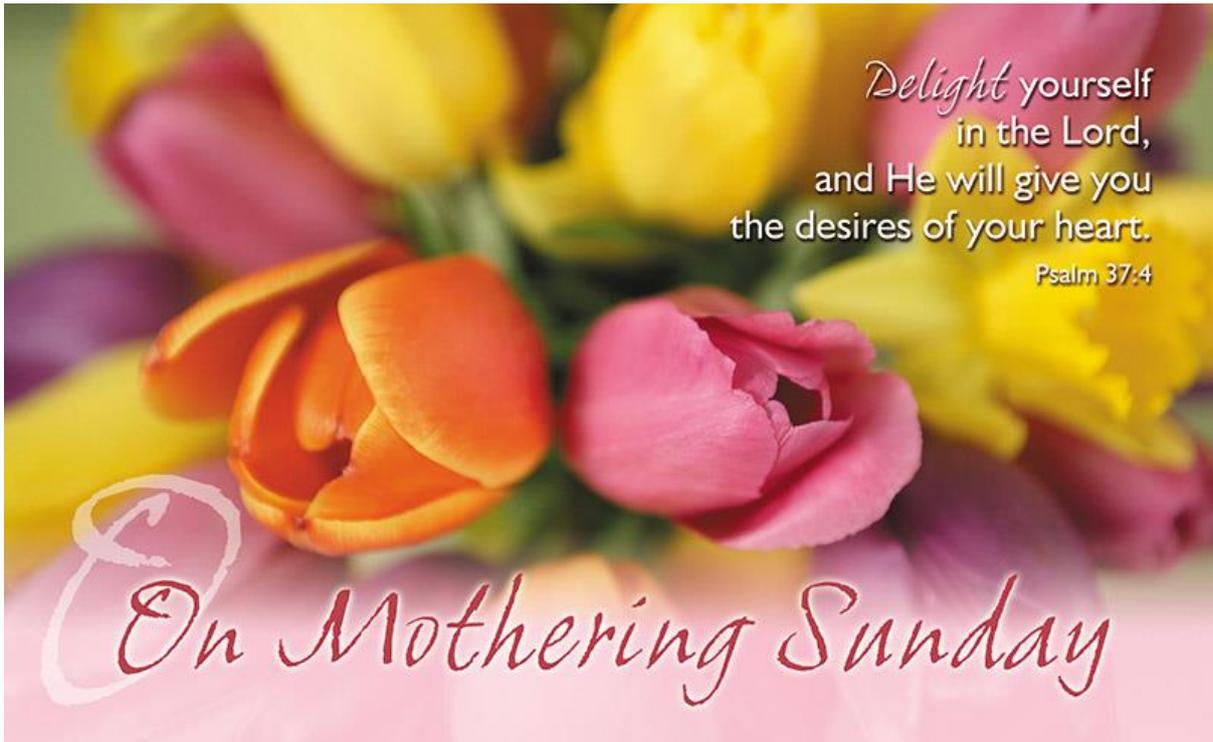
LENT 4



Collect

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 for ever.

Amen.



For any of your family, friends
and neighbours
who have access to the internet,
you might like to suggest
that they look at the church's website
where they will be able to see this message and other
useful information.

Also, anyone you know with
Primary Age school children will find stories from
'Open The Book'.

Tell them to Google
St. Mary's Church Cubbington.