



# ST LAURENCE CHURCH CATFORD

Fourth Sunday of Lent  
**MOTHERING SUNDAY**  
March 10th, 2024



*Welcome* to St Laurence's this morning as we celebrate Mothering Sunday, the half-way point of Lent. Today, we listen to the story of Moses in the bulrushes – about a mother who cleverly gave her child up for adoption by a queen's daughter to ensure his survival. And in the Gospel Mary and Joseph take their son, Jesus, to the temple to say thank for his safe delivery, but end up rather surprised at how things work out.

A particular welcome to all visitors and friends, to those returning to St Laurence's especially this morning, and to all for whom St Laurence's is their mother church.

**At the entry of the choir, please stand and join in the opening hymn**

**TELL out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of his word;  
In God my saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has  
done;**

**His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:  
Power and dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and forever more.**

*Tim Dudley-Smith*

## **Entrance antiphon & greeting**

*'Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.'*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit

**ALL: Amen.**

The Lord be with you:  
**and also with you.**

The priest welcomes everyone to St Laurence's and invites us all to call to mind our sins - we all sing the response

Lord, you taught us to be sorry for our sins: Lord have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy**

**Lord, have mercy on us all. (repeat)**

Christ, you came to call us to our senses: Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy...**

Lord, you see us from a long way off and run to welcome us home: Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God, have mercy upon you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

**OPENING PRAYER:**

God of compassion,  
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,  
strengthen us in our daily living  
that in joy and in sorrow  
we may know the power of your presence;  
we ask this through Jesus Christ  
your Son our Lord  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

**Amen.**

**Please sit as we prepare to listen to the word of God**

**The first reading (Exodus 2:1-10)**

There was a man descended from Levi who had taken a woman of Levi as his wife. She conceived and gave birth to a son and, seeing what a fine child he was, she kept him hidden for three months.

When she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him; coating it with bitumen and pitch, she put the child inside and laid it among the reeds at the river's edge. His sister took up position some distance away to see what would happen to him.

Now Pharaoh's daughter went down to bathe in the river, while her maids walked along the riverside. Among the reeds she noticed the basket, and she sent her maid to fetch it. She opened it and saw the child: the baby was crying. Feeling sorry for it, she said, 'This is one of the little Hebrews.'

The child's sister then said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and find you a nurse among the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?'

'Yes,' said Pharaoh's daughter, and the girl went and called the child's own mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child away and nurse it for me. I shall pay you myself for doing so.' So the woman took the child away and nursed it.

When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter who treated him like a son; she named him Moses 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

After the reading, please stand to sing this hymn, based on Psalm 23.

THE King of love my Shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
And he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow  
My ransomed soul he leadeth,  
And where the verdant pastures grow  
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love he sought me,  
And on his shoulder gently laid,  
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
Thy unction, grace bestoweth:  
And O what transport of delight  
From thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
Within thy house for ever.

HW Baker

The second reading (Col: 3:12-17) (please sit)

A reading from the letter to the Colossians.

As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom he loves, you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you has a complaint against another. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond.

And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together in one body. Always be thankful. Let the Word of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and whatever you say or do, let it be in the name of the Lord Jesus, in thanksgiving to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord: Thanks be to God.



**Gospel song: (please stand)**

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen,  
nobody knows but Jesus.

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen,  
Glory to our Saviour!

Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down – O yes Lord!  
Sometimes I'm almost to the ground, – O yes Lord!

**An acclamation heralds the Gospel reading**

Glory to you O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Glory to you O Christ, you are the Word of God!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you O Christ, you are the Word of God!

**When the Gospel (Lk 2:33-35) is announced the reader says**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

And when the day came for Mary and Jesus to be purified in the temple in keeping with the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, observing what is written in the Law of the Lord.

Prompted by the Spirit, an upright and devout man named Simeon came to the Temple, took Jesus into his arms and blessed God.

As the child's father and mother were wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'Look, he is destined for the fall and for the rise of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is opposed – and a sword will pierce your soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**At the end of the Gospel, the song continues:**

If you get there before I do, – O Yes, Lord!

Tell all my friends I'm coming too,

O yes, Lord!

**We all sit for the sermon.**

**Please stand for a responsorial creed**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Please sit or kneel for the prayers that follow,  
which will be led by our young people.

*Hear our prayer, Lord we pray, hear us in the morning at  
the break of day*

At the end of the prayers, Rushey Green  
Superstars will sing a well-known song.  
After this, please stand for the peace.

#### **THE PEACE**

God is love, and those who live in love,  
live in God and God lives in them.  
The love & peace of the Lord be always with you  
and also with you.

While the hymn is being sung, children and  
young people will bring up flowers to the altar,  
that will later be given to their mothers and  
carers.

#### **THE OFFERTORY HYMN.**

SING we of the blessed Mother  
Who received the angel's word,  
And obedient to his summons  
Bore in love the infant Lord;  
Sing we of the joys of Mary  
At whose breast that child was fed  
Who is Son of God eternal  
And the everlasting Bread.

Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,  
Of the sword that pierced her through,  
When beneath the cross of Jesus  
She his weight of suffering knew,  
Looked upon her Son and Saviour  
Reigning high on Calvary's tree,  
Saw the price of man's redemption  
Paid to set the sinner free.

Sing again, the joys of Mary  
When she saw the risen Lord,  
And in prayer with Christ's apostles,  
Waited on his promised world:  
From on high the blazing glory  
Of the Spirit's presence came,  
Heavenly breath of God's own being,  
Manifest through wind and flame.

Sing the chiefest joy of Mary  
When on earth her work was done,  
And the Lord of all creation  
Brought her to his heavenly home:  
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,  
Raised on high and crowned with grace,  
May your Son, the world's redeemer,  
Grant us all to see his face.

After the hymn, the priest says the prayer  
over the gifts, and then invites the people to  
join in the eucharistic celebration, the Great  
Thanksgiving.

#### **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Father, we offer you these gifts  
which bring us peace and joy.  
Increase our reverence by this eucharist,  
and bring salvation to the world. Amen

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you  
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts  
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
It is right to give thanks and praise

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ,  
your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness  
to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

*Heilig, heilig, heilig, heilig ist der Herr!  
Heilig, heilig, heilig, heilig ist nur Er!  
Er, der nie begonnen, Er, der immer War,  
ewig ist und waltet, sein wird immerdar.*

*Holy, holy, holy, holy is the Lord!  
Father, Son and Spirit  
Evermore shall be,  
Holy, holy, holy, blessed Trinity.*

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body  
and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
*Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.*

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
*Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.*

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the  
whole world;

rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious  
ascension,

and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise & thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of Laurence and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever Amen.

Remaining standing, we say together 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.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.

Please kneel

Lamb of God, you take away the sin,  
the sin of all the world.  
Give us mercy, give us mercy,  
give us mercy, Lamb of God. (*Repeat*)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin,  
the sin of all the world.  
Grant us peace, Lord, grant us peace,  
Lord, grant us peace, O Lamb of God.

The gifts of God for the people of God  
Jesus Christ is Holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

All who are prepared and accustomed to  
receiving Holy Communion are invited to do so.  
In any event, everyone is welcome to come to  
the front of the church for a blessing. (If so,  
please bow your head).

During communion, the choir will sing an anthem,  
and then everyone is welcome to join in the  
hymns that follow.

### **Anthem**

God so loved the world,  
that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that whoso believeth, believeth in Him  
should not perish, should not perish  
but have everlasting life.  
For God sent not His Son into the world  
to condemn the world,  
God sent not His Son into the world  
to condemn the world;  
But that the world through Him might be saved.

### **Communion Hymns**

Let us break bread together on our knees.  
Let us break bread together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees  
with my face to the rising sun,  
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees...

Let us praise God together on our knees...



Beauty for brokenness,  
hope for despair,  
Lord, in the suffering,  
this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children,  
justice, joy, peace,  
sunrise to sunset  
your kingdom increase.

Shelter for fragile lives,  
cures for their ills,  
work for the craftsmen,  
trade for their skills.  
Land for the dispossessed,  
rights for the weak,  
voices to plead the cause  
of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor,  
friend of the weak,  
give us compassion, we pray,  
melt our cold hearts,  
let tears fall like rain.  
Come, change our love  
from a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars,  
havens from fear,  
cities for sanctu'ry,  
freedoms to share.  
Peace to the killing fields,  
scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness,  
his cross for the pain.



Rest for the ravaged earth,  
oceans and streams,  
plundered and poisoned,  
our future, our dreams.  
Lord, end our madness,  
carelessness, greed;  
make us content  
with the things that we need.

*God of the poor,  
friend of the weak,  
give us compassion, we pray,  
melt our cold hearts,  
let tears fall like rain.  
Come, change our love  
from a spark to a flame.*

Lighten our darkness,  
breathe on this flame,  
until your justice  
burns brightly again;  
until the nations  
learn of your ways,  
seek your salvation  
and bring you their praise.

*God of the poor...*

Graham Kendrick:



Jubilate, ev'rybody,  
serve the Lord in all your ways and  
come before his presence singing;  
enter now his gates with praise.  
For the Lord our God is gracious  
and his mercy everlasting.  
Jubilate, jubilate, jubilate, Deo! (repeat)



*With my own eyes I have seen the salvation which you  
have prepared in the sight of all the nations*

Father,  
you enlighten all who come into the world.  
Fill our hearts with the light of your gospel,  
that our thoughts may please you  
and our love be sincere.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please sit for the church notices.

Then flowers are given for us to present to  
our mothers; all are welcome to come to the  
altar, beginning please with the youngest. If  
your own mother is not present, or no longer  
alive, you might wish to take the flowers home  
to remember her, or place them at the feet  
of Our Lady in the Lady Chapel (through the  
double doors at the back of church).

At the end:

The Lord be with you  
and also with you.

**THE BLESSING**

Go in the peace of Christ: Thanks be to God!

## Final hymn:

GREAT is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with thee;  
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
As thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*

*All I have needed thy hand hath provided—*

*Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

## Organ voluntary

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### This week

**Monday:** mass at 7.30am, a great way to start the week.

**Wednesday:** mass at 10.30am preceded by exposition of the sacrament.

**Thursday:** mass in the Lady Chapel at 9.45am, followed by Knit and Natter in the choir vestry.

**Next Sunday** is the fifth Sunday of Lent, and the beginning of Passiontide. Our thoughts begin to turn from Jesus' life and ministry to his passion, death and resurrection. The final preacher in our Lent series is a speaker from the Children's Society (formerly the Church of England Children's Society), who will talk to us about some of the work that this important charity does for young people in the UK.

### Meetings this week

**Monday:** Senior confirmation group meet 7.30 in the Vicarage

**Tuesday:** Student confirmation group meet 7.30 on-line.

### Ernie Brown

Ernie Brown's funeral will take place at St Laurence's on Tuesday April 9th at 12 noon, followed by a reception in the church hall.

### Friends of the Holy Land

Last Sunday we raised £150 for Friends of the Holy Land, plus some donations made directly via their card machine. If you didn't get a chance to give yourself to this highly topical charity – one of the few agencies able to get money and aid directly into Gaza – then please have a look at their website: [friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](http://friendsoftheholylan.org.uk). In his talk, Brendan Metcalfe, their director, mentioned a forthcoming visit to London by the Rev'd Dr Fadi Diab, Rector of St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Ramallah. This has been confirmed for Saturday March 16th, 2pm, at Our Lady Help Of Christians Church Hall, 44a Falkland Rd, Kentish Town, NW5. Anyone from St Laurence would be extremely welcome to attend and hear first-hand about life in the West Bank.

## **Services for Holy Week and Easter**

*– only two weeks away!*

**Palm Sunday, March 24th:** We will begin mass this morning in the Church Hall, with the blessing of palms, and then process through to church, imitating the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem in the midst of his disciples and the welcoming crowds.

### **Monday of Holy Week**

Mass with address at 7pm, followed by a musical meditation for Holy Week led by Mairéad Sheerin and Cat's Chorus

### **Tuesday of Holy Week**

Mass with address at 7pm, followed by music

### **Wednesday of Holy Week**

10.30am: said mass with address

7pm: Healing Mass with address, with anointing and laying on of hands for any who desire.

### **Maundy Thursday**

Mass of the Last Supper at 8pm, with washing of feet and vigil in the garden of repose until midnight.

### **Good Friday:**

9am morning prayer and office of readings

12.30pm, meditation on the cross led by Fr Charles, with specially composed organ music by Huw Morgan. We are delighted that Huw himself is coming back to St Laurence's to play for us.

2pm: the liturgy of Good Friday, followed by hot cross buns in the church hall

### **Easter Eve:**

8pm – Easter vigil, baptism, confirmation and first mass of Easter, celebrated by Bishop Peter Selby, former Bishop of Kingston and then Worcester.

### **Easter Day:**

8am mass of the dawn

10am: Festive Eucharist

### **Easter Flowers**

If you would like to donate to the Easter flowers, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please let the churchwardens or Sybil Bair have your donation, marked with the name of the person in whose memory it is given (if applicable).

### **Annual Meeting and Parish lunch**

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners this year will be on April 14th, and will be followed by a delicious parish lunch, to which all are invited. It's time to start thinking about whether this might be the year you'd like to stand for election to the church council.

Also, if you aren't already on the Church electoral roll, you should be, if you attend St Laurence's at least monthly. Forms available at the back of church, or from the parish office.

If you usually write a report for the annual report booklet, please note the deadline this year is next Sunday.

Thank you to Cavell Giddings for a donation towards today's flowers in celebration of her birthday.

Many thanks, too, to all those who gave up their Saturday morning to help with the daffodils for today.

### **Eco/Energy Community Workshop:**

On Friday April 5th, Donnachadh McCarthy will be coming back to St Laurence's to give advice on how to green your home and reduce your day to day living costs using eco-tips.

This workshop will provide advice on how to reduce electricity bills, heating bills and water bills; how to reduce transport costs, food costs and shopping costs.

Donnachadh has worked for 17 years as a professional eco-auditor advising people and organisations on how to reduce their running costs by going green. He is the author of "Saving the Planet without Costing the Earth".

He is a frequent eco-contributor on many national TV and Radio Programmes including the BBC's "Not Easy Being Green" and ITV's "How Green is Your Home".

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### **For your prayers**

**our young people preparing to receive holy communion for the first time:**

Vino, David, Leia, Neo, Prosper, Giovanni and Chloe

**those preparing for confirmation on Easter eve:**

Valeria, Vanessa, Miles, Simone, Maureen, Dorna, Hilma, Dona

**among the sick:** Myrna Perkins, Beverley & John Lashley, Taleta Haye, Minette Stevens, Sarah Cole, Bridgit Sam-Bailey, Marcia Sanderson, Ottis Edwards, Elaine Stanislaus, Marcia Wilson, Robert Green, Roy Brown, Kayla Brown, Ros Ovbiovbio, Marva Mayne, Natasha Joseph, Degus Vassell, Anita Greenidge, Thelma Corbin, Beverley Willacy, Kevin Counihan, Charles Gasa, Josette Owens, Everton White, Elaine Thompson-Dixon, Everton Bend, Annette Cox-Simmons, Selena Goodyear, Ron & Kay Lanston, Esme Francis, Girda Carty, Cheyne Reid, Daphne Moore, Leon Haynes, Elizabeth Halfpenny, Ometa Alli, Eugenie Gregory, Dolphus Perkins, Paul and Maureen Gettens, Capt Andrew Stone, Diane Coleman, David Staples

**recently departed:**

Ernie Brown

**anniversaries:**

12th Daisy Anderson, Margaret Farquhar; 13th Juliana Thompson, Margaret Howard; 15th Attila Gereb



### **Today's sidespersons team:**

Sonia Omondiale, Paul Omondiale, Gloria Baptiste, Norma Scott

**Chalice rota:** Matthew, Alice

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### **Contact us**

**Parish Clergy:** Fr Charles: 020 8698 2871,

**Parish Office** (Richard Swann): 020 8698 9706

e: [info@stlaurencecatford.org.uk](mailto:info@stlaurencecatford.org.uk), w: [stlaurencecatford.org.uk](http://stlaurencecatford.org.uk)