



**LIVESTREAMED MORNING PRAYER:
A SERVICE OF THE WORD
Sunday 14th March 2021
The Fourth Sunday in Lent:
Mothering Sunday**

Music before the service: Four Fugues on the Magnificat, *Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)*

OPENING HYMN: ICH 185



**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 our 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,
wait on his promised word:
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;
where, raised high with saints and angels,
in Jerusalem above,
she beholds her Son and Saviour
reigning as the Lord of love.**

Words: George B. Timms (1910-97)

Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH Cyril V. Taylor (1907-91)

The online congregation is welcomed

THE GREETING

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

Looking at those who sat around him Jesus said, "These are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does the will of God is my brother or sister or mother". *Mark 4:34-35*

PENITENCE

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against him. Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask his mercy by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

As parents are tender towards their children, so God is tender to those who trust him.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

God will not always rebuke us, nor will God's displeasure last for ever.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

I have calmed and quieted my soul, my soul is like a child upon its mother's breast.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

God says, As a mother comforts her child, so will I myself comfort you. Your sins are forgiven: rest on God as in a mother's arms. **Amen.**

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Praise the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

PSALM: 34:11-20

Come, my children, and listen to me; ♦
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Who is there who delights in life ♦
and longs for days to enjoy good things?

Keep your tongue from evil ♦
and your lips from lying words.

Turn from evil and do good; ♦
seek peace and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous ♦
and his ears are open to their cry.

The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, ♦
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.

The righteous cry and the Lord hears them ♦
and delivers them out of all their troubles.

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted ♦
and will save those who are crushed in spirit.

Many are the troubles of the righteous; ♦
from them all will the Lord deliver them.

He keeps all their bones, ♦
so that not one of them is broken.

Glory to the Father:
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
**As it was in the beginning:
is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Exodus 2:1-10

A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her 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.

CANTICLE: *Magnificat (The Song of the Virgin Mary Luke 1:46-55)*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
**my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
who has looked with favour on his lowly servant;
from this day all generations will call me blessed;
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.
God has mercy on those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
The Lord has shown strength with his arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.
God has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel
to remember the promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**Glory to the Father:
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning:
is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

SECOND READING: John 19:25-27

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

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

SERMON by the Reverend Dr Maithrie White

ANTHEM:

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Maria, gratia plena,
Maria, gratia plena,
Ave, Ave, Dominus,
Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus,
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui,
Ventris tui, Jesus.
Ave Maria!

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
Mary, full of grace,
Mary, full of grace,
Hail, Hail, the Lord
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed,
Blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Thy womb, Jesus.
Hail Mary!*

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
Ora, ora pro nobis;
Ora, ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
Nunc et in hora mortis,
In hora mortis nostrae.
In hora, hora mortis nostrae,
In hora mortis nostrae.
Ave Maria!

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Pray, pray for us;
Pray for us sinners,
Now, and at the hour of our death,
The hour of our death.
The hour, the hour of our death,
The hour of our death.
Hail Mary!*

*Words: Traditional Roman Catholic prayer
Music: Franz Schubert (1797-1828)*

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, **the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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.

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen
and grant her government wisdom.

Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness
and let your servants shout for joy.

O Lord, save your people
and bless those whom you have chosen.

Give peace in our time, O Lord,
and let your glory be over all the earth.

O God, make clean our hearts within us
and renew us by your Holy Spirit.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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 our Lord. **Amen.**

LENTEN COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECTS AT MORNING PRAYER

Go before us, Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favour, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy attain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray that your Holy Spirit may so guide and govern us that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life, we may never forget your presence but may remember that we are always walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray for the Church and the world, cherished in the tender love of God, in the name of Christ, who loves us as a mother loves his children.

As our Lord grew to manhood under a mother's care, may his Church be as a mother to her children. We pray for renewed integrity, respect and compassion to be the hallmarks of the Church, and of those who represent or exercise ministry within it, to offer themselves in service to all who come to seek their help.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world, that all its people may be as one family in harmony and peace. We acknowledge our role in fostering or perpetuating ongoing prejudice and suspicion of those with whom we differ, or whose customs are foreign to ours. May we set aside and challenge all aspects of racism. So let motherly love be the desire and the ideal of the whole human race, with particular care for the poor and vulnerable. Bless those in positions of power that they may seek to serve and protect those under their authority.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless our homes with care and concern for one another. Look in mercy upon mothers and children who are at risk, and sustain those who seek to offer support and protection to them. May our families be as the Holy Family in shared love and worship, and mutual care. Be ever close with the gift of your unfailing love to the mothers and children in our community.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Have mercy on mothers who are in distress, those whose children are sick in body, mind or soul, and on children who are anxious and fearful about the health of their parents. We pray for every mother and child damaged by the scorn, pain or guilt of this land's "Mother and Baby Homes". We pray forgiveness for past cruelty unchallenged by all the churches. Grant to every hurting mother strength in their affliction and healing for those they love.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the departed who have known human love on earth and have passed into the divine love of heaven. May we in our time come to join them in peace and joy with all the saints.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A PRAYER DURING THIS TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

O Heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ has taught us the glory of self-sacrifice and service: bless all who care for the sick, and those suffering from or recovering from Coronavirus. Stand with those who grieve. Give your strength to all who, though exhausted, work in hospitals and nursing homes, and all who give care in the community. We pray guide all who seek to understand the new variants of the infection, and those who are administering the vaccines. Give wisdom to those who have responsibility in church, politics and society for leading a way out of the current Lockdown. This we ask in the name of the one who spent himself in service of others with no thought for himself, even our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, **accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

OFFERTORY HYMN: ICH 541* *(Please do not forget to support the life of Belfast Cathedral through your continued financial giving during these challenging times)*



**God of Eve and God of Mary,
God of love and mother-earth,
thank you for the ones who with us
shared their life and gave us birth.**

**Thank you for the Church, our Mother,
gives us bread and fills our cup,
and the comfort of the Spirit
warms our hearts and lifts us up.**

**As you came to earth in Jesus,
so you come to us today;
you are present in the caring
that prepares us for life's way.**

**God of Eve and God of Mary,
Christ our brother, human Son,
Spirit, caring like a Mother,
take our love and make us one!**

Words: Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

Tune: GOTT WILL'S MACHEN J.L. Steiner (1688-1761) pub. Zurich (1735)

THE BLESSING

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, and to take up your cross and follow him: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary: Meine Seele erhebt den Herren BWV 648, J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Organ & piano: Matthew Owens

Soloist: Lynda Barrett



Image of a print by Albrecht Dürer of the Blessed Virgin Mary with the child Jesus and St Anne, situated in the Ambulatory of the cathedral.



NOTICES



A Service of Evening Prayer for use at home is available for download from the cathedral website

Sunday 21st March 2021: The Fifth Sunday in Lent (Passiontide begins)

11.00am Livestreamed Morning Prayer: Connor MU Festival Service

Preacher: June Butler, Mothers' Union All-Ireland President

Under current restrictions most of the cathedral staff will also be "home working" and so the Cathedral Offices will not be routinely open.
In case of pastoral emergency, please contact Rev. Janice Elsdon, the Dean's Vicar or the Dean.

Lent Reflections

Rev. Dr Ron Elsdon continues to lead a series of daily Lent Reflections.

These will be posted daily Monday to Saturday on the cathedral website and Facebook pages.

Across the six weeks of Lent, and leading to Holy Week, Ron will consider the themes of Lament, Fear, Repentance, Thanksgiving, Perseverance and Hope as with the disciples of Jesus we journey towards the Resurrection of Easter Day.

With a few short minutes each day, we can each stop, pause, reflect and pray to make this different season of Lent into a Lent that makes a difference.

Additionally, the Dean has suggested using the following prayer on a daily basis over coming weeks:

"God be in my head, and in my understanding. God be in mine eyes, and in my looking. God be in my mouth, and in my speaking. God be in my heart and in my thinking. God be at my end, and at my departing."

There are three ways you can make your FWO contribution to the Cathedral.

1. Make an On-line card donation today via the Cathedral Website at
<https://belfastcathedral.enthuse.com/profile>

2. Set up an On-line Bank Transfer:

Bank Details for the Cathedral Account which you will need to make an On-line Banking Transfer are as follows:

Cathedral Bank Branch:

Bank of Ireland, City Centre Branch, 1 Donegall Square South, Belfast. BT1 5LR.

Name of Account: **Parochial No 1 Current Account**

Sort Code: **90-21-27**

Account Number: **10006051**

Please give your own name as the Payment Reference.

3. Alternatively a Crossed Cheque may be made out to

"Belfast Cathedral Parochial No 1 Account"

and posted to **The Deanery, 5 Deramore Drive, Belfast. BT9 5JQ.**

Cheques will then be delivered to our Finance Officer for cashing at a local branch.

Requests for Standing Order Forms can be e-mailed to:
admin@belfastcathedral.org

Thank you for your continuing financial support for Belfast Cathedral through these difficult times.