

# St German's Church

15 March 2020 - Lent IV (Mothering Sunday)

*Lent 4 - Laetare*

*Mothering  
Sunday*



We at St German's wish all who 'mother' a truly wonderful and blessed Mothering Sunday.

Laetare Sunday is always the 4th Sunday of Lent and a special day of celebration within the austerity of Lent. It comes from the traditional opening antiphon used in worship based on Isaiah 66: 'Rejoice O Jerusalem: and come together all you that love her'. Coming together and thanking God for our 'mother church' is appropriate during lent and especially in this time of crisis caused by the pandemic. Thanking God also for the love, care and selflessness of all who mother in our society has become part of our celebrations on this day. We recall too the particular parenting genius of the Blessed Virgin Mary who as mother of Jesus is also mother of the Church and those who seek sanctuary therein.

## Parish Notes:

**Message from Fr Phelim** 'May you live in interesting times' which is often attributed (with no real evidence) to a Chinese proverb. At this stage many of us would rather live in more boring, peaceful and relatively 'normal' times considering the extent and intrusion of the coronavirus outbreak. I am a firm believer that we can encounter the presence and ministry of God in all places and in all events, no matter how serious or dark. Indeed, we Christians live through a metaphorical darkness each year during the lenten season as we await the peace and joy of Easter. This should prepare us for an ongoing ministry of hope that we can share and bring to those around us. God is with us in this hour of need and if you look for the evidence consider the unstinting and unselfish love and care already shown to the sick, the anxious, the vulnerable, the bereaved and the dying. We in St German's and St Saviour's will continue our ministry of worshipping God, albeit in private and physically separate from each other. We can do this at home (see our website for details). Yet we will also have a broadcast mass each Sunday, recorded in private from each church. You can also find these links on our website. Our ministry of outreach will be one of making available our churches to those who are in lockdown or self isolation. We want to encourage everyone to visit our church and see them as community sanctuaries in a time of crisis. As Pope Francis said 'The Church is a field hospitals that takes in the infirm, the weak and those longing for healing and consolation'. Finally, our care of each other. If you need deliveries of medicine or food but can't get out please contact us and one of our team will help as best as they can. There will also be a church key holder in each church during the open times if you need to contact us and can't do it otherwise. In all things we entrust our selves to the care of our heavenly Father who loves us so much that he chose to live in our midst, sharing all our troubles and crises and sending us the grace and strength we need from the Holy Spirit. Please pray with us for all those who are anxious and in need at this time and through ongoing prayer we will entrust them and commend their need to the love of God. Fr Phelim

**Sunday Worship** - As mentioned above, there will be a recording of the Sunday mass and homily available to watch from our website ([www.saintgermanwithsaintsaviour.org.uk](http://www.saintgermanwithsaintsaviour.org.uk)) each Sunday from 9:00 am. Below you can find the readings for this Sunday to follow and pray at home

**Holy Week 2020** - As all public worship is currently suspended, please see updates on our website on how we will observe Holy Week online, in church individually and at home. Already our diocese has published online forms of prayer.

## READINGS THIS WEEK

1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a  
Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6  
Eph 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41 - Man Born Blind

## READINGS NEXT WEEK

Ezek 37:12-14  
Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8  
Rom 8:8-11  
John 11: 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45 - Raising Lazarus

## PSALM RESPONSE

The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want.  
(vv.4)

## This week:

As a result of the ongoing crisis caused by the pandemic we will adhere to the Church in Wales and government guidance and so all public acts of worship are suspended until further notice. The Churches remain open two hours each day (7 days a week) for individuals to pray and reflect or take some space. Starting Monday 23 March 2020.

## St Saviour's Opening Times:

10:00am to 12:00pm

## St German's Opening Times:

12:00pm to 2:00pm

*If visiting our churches  
Please respect current  
guidance on social  
distancing and the desire  
for people to rest or work  
in quiet in the sanctuary  
of our buildings.*

## Parish Priest:

Fr Phelim O'Hare,  
02922 411229  
(day off is Friday)  
[phelimohare@gmail.com](mailto:phelimohare@gmail.com)

## Churchwardens:

Peter Lovitt  
02920 763754  
Richard Hill  
07519 352840

**Stations of the Cross** - No communal praying of the stations of the cross from now on. Individuals are welcome to pray the stations during the day when the church is open and few people are around.

**Church funerals** are currently suspended. We have been advised by the CinW that we can offer graveside and small crematoria based services with a memorial service or Requiem Mass taking place in the church for the deceased later in the year.

**Recently Departed:** Samantha Ewers, Pauline Williams, Harry Rohman, Patricia Mannings *RIP*.

## COLLECT

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to the smiters and did not hide his face from shame: give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## FIRST READING

A reading from the 1st book of Samuel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

This is the word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**The Lord is my shepherd:  
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. *R/*

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort. *R/*

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. *R/*

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. *R/*

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:  
Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

## GOSPEL

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went

and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.' They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

This is the gospel of the Lord.