



*St. Thomas of  
Canterbury, the  
Parish Church for  
Brentwood*

**The Order of Mass**

**The Fourth Sunday  
of Lent**

**Mothering Sunday**

**Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

*These prayers are suitable as preparation for Mass*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen

*From the Book of Common Prayer*

Almighty and ever-living God, I approach the sacrament of Your only-begotten Son Our Lord Jesus Christ, I come sick to the doctor of life, unclean to the fountain of mercy, blind to the radiance of eternal light, and poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. Lord, in your great generosity, heal my sickness, wash away my defilement, enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty, and clothe my nakedness. May I receive the bread of angels, the King of kings and Lord of lords, with humble reverence, with the purity and faith, the repentance and love, and the determined purpose that will help to bring me to salvation. May I receive the sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood, and its reality and power.

Kind God, may I receive the Body of Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, born from the womb of the Virgin Mary, and so be received into His mystical body and numbered among His members. Loving Father, as on my earthly pilgrimage I now receive Your beloved Son under the veil of a sacrament, may I one day see him face to face in glory, who lives and reigns with You for ever. Amen

*St Thomas Aquinas*

*It is our custom to keep a prayerful silence before Mass*

*Please STAND when the bell rings, at 8.00 our worship begins with the Angelus.*

The Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary,  
**And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus  
**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
**Be it unto me according to thy Word.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus  
**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.**

And the Word was made flesh,  
**And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus  
**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.**

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.  
**That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray:

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by his ✠ Cross and Passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*At 10.00, we sing the entrance hymn as the sacred ministers enter and the altar is censed.*

# Processional Hymn

NEH 408(i)



**All** Love Divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation,  
Perfectly restored in thee,  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)  
Music: William Rowlands (1860-1937)

## The Gathering

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## The Greeting

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

*The priest welcomes us and introduces the service.*

## Prayers of Penitence

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

## Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy**

Kyrie eleison

**Kyrie eleison**

Christe eleison

**Christe eleison**

Kyrie eleison

**Kyrie eleison**

## The Collect

*The Celebrant introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray':*

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.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*We SIT for the readings.*

*1 Samuel 1:20–end*

A reading from the First Book of Samuel.

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the Lord.' The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.' Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the Lord establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.' She left him there for the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*At 08.00, the psalm is said, while at 10.00 the choir sing the verses. We join in with the appropriate response.*



Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour, Word of the Father, calling us to life;  
 Son of God who leads us to freedom: glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**(08.00) Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

When Christ is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

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

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Luke 2:33–35*

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Jesus. Then Simeon 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 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Sermon**

*We SIT as the sermon is preached.*

**The Creed**

*We STAND to proclaim the Creed.*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from**

**Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,**

*We BOW as we proclaim the Mystery of the Incarnation.*

**WAS INCARNATE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE VIRGIN MARY AND WAS MADE MAN.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession – Universal Prayers**

*We SIT or KNEEL for the prayers of intercession, after each petition we respond:*

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

*Or*

Lord hear us,  
**Lord graciously hear us.**

*The intercessor may conclude the prayer for the faithful departed with;*

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord  
**And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

May they rest in peace.

**Amen.**

The prayers may conclude with a collect to which all respond:

**Amen.**

Or, by us saying together.

Merciful Father,

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

## **The Peace**

*We STAND as the Celebrant introduces the Peace:*

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another the sign of peace.

## **THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

### **The Offertory**

*A collection is taken at this celebration. If you don't have cash or are not part of our planned giving scheme and would like to support the ministry costs of St Thomas' please scan the QR code on the back of the chair in front of you, to be taken to the online donations page where you can easily donate to support the work of St Thomas' and complete the details allowing the reclamation of Gift Aid on your donation. At 10.00, we sing this hymn while the altar is prepared.*

## The Offertory Hymn



**All** As the deer pants for the water  
so my soul longs after you;  
you alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.

*Refrain:*

*You alone are my strength, my shield;  
to you alone may my spirit yield:  
you alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you.*

**I want you more than gold or silver,  
only you can satisfy;  
you alone are the real joy-giver  
and the apple of my eye. [Refrain]**

**You're my Friend and you're my Brother  
even though you are a king:  
I love you more than any other,  
so much more than anything. [Refrain]**

*Words and Music: Martin Nystrom*



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 him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good  
to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days  
you lead us into the desert of repentance  
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline  
we may grow in grace  
and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service  
you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word  
you open our eyes to your presence in the world  
and free our hands to welcome others  
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast  
with joyful hearts and minds  
we bless you for your mercy  
and join with saints and angels  
for ever praising you and saying:

*We remain **STANDING** as we say/sing the Sanctus and the Benedictus:*

Repeat each line after choir

The musical score is written on ten staves in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord: God of power and God of might. Heaven and earth are full of thy glo - ry, Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord most high. Ho - san - - na, Ho - san - - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**✕ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*We KNEEL after the Sanctus and Benedictus.*

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.✠

*After the consecration, the following acclamation is said/sung:*

Let us proclaim 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 and 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph her spouse, St Thomas of Canterbury 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.**

## **COMMUNION RITE**

As our Saviour taught and commanded us we are bold to say:

**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.**

*We sing the Agnus Dei:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

*The Celebrant invites the people to communion*

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word,  
and I shall be healed.**

Please follow the direction of the celebrant and sidespersons to come forward and receive communion. Those who are confirmed are welcome to make their communion at our celebration today. Otherwise, please come forward for a blessing with your hands crossed across your chest. We have returned to receiving communion in both kinds. The response after receiving a blessing is **Amen**.

## Anthem

The Choir sings – ‘Mother of God, here I stand’ – by Sir John Tavener (1944–2013)

We *SIT* or *KNEEL* to sing the following hymn.

## Communion Hymn

NEH 161



**All** For Mary, Mother of the Lord God,  
The angel Gabriel brought the word;  
She thus obeyed, and holy name  
Should Christ's be praised.

The angel Gabriel brought the word,  
And God's will was done;  
Who first the Son of God adored  
On her child she gazed.

The heavenly call she thus obeyed,  
And God's will was done;  
The second Eve love's answer made  
Our redemption won.

She gave her body for God's shrine,  
Her heart to piercing pain,

**And knew the cost of love divine  
When Jesus Christ was slain.**

**Dear Mary, from your lowliness  
And home in Galilee,  
There comes a joy and holiness  
To every family.**

**Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,  
Above all women blest;  
Blest in your Son, whom your embrace  
In birth and death confessed.**

*Words: J. R. Peacey (1896-1971)  
Music: Neil Dougall (1776-1862)*

### **Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and I unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. **Amen.**

*St Alphonsus Liguori*

### **Post Communion**

*We STAND ready for the priest to say/sing the post-communion prayer:*

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit**

lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Banns and Notices

We SIT while any Banns of Marriage are published and brief notices are given out. The posies are blessed and during the distribution we sing the following..

## Blessing and Distribution of Posies

A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na,  
do - mi - nus te - cum, be - ne - dic - ta tu.\_\_\_\_\_

**All** As I kneel before you,  
as I bow my head in prayer,  
take this day,  
make it yours and fill me with your love.

**Refrain:**

**Ave Maria, gratia plena,**

**Dominus tecum, benedicta tu.**

**All I have I give you,  
ev'ry dream and wish are yours;  
mother of Christ, mother of mine,  
present them to my Lord. [Refrain]**

**As I kneel before you,  
and I see your smiling face,  
ev'ry thought, ev'ry word  
is lost in your embrace.[Refrain]**

*Words and Music: Maria Parkinson*

*We STAND for the final blessing and dismissal.*

## **Blessing and dismissal**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

The Mass is ended, go in the peace of Christ,

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Angelus**

*At 08.00, the sacred ministers leave in silence. At 10.00, the sacred ministers gather before the image of Our Lady for the Angelus.*

The Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary,

**And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus

**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

**Be it unto me according to thy Word.**

Hail Mary, etc...

And the Word was made flesh,

**And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus

**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.**

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

**That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray:

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by his ✠ Cross and Passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The sacred ministers then leave during the final hymn.*

## Recessional Hymn

NEH 186



**All 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:  
Powers 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 for evermore.**

*Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)*

*Music: Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)*

*A warm invitation is extended to all to stay for refreshments  
after the 10.00 Sung Mass. Please make your way through into the hall  
following the directions of the sidespersons.*

## Private Devotions during Communion or after Mass

We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

*From the Book of Common Prayer*

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men; [\*particularly to those who desire now to offer up their praises and thanksgivings for thy late mercies vouchsafed unto them.] We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

*\*This to be said when any that have been prayed for desire to return praise.*

*From the Book of Common Prayer*

Soul of Christ, sanctify me  
body of Christ, save me  
blood of Christ, inebriate me  
water from Christ's side, wash me  
passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O good Jesus, hear me  
within thy wounds hide me.

Suffer me not to be separated from thee.

From the malicious enemy defend me.

In the hour of my death call me and bid me come unto thee that I may praise thee with thy saints and with thy angels forever and ever. Amen

Hail holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, O most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

*The Salve Regina*

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000. Hymns are reproduced under CCLI No 570618*