



Newsletter

3 & 10 March 2024



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Services for Sunday 3 March 2024 Third Sunday of Lent

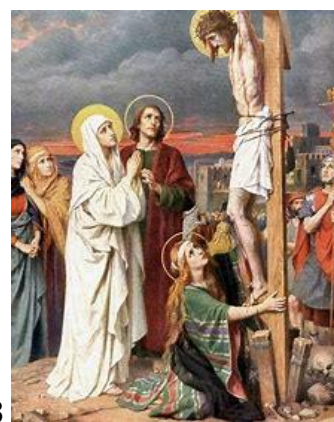
St Paul's 10am **Holy Communion in Lent** Revd Mike Dyson presiding

St Andrew's 11am **Holy Communion in Lent** Revd Daniel Mullaney presiding

Services for Sunday 10 March 2024 Mothering Sunday

St Paul's 10am **Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday** Revd Daniel Mullaney presiding

St Andrew's 11am **Holy Communion For Mothering Sunday** Revd Hilary Shedlock presiding



Readings for 3 March:

Exodus 20: 1-17

John 2: 13-22

Readings for 10 March:

1 Samuel 1: 20-end

John 19: 25b-27

(1) The Ten Commandments

(2) Jesus cleanses the Temple

(3) the boy Samuel

(4) 'Here is your mother'

Wed 6 March: Psalm 147:13-end; Matt 5:17-19 Wed 13 March: Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30

A reflection for Mothering Sunday.



On 10 March, Mothering Sunday, we give thanks for our mothers. Take time to reflect on your earliest memories of your mother's love; times where she was there for you in joy or in sorrow. Think of the habits and values of your own life that you received from your mother – even the things you find yourself saying which you realise are her words, words you never imagined you would say! Thank God for her wisdom.

We think of Mary of Nazareth, icon of

motherhood at Bethlehem; refugee in Egypt; mother who shaped the life of her son in the family home; disciple who embraced her son on the Way of the Cross; faithful witness who stood at the foot of the cross; mother who shared in the joy of her son's resurrection. Bless all those who fulfil the role of carer and home-maker.

To all mothers: treasure and cherish the gift of life that you have nurtured. Ask God's blessing each day on your vocation which never ends. Know the ways in which you work alongside God in his plan for creation.

Finally we think of those for whom this day is painful: mothers whose children are in difficulty; those who have wished for children of their own; those who have known bereavement of a child or of a mother.

We belong to the family of God – on earth and in heaven. May we trust in God's care for his family always, that we may strengthen the bonds of family here on earth.

With thanks to the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham





Holy Spirit Day 24 February 2024 More than 25 people took part in the Alpha course's Holy Spirit Day at St Andrew's church. These were some of the comments received:

'I really felt very positive about the fellowship we all shared on the day. To be able to talk about and experience the Holy Spirit in a deeper way is so precious. As I look back on

the day, I am so grateful I had the opportunity to attend it.'

'It was good to concentrate on the work of the Holy Spirit and give him due regard as an equal person in the Trinity. I was helped by the time of prayer when each of us was prayed for by name ... it felt very special.

'We felt reminded and reassured that even though at times we may feel alone the Holy Spirit is always with us! Also we don't have to understand to believe - we have to believe to understand.'

Thankyou to those who shared their experience with us. We hope to follow up the Alpha course with a Confirmation/study group using *Christianity Explored* – who Jesus is and why he matters, or *Life Explored*- what the Bible says about the big questions of life.



Prayers

We pray for those we know who are not well at this time: Marion Garrod, in hospital and now suffering with Covid; Brenda Laithwaite, awaiting test results and resting at home; Les Cope, being assessed for future care needs; Maureen Roberts; Alan Pendry's friend Irene; Alice Searle, hoping to move to a care home nearer her sons.

We pray for the family of Ann Wilson whose funeral takes place at St Paul's on 7 March. We pray for peace and an end to conflict in so many areas of our world: for the people of Israel, Gaza and South Sudan; persecuted Christians in northern Nigeria; cities under the control of drugs gangs in parts of South America.

Prayer for Lent:

Loving God, during the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you. Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life. Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity. Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and in so doing, rediscover the grace of gratitude and generosity. May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you. Amen.



News and Events

Reminder please make sure that the hot taps in the ladies' toilet at St Paul's are turned off fully after use: they are stiff and have been left on recently. Hoping to replace with automatic soon.

Daffodils for Mothering Sunday: help required to bunch together: **Saturday 9 March** 10am at St Paul's. Let Eileen or Anthea know if you can come.

The next **Lightbulb Drop-in** will be on **28 March** and **monthly** from now onwards

Third Knowledge Exchange Event on **Thursday 18 April** at Qadria Mosque, Longsight: last event for the Faith Spaces and Age-Friendly Cities research project we have been involved in.

Parish weekend away at Thornleigh, Grange-over-Sands **20-22 September 2024**. Bookings and deposits now being taken by Alan Pendry- £216.00 pp. See poster and flyers in churches.

5 March: Time Out St Paul's 1.30pm Hilary and Phil on their trip to New Zealand (with pics!)

5 & 12 March: Alpha St Paul's 6:30pm with meal

6 March: Wednesday Holy Communion St Paul's at 10am with Canon Noel Proctor

7 March: funeral St Paul's 12 noon: Ann Wilson led by Revd Hilary Shedlock

13 March: Wed Holy Communion 10am at St Paul's: Revd Daniel Mullaney

CONTACT INFORMATION

Current Clergy Team:

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Revd Andy Smith (Associate Priest)

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All other needs:

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Emergency prayer chain: ring Maureen 07359536140 or email rober382@sky.com

For more information visit our websites:

St Paul's: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15877

St Andrew's: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15878