

ST MARK AND ALL SAINTS, READING

*Whoever you are,
wherever you are on life's journey you are welcome here.*

PARISH MASS

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2026

MOTHERING SUNDAY

THE GATHERING

*All the words are in this service sheet. Please join in with the words printed in **bold type**.
At the start of the service a bell is rung and the procession enters as we stand to sing the opening hymn.*

ENTRANCE HYMN

**For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
Christ our God, to you we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.**

**For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light.
Christ our God, to you we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.**

**For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight.
Christ our God, to you we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.**

**For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
Pleasures pure and undefiled,
Christ our God, to you we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.**

**For each perfect gift divine
To our race so freely given,
Joys bestowed by love's design,
Flowers of earth and fruits of heaven,
Christ our God, to you we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.**

THE GREETING

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

Amen.

The Lord be with you
And also with you

The priest welcomes us and introduces the theme of the service and leads us into the prayers of confession.

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us

**Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing
and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

We sing

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

*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*

*The priest invites us to pray silently and then prays the collect
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*

Please sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.

GRADUAL CANTICLE .

The Magnificat tune Golden Sheaves

As we sing the Gospel Book is carried into the midst of the congregation, reflecting God's coming among us in Christ. Please turn to face it.

**My spirit magnifies the Lord,
rejoices in my Saviour.
All generations will record,
that he has shown me favour.
I will be blessed from pole to pole,
though I am poor and lowly,
for he has magnified my soul,
whose mighty name is holy.**

**His mercy rests on those who fear,
in every generation.
The proud disperse when he is near,
in vain imagination.
He fills the hungry, but disowns
the empty rich, who stumble;
he tears the mighty from their thrones,
exalts the meek and humble.**

**Remembering Israel by his plan,
his merciful endeavour,
the promise made to Abraham,
and to his seed forever,
he is eternally confessed,
enrolled in sacred pages.
To Father, Son, and Spirit blessed,
be glory down the ages.**

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2.33-35

Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory.

Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice. Harden not your hearts.

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 Luke

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.

Sit

THE SERMON

A brief period of silence may follow for us to reflect on the address and the readings today, then the priest invites us to stand to declare our faith.

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,
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.**

Please sit or kneel to pray

THE INTERCESSIONS

During the prayers we may use this or another response

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers:

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

THE PEACE

We are the Body of Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

We greet those around us in the peace of Christ, shaking hands and saying "peace be with you."

OFFERTORY HYMN

Tune: Aurelia (The Church's one foundation)

**Our Father God in heaven
On whom our world depends,
To you let praise be given
For families and friends;
For parents, sisters, brothers,
A home where love belongs,
But on this day for mothers
We bring our thankful songs.**

**What wealth of God's bestowing
For all the world to share!
What strength of heart outgoing
To children everywhere!
Our deepest joys and sorrows
A mother's path must trace,
And earth's unknown tomorrows
Are held in her embrace.**

How well we know the story

**That tells of Jesus' birth,
The Lord of heaven's glory
Become a child of earth;
A helpless infant sleeping,
Yet King of realms above,
To find in Mary's keeping
The warmth of human love.**

**Our Father God in heaven,
To you we lift our prayer,
That every child be given
Such tenderness and care,
Where life is all for others,
Where love your love displays:
For God's good gift of mothers
Let earth unite in praise!**

When the altar is prepared and the collection received the president leads the offertory prayers

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread
to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.
Blessed be God for ever.

Generous God, as we gather around your table called and welcomed by Christ we present this
money, symbol of all the gifts you give to us.
**use it, use us, in the service of your world
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

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 singing:

**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.**

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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 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.

We kneel or sit as silence is kept before 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.**

The priest breaks the consecrated bread, saying

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.**

The priest invites the people to receive Communion, and says

Jesus is 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.**

We sing together

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

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

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

**Here we sing our great thanksgiving,
Tell again God's tale of love:
Sin undone, for Christ's self-giving
Breathes forgiveness from above,
Here we make our humble offering:
All we have, yet more we owe;
So the heavenly celebration
Finds an echo here below.**

**Here we take the bread from heaven,
Broken, torn, the crumbs we share;
Here we drink the living fountain,
Quench our thirst, our souls repair.
Here recall Christ's loving passion,
Arms spread wide, he bore our pain;
Suffering servant, scorned Messiah,
God's own loss has bought our gain.**

**Here Christ's love is shared among us,
All are welcomed, none left out.
Here God's reconciling Spirit
Brings an end to fear and doubt.
Let our hands be made for healing,
May our tongues speak words of peace;
Let God's justice rule for ever,
And his righteousness increase.**

COMMUNION HYMN

Tune Blaenwern (Love divine)

**Here may we receive our mission,
Her accept your gracious call.
Speak again your great commission:
Show the Way of Life to all.
Send us, Lord, to live your gospel,
Christ's new body let us be.
Then at last around your table,
All may feast eternally.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Once communion has been shared we stand when the priest invites us to pray.

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

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

NOTICES

We sit to listen to any notices about parish events.

PRAYERS AND FLOWERS FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

For the care of mothers;
Thanks be to God.

For their patience when tested;
Thanks be to God.

For their love when tired;
Thanks be to God.

For their hope when despairing;
Thanks be to God.

For their service without limit;
Thanks be to God.

Other words of thanksgiving may be added as appropriate.

*The Children distribute flowers, first to their own mothers and then to the rest of the congregation.
At the end of the distribution of flowers, we all say this prayer.*

**Thank you God for the love of our mothers:
thank you God for their care and concern;
thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;
thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;
thank you God for all that they give us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Stand

THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you
And also with you

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us:
may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us
Amen

May God, who broods over us as a mother
over her children, bless us.
Amen

May almighty God bless us,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.
Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Tune All things Bright and Beautiful

***All our blessings, all our joys
With thankful hearts we sing,
God of love and faithfulness,
Accept the praise we bring.***

For parents and for children,

**For partners and for friends,
For those whose care enfolds us
With love that never ends.**

All our blessings...

**For fellowship and friendship
For all we have to,
For those who've shared our journey
And taught us how to live.**

All our blessings...

**For all who've shared our sorrow,
Walked with us in our pain,
Who've held our hand through darkness
And showed us light again.**

All our blessings...

**In sacrifice and service
Your love is clearly shown,
Your outstretched arms embrace us
to bring us safely home.**

*All our blessings, all our joys
With thankful hearts we sing,
God of love and faithfulness,
Accept the praise we bring.*