

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES



Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday - 14th March 2021

Read Colossians 3.12-17

***You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion
in your family.***



Today is Mothering Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent. It's often called Mothers' Day but that is really the name of an American celebration of mothers which started in 1908. Mothering Sunday is a much older Christian celebration linked to "mother church". Traditionally, it was a day when children, daughters who had gone to work as domestic servants and sons who were working as apprentices, were given a day off to visit their mother and family. It was quite common for children to leave home and go to work once they were ten years old. They would not have had many chances to go home, so Mothering Sunday became very important for them. Imagine how homesick they were. How would you have felt if you could only go home and see your family once or twice a year?

Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return to their home or "mother" church once a year. So, each year on one Sunday in Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area. It became an occasion for family reunions when the children who were working away returned home.



As they walked along the country lanes, the children would pick wild flowers to take to church or give to their mother as a small gift. Some girls who were in domestic service were allowed to bake a small cake to take home with them. The cake was usually a Simnel Cake, a fruit cake with marzipan inside it. Have you ever had Simnel Cake? Do you know why the cake has marzipan balls on the top? This is where our tradition of giving flowers or sweets to our mothers comes from.

Have you made a card for your mother or given her a gift today? Have you done something for her to show that you love her?

The season of Lent is a serious time in the church and it is the tradition to have no flowers in church during Lent. But the rules are relaxed for this Sunday – this is a joyful day in the middle of Lent. We make posies of flowers to give to women in the parish and we say "Thank you" to God in our prayers for our mothers and for "mother church". We think about all the ways in which our mothers show their love for us – and we think of God's love

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for us. What would you like to say “Thank you” for? Think of all the ways in which your mother looks after you and cares for you.

Some people find this a difficult day because their mother has died or is not living nearby. Some women who wanted to be mothers were not able to have a baby and so they find it a sad day. Say a prayer for all those people who find this day difficult, asking God to bless them and give them a sense of peace.

Activity

- Hannah Dunnnett is a Christian artist who combines words and phrases from the Bible with pictures of houses, birds, boats, trees, flowers etc. Look at her website (www.benandhannahdunnnett.com) then see if you can create a picture like hers using some of the words from today’s Bible reading (Colossians 3.12-17), such as compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, love, peace, and thankfulness.

Prayer

**Lord, be with us in the laughter and tears of family life
so that we may know your living presence.**

**Help us to strengthen our relationships with our family, friends and neighbours
and deepen our love for one another.**

Amen.