



THE BENEFICE of PONTEFRACT

ST GILES'

with ST MARY'S

A Song of St Anselm

Jesus, like a mother
You gather Your people to You;
You are gentle with us
as a mother with her children.
Despair turns to hope
through Your sweet goodness;
through Your gentleness
we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth
gives life to the dead,
Your touch
makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus,
in Your mercy heal us;
in Your love and tenderness
remake us.
In Your compassion
bring grace and forgiveness.
for the beauty of heaven
may Your love prepare us.



Mothering Sunday
The Fourth Sunday of Lent
10th March 2024, 10.15 a.m.

We welcome you to this celebration of Parish Mass
for Mothering Sunday

Today's setting for mass is Oldroyd - The Mass of the Quiet Hour.

People of all denominations who are in good standing with their own church are welcome to come and receive communion. If you wish to receive a blessing, please come to the altar carrying this order of service.

Please let clergy or a churchwarden know at the beginning of the service if you need a gluten-free host.

5 minutes before the service begins, a bell will ring to signal that a period of quiet reflection is kept during which you may wish to use this prayer.

**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**

A bell is rung to begin our worship.

Parish Giving

It costs us at least £2,000 per week to carry out our ministry, mission and basic maintenance of this lovely building. One off cash donations can be made in the box in reception just by the entrance door into church. Contactless payments can be made using our free-standing contactless giving machine located in church. It is also possible to donate using our QR code which links to a safe and secure 'Give a little' payment portal which is compliant with GDPR, PCI & PCI-DSS.

1. Open your phone camera 2. Scan the QR code 3. Click the link displayed 4. Donate



The Gathering

Introit Hymn (285)

**For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,**

**Lord of all, to Thee 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,**

Lord of all, ...

**For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and brain's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight,**

Lord of all, ...

**For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,**

Lord of all, ...

**For each perfect gift of Thine
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,**

Lord of all, ...

**For Thy Church that evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
this pure sacrifice of love,**

Lord of all, ...



✠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.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said

Invitation to confession

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,
though we have rebelled against him.

Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask his mercy
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence for reflection

Prayer of Penitence

Your love gives us life from the moment of conception.

We fail to live as your children.

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

You call us to do good. We seek our own good.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

You hear us when we cry for help. We ignore the cries of others.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

The president says

May the God of love and power

✠forgive you and free you from your sins,

heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,

and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

Christe Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy

The Collect for Mothering Sunday

Let us pray.

Silence is kept

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

First Reading

Exodus 2.1-10

A reading from the book of Exodus.

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.



Second Reading

2 Colossians 3: 12-17

A reading from the epistle of Paul to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

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.

cf Psalm 95.3, 8

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory

Gospel Reading

Luke 2.33-35

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 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.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

A Prayer for the Benefice

Faithful God,

**During this vacancy, fill us with vision and joy
and keep us faithful in prayer, word and worship.**

Guard and grow our church as we serve you together.

**Help us to share responsibility, grow in faith,
love one another, care for those in need,
reach out to others, and welcome newcomers and visitors.**

**Sustain those in interim leadership,
and bless Ian, our next Vicar, as he prepares to join us.**

**Ever-living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
may we see your kingdom come here in Pontefract,
to the glory of your name.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father.

After each prayer: Lord, in your mercy
 hear our prayer.

We pray for those for whom prayers have been requested:

Lynn; Beryl; Marion; Richard; Brenda; Victoria; Terry; Joe & Mark; Janis Gallagher; Mary Sambrooks; Linda Sambrooks; Cath Godridge; Rhys Williams; Angela Hyomes; David Murray; Andrew Leach; Janet Hickling; Jenny Attwood (Priest); Margaret Kidger; Christine Campbell; Barrie Sowerby; Margaret Tonks; Flora Brook.

We pray for those who have recently died:

Owen Murray; Kathleen Battye; Catherine McArdle; Margaret Edwards; Conor Hurst; Tyler Wilson.

Those whose year's mind falls at this time

Mary Conway; Kenneth Wilson Frankland; Claire Jennings; Alan John Spedding; Terry Taylor; Kath Taylor.

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says,
'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.'

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Altar

Offertory Hymn (185)

**Sing we of the blessed Mother
who received the angels word,
And obedient to his summons
bore in love the infant Lord;
Sing we of the Joys of Mary
at whose breast that child was fed
Who is Son of God eternal
and the everlasting Bread.**

**Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
of the sword that pierced her through,
When beneath the cross of Jesus
she his weight of suffering knew,
Looked upon her Son and Saviour
reigning high on Calvary's tree,
Saw the price of man's redemption
paid to set the sinner free.**



***Sing again the joys of Mary
when she saw the risen Lord,
And in prayer with Christ's apostles,
waited on his promised word:
From on high the blazing glory
of the Spirit's presence came,
Heavenly breath of God's own being,
Tokened in the wind and flame.***

***Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
when on earth her work was done,
And the Lord of all creation
brought her to his heavenly home:
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,
Raised on high and crowned with grace,
May your Son, the world's redeemer,
Grant us all to see his face.***

G.B. Timms (1910-1997)

Taking of the Bread and Wine

God of mercy and compassion,
your Word calls us home to faith and love.
accept all we offer you this day;
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen.

Prayer over the Gifts

Pray, my brothers and sisters
that this my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice
at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name.
for our good
and the good of all his church.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Please be seated.

Let us pray.

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory:
Glory be to thee, O Lord most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.

He broke it and gave it to them, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with Our Lady, Giles and all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,

with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As God's children, and heirs with Christ, we cry in the Spirit, 'Abba', Father.

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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.**

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion.

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

The clergy and people receive communion.

Organ Voluntary

Hymn (161)

**For Mary, Mother of the Lord
God's holy name be praised,
Who first the Son of God adored
As on her child she gazed.**

**The angel Gabriel brought the word
She should Christ's mother be;
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,
Made answer willingly.**

**The heavenly call she thus obeyed,
And so God's will was done;
The second Eve love's answer made
Which 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.**

J.R.Peacey (1896-1971)

Choir Anthem

Ave Maria - Jacques Arcadelt (1507-1568)

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Let us 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.**

Notices are given.

Distribution of Flowers

Loving God may your blessing be upon the flowers which have been distributed in your name. We give thanks for all mothers and those who have been as mothers to us in our lives. May the flowers also remind us how much you value each one of us, because we are all your children. Amen.

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless you:
may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless you:
may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless you.
May almighty God bless you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.
Amen.

Hymn (137)

**Come down, O Love divine,
seek Thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with Thine own ardour glowing.**

**O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;
and let Thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**

**Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.**

**And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling.**

Italian, Santo Bianco da Siena (d. 1434);
tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)

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

The clergy leave.

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