**Morning Praise @ Home 27th March 2022**

**Mothering Sunday**

**Opening prayer**

Blessed are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing; enable us by your power to be true to our calling and live holy and blameless lives before you all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**Confession** 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** cf Psalm 51

**Absolution** May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image

to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Bible Readings Romans 12: 9 – 16 Luke 1: 39 – 56

**Reflection from Ruth**

In our reading this morning we hear Mary’s song, otherwise known as the Magnificat. It’s one of the most famous songs in Christianity. It’s been whispered in monasteries, chanted in cathedrals, recited in small remote churches by evening candlelight, and set to music with trumpets and kettledrums by Johann Sebastian Bach. It’s the gospel before the gospel, a fierce bright shout of triumph 30 weeks before Bethlehem, 30 years before Calvary and Easter. It goes with a swing and a clap and a stamp. It’s all about God, and it’s all about revolution. And it’s all because of Jesus – Jesus who’s only just been conceived, not yet born, but who has made Elisabeth’s baby leap for joy in her womb and has made Mary giddy with excitement and hope and triumph. In many cultures today, it’s the women who really know how to celebrate, to sing and dance, with their bodies and voices saying things far deeper than words. That’s how Mary’s song comes across here.
Mary and Elisabeth shared a dream. It was the ancient dream of Israel: the dream that one day all that the prophets had said would come true. One day Israel’s God would do what he had said to Israel’s earliest ancestors: all nations would be blessed through Abraham’s family. But for that to happen, the powers that kept the world in slavery had to be toppled. Nobody would normally thank God for blessing if they were poor, hungry, enslaved and miserable. God would have to win a victory over the bullies, the power-brokers, the forces of evil which people like Mary and Elisabeth knew all too well, living as they did in the dark days of Herod the Great, whose casual brutality was backed up with the threat of Rome. Mary and Elisabeth, like so many Jews of their time, searched the scriptures, soaked themselves in the psalms and prophetic writings which spoke of mercy, hope, fulfilment, reversal, revolution, victory over evil, and of God coming to the rescue at last.

**Affirmation of faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ

known in the world? **We believe and trust in him. This is the faith of the Church.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Prayers of intercession led by Ann**

This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep. For this day is holy to the Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

On this special day we ask your blessing on our closest relationships. We give thanks for the love and protection of our parents for their children, and in particular for the way mothers care for and nurture their families. We ask for your strength and patience for parents who find bringing up children to be particularly stressful.

Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer**

On this special day we ask your blessing on our families. At home we are most truly ourselves, and seen at our best and at our worst. Give us grace to be able both to forgive and to be forgiven, and to learn the value of honesty, fairness and gentleness in all our close communication.

Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer**

On this special day we give you thanks for the Church, which has been there for us from our childhood up. Thank you for the good things in the Church which have nourished us and helped us to grow – the love, the extended family, the holy food of Communion. Make us mature members of the Church, able to give back our love, our time and energy, that the Church may continue to make real the good news of Jesus.

Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer**

On this special day we give you thanks for your tender strength as you offer to carry us all, in our human families and our church family, into the joyful maturity of the children of God. We praise you Lord, and ask you to bless us.

Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer**

On this special day we ask your blessing on those for whom family life has meant anguish and disappointment. Please heal their painful memories with the loving presence of your Spirit, and give them grace to step hopefully into their future.

Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Loving God, our heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus Christ cared for the welfare of everyone and went about doing good; grant us the imagination and perseverance to create in this county and throughout the world a just, loving society for the family of man; make us agents of your compassion to the suffering, the persecuted and the oppressed, through the Spirit of your Son, who shared the suffering of men, our pattern and redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer**

May we obey like Mary and work hard like Joseph, and may the childlike joy and devotion and love of Jesus be with us as we continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, to whom be glory now and for all eternity. **Amen**

**The Mothers' Union Prayer**

Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus' name. **Amen**

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

**The Lord’s Prayer** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

***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 today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

**Closing prayer**

God give you grace to become the people He has called you to be,

that you may live and work to his praise and glory,

and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

be with us and remain with us always. **Amen**

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