



**St Margaret Mary,  
Birmingham**  
**LENT IV Laetare Sunday**  
*Mothering Sunday*  
**14<sup>th</sup> March, 2021**

Priest: ✠ In the name of the  
Father and of the Son and of the  
Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: **And with your Spirit.**

Confiteor: I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I  
have failed to do, through my fault,  
through my fault, through my most  
grievous fault; therefore I ask  
blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest: May Almighty God have  
mercy upon us, forgive us our sins  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

**First reading: 2 Chronicles 36** The  
rebuilding of the Temple

**Psalm response:** *O let my tongue  
cleave to my mouth if I remember  
you not!*

**Second reading: Ephesians 2.4-10**  
*You have been saved by grace.*

Gospel acclamation: *God so loved  
the world so much that he gave his  
only Son: everyone who believes in  
him has eternal life.*

**Gospel: John 3.14-21** *God sent  
his son into the world to save the  
world*

### **Homily**

**Nicene Creed** I believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things, visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only begotten Son of God, born  
of the Father before all ages, God  
from God, Light from Light, true God  
from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial  
with the Father; through him all  
things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he  
came down from heaven,

*and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day 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.

I 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 adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Offertory** Pray Brethren that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

All: **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 holy Church.**

**Sanctus:** Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. 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.

**The Mystery of faith: Save us, saviour of the world, for by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.**

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper of the Lamb.

All: **Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

**Notices** \* Figures from 7/3/2021:  
Loose £257.97, Gift Aid: £151.50,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Cathedral  
Maintenance: £118.99;  
Attendance: 120

\* We have appointed **Mr Vincent Byrne as Organist and Choirmaster** of the parish. Vincent will play at the Sunday 11am Mass and for Feast Days and Holy Week.

\* Please would you let Fr Simon know if you can form a **cleaning team** for Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 10am -11.30am.

\* 12-19 March is Dementia Prayer week.

\* The UK **Census** is a unique survey that happens every 10 years and it is coming on 21 March. By taking part, you can help inform decisions on services that shape your community, such as healthcare, education and transport. It's important that you fill in your census questionnaire. Your details are protected by law and information published is always anonymous. Households will receive a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on computers, phones or tablets and paper questionnaires can be requested if preferred. For more information, and to find out how to get help, visit [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk) or call the contact centre on 0800 141 2021 (after March 1st).

\* **Street Pastors** initiative will begin in Erdington. If you are interested in this role, or in offering supportive prayer, or logistical help or as a Trustee, please watch this space. The launch will be 27 March at 1pm.

\* We have just made **18 new voluntary appointments** of those working with children/vulnerable

adults – who have been through the DBS checks.

\* Covid update – we urge all to receive the **vaccination**, when invited. **This is the sure way that we can bring this pandemic to its conclusion.**

\* **Covid survey:** Please complete a new Archdiocese survey reflecting on your experiences during the pandemic. Responses will help the Archdiocese to understand what effect the pandemic has had, and how we move forward. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete and can be found on the homepage of the diocesan website <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/> There is also a further piece of research being carried out in Dublin (Mater Dei Institute), who welcome responses: <https://www.catholicvoices.org.uk/survey>

\* The Governing Body of St Margaret Mary School, Perry Common, Birmingham are currently seeking to recruit a new **Headteacher** for 1 September, 2021. We are keen to attract as wide a field of suitably qualified and experienced applicants as possible.

**Closing date: 9am, Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2021**

**Interviews: Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.** Details available from the school website:

<https://www.stmgmry.bham.sch.uk/>

\* **Our foodbank - we need fresh donations please.** Please phone Carmel Dowdall on 07943 577638 if you have foodbank enquiries.

\* **St Chad's Sanctuary** would still love donations of food and toiletries, specifically:

food - baked beans, tinned fish (tuna, sardines etc), rice oil

toiletries - especially shaving foam and razors

things for new born baby packs - (NOT CLOTHES) muslins, dummies, bibs, etc

We would also now be able to accept certain clothing donations, specifically:

Men's t-shirts/ Men's coats

Men's jumpers

\*The Knights of St Columba are supporting Sifa Fireside this Lent. Please help them raise £1000 by making a donation to help the homeless and vulnerable. Please donate on line:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/KSC293>

Please contact Nicholas Bartleet for further information 07778 857369

\*John and Janet Coffey will soon be collecting your APF (Missio) Red Boxes. Please would you bring into the sacristy over the next two weeks.

\* [www.portal.mag.uk](http://www.portal.mag.uk) is out for March on Monday. There is now a weekly podcast available on: <https://soundcloud.com/user-666404058>

### \*Prayers for the departed:

Phillip Fisher, Patrick Joseph Kelly, Mother Mary Teresa SSM, Fr Pat Joyce, The Most Revd Philip Tartaglia, Mgr Mark Langham, Annie Teresa Walsh, Janet Miller, Fr Giles Goward, Patrick Fullerton, Paul Lewsley, Eileen Brenda Fennell, Daniel Kerr, Lucian Nethsingha, Barbara Burnham, Martha Ugwu, Frank Charles, Terrence Doyle, Ladislav Balaz, Anna Baharewicz, Thomas Doyle, Mary Margaret Parrott

## SYCAMORE

### Virtual Lent discussion group 7pm-8pm

THE GIFT OF FAITH (16 Mar)

FINDING TRUE FREEDOM (23 Mar)

THE MEANING OF LOVE (30 Mar)

**THIS WEEK** Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm  
Mass (Kerry Parkes). LENT IV.

Sun 14<sup>th</sup> March **LENT IV Mothering Sunday. Laetare (Refreshment) Sunday**  
9.30am Mass (Our Mothers) 11am Mass  
(Fr Ivan Weston, Ord)

Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> March. 7pm Mass (Those suffering with dementia, and their carers)

Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> Mar 8.55am Rosary.  
9.15am Mass (Joanne Edwards RIP).  
7pm-8pm, Sycamore Zoom Lent course 4:  
The gift of faith.

Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> **ST PATRICK, Patron of Ireland.** 8.35am Adoration. 9.15am Mass  
(Fr Pat Joyce RIP/Patrick J. Conway RIP)

Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> **ST JOSEPH.** 9.15am Mass (The Holy Souls in Purgatory). 6.30pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Mass (Anthony Cartwright). LENT V. Passiontide

Sun 14<sup>th</sup> March **LENT V Passion Sunday**

9.30am Mass (Josie Fahey) 11am Mass

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Birmingham, B23 7AB

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The parish is part of the Archdiocese of  
Birmingham, Reg. Charity No. 234216

Working in collaboration with the Ordinariate  
of Our Lady of Walsingham &

Our Lady of the Assumption, Maryvale and  
Christ the King, Kingstanding.



## **HOLY WEEK AT ST MARGARET MARY 2021**

**27<sup>th</sup> March Vigil Mass with blessing of palms.**

**Palm Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 9.30am and 11am Mass**

**Maundy Thursday, 1st April, 7.30pm**

**MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**Good Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2pm Stations of the Cross;  
3pm DIVINE LITURGY.**

**Holy Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 11am 'Świecenie potraw  
Wielkanocnych' - the Polish Tradition of the blessing of  
baskets.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> April 8.30pm EASTER VIGIL MASS**

**EASTER DAY, 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL 9.30am and 11am MASS**

*No booking required for any mass, but our Covid procedures are in place and  
our capacity is 80.*

**ST MARGARET MARY PARISH, BIRMINGHAM B23 7AB. (0121) 373 0069 or  
07985 753391**



**PASTORAL LETTER  
OF THE  
MOST REVEREND BERNARD LONGLEY  
ARCHBISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM  
FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, 13/14 MARCH 2021**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

*When we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ.*

It is a great joy to greet you today as we reach the mid-point of Lent. Our journey together to Easter is well on its way and the Church wishes to raise our spirits by calling this Laetare Sunday – a day to share the happiness of our faith in Christ. By custom this is also Mothering Sunday and I would like to greet all the mothers present at Mass today – and those taking part through live-streaming - and to thank them for their loving example.

The season of Lent this year has taken on an extra significance. Our annual penitential journey from darkness into light, through the cross to the Resurrection, is mirrored by our struggle to overcome the coronavirus. We share with the rest of the world the hopeful journey from the worries and losses and restrictions of the pandemic towards the relative freedom that restored health and the guarantee of vaccination can bring.

Looking ahead, this year the ceremonies of Holy Week will be simpler and shorter than usual, but it is still a great blessing that we can come together to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of the Lord's death and Resurrection. This represents the very core of our faith and we catch a resonant echo of it in today's scripture readings.

St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians points us to what is really important: *God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy.* The love of God is merciful – it brings forgiveness. The cross of Christ is the most powerful instrument and symbol of God's mercy and forgiveness. This gift is needed more than ever in a world that is inclined to withhold forgiveness and the healing that it brings.

Last weekend Pope Francis was in Iraq. Last Sunday he visited Mosul and met with the Christians who are still there after so much persecution. They gathered to greet him in Church Square, surrounded by the ruins of their churches, yet joyful that the Holy Father had come as a sign of hope for the future. At the heart of his message was the Lord's gift of forgiveness:

*Jesus not only cleanses us of our sins, but gives us a share in his own power and wisdom. He liberates us from the narrow and divisive notions of family, faith and community that divide, oppose and exclude, so that we can build a Church and a society open to everyone and concerned for our brothers and sisters in greatest need. At the same time, he strengthens us to resist the temptation to seek revenge, which only plunges us into a spiral of endless retaliation.*

We see the depths and power of God's loving forgiveness, according to St Paul, when we understand that it is being offered to us and is effective even **before** we repent: *When we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ.* The challenge is there - for us to forgive those who may have hurt or wronged us even before they have shown that they are sorry.

*Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.* It can be a struggle for us to love those who oppose our faith and reject its message but there can be no evangelisation without love. Love requires us to overcome the indignation or hurt we may feel in the face of opposition and to show forgiveness and understanding.

A priest friend of mine – in another diocese - taught me an important lesson about acceptance and forgiveness. He had a particularly difficult parishioner who – for several complex reasons – found fault with everything he did. I asked the priest whether he resented this criticism but he replied: *No – this parishioner has become my Guardian Angel – he stops me making mistakes and he makes me think twice.*

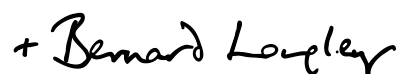
I wish I could always be as generous as that! It is the little things that we do that make all the difference. In the remaining weeks of Lent we can try to be forgiving. We may not be able to kiss the wood of the cross this Good Friday but we can each bring a personal act of forgiveness to the crucified Lord, lifted up for our salvation, and ask to be forgiven ourselves. *The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.*

This coming Wednesday we celebrate the feast of St Patrick, who in the fifth-century brought the same Gospel of repentance and forgiveness to the people of Ireland. Despite having been held there in captivity as a slave for six years he didn't go back to seek revenge. Instead, in a spirit of forgiveness he went to preach the Gospel and to share the gift of faith. Please pray for the people of Ireland - and of Nigeria - on their patronal feastday.

Friday of this week will be an important feastday for the universal Church. We are celebrating the Year of St Joseph, proclaimed by Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*. The Holy Father writes: *In Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God: "As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him"*. St Joseph quietly witnessed to the power of forgiveness in the life of the Holy Family, leaving an impression that lay deep within the Sacred Heart.

With such witnesses to encourage us there can be nothing to hold us back from the forgiveness of God. *When we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ.* May we all catch a glimpse of the joy and the new life of Easter today, lightening our burdens and lifting our hearts in thankful praise.

Yours devotedly in Christ



✠Bernard Longley  
Archbishop of Birmingham

Given at Birmingham on the 11 March 2021 and appointed to be read in all Churches and Chapels of the Archdiocese on the Fourth Sunday of Lent (13/14 March 2021).