

# The Diocese of Blackburn



## Prayer and worship at home

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
(Mothering Sunday)

*If a household are praying together, one person may act as leader and the others as the congregation and they join in the words in bold type.*

*If alone, read all the words aloud.*

*You may want to light a candle before you begin, and have a Bible, cross or crucifix to look at.*

*You might prepare for this act of worship by listening to some music, or by being still*

### Preparation

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

The Lord is here  
**His Spirit is with us.**

### Prayers of Penitence

*Today we give thanks to God for all mothers, living and departed, and we pray for the Church worldwide, sometimes referred to as "Mother Church."*

*We remember too those for whom this day is difficult...*

*As we pray, we reflect on the week that has passed and ask the Lord for his forgiveness and healing.*

**God of mercy,  
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.  
We turn from the wrong that we have  
thought and said  
and done,  
and are mindful of all that we have failed to  
do.  
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,  
forgive us for all that is past,  
and help us to live each day  
in the light of Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

### Words of forgiveness

May the God of love and power  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### The Special Prayer for this week

O God,  
you hold our life within you,  
labour with us,  
and bring us forth to life and love.  
Help us so to receive your tenderness  
and respond to your challenge  
that others may draw life from us.  
We ask this through Jesus,  
our brother and friend.  
**Amen.**

### The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING: Colossians 3:12-17

You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you. And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity.

The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in one body. And be thankful.

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL READING: John 19:25-27

Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, "Here is your son."

Then he said to the disciple, "She is your mother." From that time the disciple took her to live in his home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Affirmation of faith

With our Christian brothers and sisters, we affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every  
name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ  
is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

*cf Philippians 2.6-11*

## Prayers of intercession

*(Here you may wish to offer prayer in your own words, or be prompted by the words here)*

*We pray for our world, especially at this time of anxiety and fear...*

*We pray for our nation and its well-being...*

*We pray for neighbours, family and friends and we remember all those self-isolating at the moment...*

*We pray for all who are sick, worried or anxious, and for those who feel cut off from loved ones...*

*We pray for all those in the nursing and caring professions, and for our emergency services...*

## The Lord's Prayer

Joining with Christians throughout the world, 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 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 Grace

*We conclude our prayers*

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all, evermore.**



## Readings for the coming week:

Monday	Psalm 25	John 4:43-end
Tuesday	Psalm 79	John 5:1-16
Wednesday	Psalm 113	Luke 1:26-38
Thursday	Psalm 15	John 5:31-end
Friday	Psalm 16	John 7:25-30
Saturday	Psalm 140	John 7:40-52

