

Mothering Sunday

This Sunday is Mothering Sunday. A day which often falls near the Church's celebration of St Joseph's day (19th March) and The Feast of The Annunciation; when Mary was told that she would be the mother of Jesus (25th March).

Mothering Sunday is also known as Refreshment Sunday – because although ALL Sundays are exempt from the Lenten fast – on Mothering Sunday it seems even more appropriate to celebrate as a family free from Lenten restraints. An opportunity for all to enjoy some refreshment during a solemn season.

The whole nation, indeed the whole world, feels that we are in a very solemn season during the current outbreak of Coronavirus Covid 19.

It's shadow hangs over us all like a dark pall and all of us – whether you are isolating for medical reasons or not, have become more isolated from one another as we heed the advice not to leave our homes or travel unnecessarily.

All Public worship has been suspended so from this week, we at St John's will be putting a weekly service on our web-site – A time of prayer and worship; of Bible readings and a short address – we hope that it will provide a corporate and community point of contact for us all..both an opportunity for those who are regular churchgoers to continue in their weekly devotions but also an opportunity for all in our parish and beyond..to connect, to pray and to find hope in dark times.

Setting aside some time to know that God is with us always and that God's love will never fail.

We hope to make the text of the service and prayers available on the website alongside these videoed services. You may wish to light a candle as you watch and listen.

Be assured of our prayers for you as you pray for others. And if you have special needs at this time please do ring our parish office. We will try and help as best as we can.

If you are out for a walk or for shopping in town please be aware that our churches are open at certain times for private prayer. Notices at the churches and on this website will keep you up to date on when those times are.

We hope that these places of beauty, worship and prayer – standing as they do to the glory of God will offer some kind of sanctuary and hope throughout this time.

Mothering Sunday this year will bring a great deal of sadness, as those who would otherwise have been together are physically separated from one another.

But we can think of one another and pray for one another and use the phone to keep in touch.

May God our loving parent: Father and Mother of all be our source of strength, our comfort and our joy now and always.

Amen