

Turn back to page 178 for the Lord's Prayer, etc.

Hymn at the Invitation: Far down the ages now.

Anthem: Maria, Mater gratiae.

*On gold paper.*

*Fauré.*

*On gold paper.*

All stand after the anthem for the Post-Communion Prayer (page 422), followed by

The Parish Funding Prayer (said together for the last time in this slot):

*Lord, bless our parish church,*

*and bless what we seek to do:*

*for the good of your Church,*

*and to your greater glory;*

*through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

The Blessing and Dismissal.

Hymn: Onward, Christian soldiers.

*On gold paper.*

### 1100 CHRISTIAN FAMILY PRAISE FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

*There is a separate leaflet for this service.*

#### 1800 Evening Prayer.

#### In church this week.

Tuesday 1000 Holy Communion

Friday 1200 Holy Communion

#### Other events and notices

Monday Holy Communion to the household.

Tuesday 2000 Ewell Village Fair. Second Planning Meeting, in the

Welcome Area. Come in through the main door. Anyone can

come to this meeting, not just those who are already involved in

the Fair. At the same time in the Parish Room.

**2000 Reasons for Christian Belief.**  
*Five evenings with Dr Patrick Miller.*  
Tonight: **WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT JESUS CHRIST?**  
Coffee from 1930.

Wednesday

1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. Everyone

welcome for coffee (or tea) and biscuits and *conversazione*. Today

there is a welcome return visit from **Iain McKillop**, who will be

giving an illustrated talk at 1100, entitled **Painting the Passion**.

1200 Vicar attends the Executive of the Federation of Catholic

Priests at Faith House, Westminster.

2000 Meeting of the Ewell Parochial Trustees.

Friday

#### Next Sunday.

An unusually normal Sunday (the next one will be 10 April): a

good time for the normal Sunday routine to take over after a pretty hectic few weeks

at St Mary's, and before Holy Week gets under way one week later. There are some

adjustments to the Holy Week timetable this year, and Ewell Parish News has all the

details. There will be Stations of the Cross next Sunday at 1800 in the main church.

## St Mary the Virgin EWELL PARISH CHURCH

(020 8393 2643)

www.stmarysewell.com

### WEEKLY NOTES

6 March 2005



MOTHER

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

*Mothering Sunday*

**Sponsor's Note:** On Mothering Sunday the Notes are in fond memory of my own mother, Daisy Errington Howard, and of her brother, Walter John Brettell, whose birthday was today. *Margaret Howard.*

This is an important day for St Mary's. 'Mothering Sunday' is in fact quite low down on the list of important days in the Christian Calendar, but it is, nevertheless, one which has captured the imagination of English Christians in particular, and we shall be expecting to see many visitors at the 11 o'clock service today. Amongst these there will be some who are returning to St Mary's to collect the documentation after Christian baptism at an informal rite of Welcome at the conclusion of the 1100 service. They will be coming to Mother Church to receive something from her; and that, of course, is what we all do Sunday by Sunday as we come to hear the word of God and to receive the holy sacraments. In this sense, Mother Church means the Universal Church, into which we are all baptized, not just the local parish church. Yet that local church will always be a special place to those who have begun their Christian life here at our fifteenth-century font.

I have written about the concept of Mother Church in this month's *Ewell Parish News*. However, for us today there is the more local aspect which for once is uppermost in our minds. Today, at the conclusion of the Parish Funding Programme, we shall be giving thanks for what has been achieved, as the results of the programme are made known to the congregation at the Parish Eucharist. The last verse of the Scottish metrical Psalm 122, quoted in EPN, gently puts us in the right mood:

Now for my friends and brethren's sake,

Peace be in thee, I'll say;

And, for the house of God the Lord,

I'll seek thy good always.

Many people have been re-assessing the way in which they are seeking the good of the local house of the Lord. Today we give thanks for all that, and for all the hard work which has been put into the whole enterprise; and now we start to look ahead with renewed confidence. W.R.H.

*Sharing the love of Christ, the Light of the world, with the people of Ewell.*

**Our prayers today.** We pray for our church and parish, giving thanks for what has been achieved through the Parish Funding Programme. In the worldwide Anglican Communion we pray for the Church in the troubled land of Rwanda; in the diocese for the Diocesan Ministry Course, and in the parish we pray for those who belong to the Mothers' Union, and for the people who live in Park Hill Road.

*Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today. Please make yourselves known, and join us for coffee in the church hall across the road between the 0930 and 1100 services.*

## SUNDAY SERVICES

### 0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1 in traditional language: page 207.  
Eucharistic Prayer C: page 191.

### Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 467  
Proper Preface: page 308

### 0930 PARISH EUCHARIST

*Service of thanksgiving at the end of the Parish Funding Programme.*

### Common Worship rite

The children of 'Children's Hour' will be at the 1100 service today.

Crèche available in church.

Order 1: page 167.  
Eucharistic Prayer A: page 184.

Collect of the Day: page 410 (*sic*).

Proper Preface: page 308.

All musical details are on a separate paper today. This includes the words of all the hymns. Readings are on *this* paper. No hymn books are needed today.

*Note:* Immediately before the service the tune for the hymn 'O loving God' will be played on the organ; it can be followed on the gold paper. (We have not had this tune before, but it is very fine, and it suits Ancliffe's Prince's words admirably.) It will be played through again in full, just before it is actually sung during the service.

Introit Hymn: Praise to the Lord.

Introduction, the Prayers of Penitence and *Kyrie eleison*

Collect of the Day: page 410

New Testament Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

*On gold paper.*

Galatians 4:26-31

*JERUSALEM, OUR MOTHER.*

*This strange and complicated passage about the 'two covenants' is, at the end of the day, the source of the entire Mothering Sunday observance.*

Tell me now, you that are so anxious to be under law, will you not listen to what the law says? It is written there that Abraham had two sons, the one by a slave, the other by a free-born woman. The slave's son was born in the ordinary course of nature, but the free woman's through God's promise. This is an allegory: the two women stand for two covenants. The one covenant comes from Mount Sinai; that is Hagar, and her children are born into slavery. Sinai is a mountain in Arabia and represents the Jerusalem of today, for she and her children are in slavery. But the heavenly Jerusalem

is the free woman; she is our Mother. For scripture says, "Rejoice, O barren woman who never bore a child; break into a shout of joy, you who have never been in labour, for the deserted wife will have more children than she who lives with her husband." Now you, my friends, like Isaac, are the children of God's promise.

Gradual hymn: The Church of God is Mother of her children. *On gold paper.*  
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John.

St John 6: 1-14.

*REFRESHMENT: THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND.*

*'Refreshment' is another theme of the Fourth Sunday in Lent. This account is often taken as pre-figuring the Christian Eucharist: the generosity of the grace of God.*

Some time later Jesus withdrew to the farther shore of the sea of Galilee (or Tiberias), and a large crowd of people followed him because they had seen the signs he performed in healing the sick. Jesus went up the hillside and sat down with his disciples. It was near the time of Passover, the great Jewish festival. Looking up and seeing a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread to feed these people?" He said this to test him; Jesus himself knew what he meant to do. Philip replied, "We would need two hundred denarii to buy enough bread for each of them to have a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that among so many?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." There was plenty of grass there, so the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to the people as they sat there. He did the same with the fish, and they had as much as they wanted. When everyone had had enough, he said to his disciples, "Gather up the pieces left over, so that nothing is wasted." They gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves that were left uneaten. When the people saw the sign Jesus had performed, the word went round, "Surely this must be the Prophet who was to come into the world."

Sermon by *the Vicar.* (Any notices today will come just before the sermon.)

## THE PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE PARISH FUNDING PROGRAMME.

Mr Richard Rothwell, *Chairman of the Parish Funding Group.*  
Mrs Miriam Massey, *the Stewardship Recorder.*

(The Nicene Creed and the structured Intercessions are both omitted today.)  
Biddings to Prayer, followed by the Greeting of Peace.  
Hymn at the Presentation of Stewardship pledges:

O Loving God, true source of every blessing.

The Collection is also taken during this hymn.

Hymn at the Offertory: Thy hand, O God, has guided.

Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188

Proper Preface for Mother Church:

Consecration Acclamation:

*On gold paper.*

*On gold paper.*

*on gold paper.*

*on gold paper.*