

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF
ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
CHRISTCHURCH



**The Fourth Sunday of Lent
Mothering Sunday/Laetare Sunday
15 March 2026**

From the Vicar...

Dear friends,

This Sunday we gather as Church and School, one community of St Michael and All Angels. It has been a long tradition to gather on this Sunday and celebrate not only the fourth Sunday of Lent but also Mothering Sunday.

Firstly, this week we celebrate the fourth, or middle, Sunday of Lent, also known as 'Laetare Sunday' from the first words of the Introit at the Latin Mass, "Laetare Jerusalem" — "Rejoice, O Jerusalem".

Strictly speaking, the Thursday before Laetare Sunday is the middle day of Lent, and it was at one time observed as such, but afterwards the special signs of joy permitted on this day, intended to encourage the faithful in their course through the season of penance and fasting, were transferred to the Sunday following. They consist of (like those of Gaudete Sunday in Advent) in the use of flowers, and of the organ at Mass and Vespers; and rose-coloured vestments which are allowed instead of purple.

The contrast between Laetare and the other Sundays is therefore emphasised, and is symbolic of the joys of this life, restrained rejoicing mingled with a certain amount of sadness as we look forward to Holy Week in a few weeks' time.

Other names applied to this Sunday are Refreshment Sunday, or the Sunday of the Five Loaves, from a miracle recorded in the traditional Gospel assigned; Mid-Lent, and of course Mothering Sunday, which focuses on our right to be called the sons and daughters of God as the source of all our joy, and also because formerly the faithful used to make their offerings in the cathedral or mother-church on this day.

This latter name is still kept up in England, though the reason for it has ceased to exist. At St Michael's due to our English Anglican heritage, we have put emphasis on Mothering Sunday as a day to honour mothers of school students and parishioners. This Sunday is now known as Mother's Day in England and is celebrated as such. Here in New Zealand in the early twentieth century, we adopted the North American Mother's Day date in May.

As we approach this mid-point of Lent you may like to emphasise any of those themes that help you to focus on the great gift of God that we experience in the Mass, especially as we come together as a School and Church community.

God Bless,



Father Jordan

Copies of the music for the mass setting and hymns are available from the Sides People.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mothering Sunday/Laetare Sunday

15 March 2026

Celebrant 8.00 am:	Fr Robert Jamieson	Organ:	Daniel Cooper
Celebrant 10.00 am:	Fr Jordan Greatbatch		
Sidespeople:	Joy Coulter, Vince Moreton		
Opening Voluntary:	Prelude		G Pierné
Mass Setting:	Mass of St Cedd		P Nardone
Introit Hymn:	186		

Tell out, my soul,
the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings,
give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul,
the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills
are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul,
the greatness of his name!
Make known his might,
the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul,
the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul,
the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Greeting:

Ki te ingoa o te ✠ Matua, me te Tamaiti, me te Wairua Tapu. **Āmine.**
(In the name of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.)

The Lord be with you. **The Lord bless you.**

The Service of the day is introduced and the people are invited to call to mind their sins.

God has promised forgiveness to all who truly repent, turn to Christ in faith and are themselves forgiving.

In silence we call to mind our sins.

**Merciful God,
we have sinned in what we have thought and said,
in the wrong we have done,
and in the good we have not done.**

**We have sinned in ignorance:
we have sinned in weakness:
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry.
We repent and turn to you.
Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake,
and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.**

(Sung)

**Kyrie, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.
Christe, eleison. Christe, eleison.
Kyrie, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.**

Through the cross of Christ, ✠ God have mercy on you, pardon you, and set you free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: *(sit)* 1 Samuel 1:20-28 (NRSVUE) Lewis Marchant

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord."

The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord and remain there forever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time." Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the Lord establish your word." So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him.

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine.

She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh, and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull and brought the child to Eli. And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord." And they worshipped the Lord there.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm: 127

R. Unless the Lord builds the house its builders will have laboured in vain.

Unless the Lord builds the house its builders will have laboured in vain. **R.**

Unless the Lord watches the city those who keep watch, stay awake in vain. **R.**

In vain you rise up early, and go late to rest eating the bread of anxious toil for those whom the Lord loves are given sleep. **R.**

Truly children are a gift from the Lord and offspring are a reward from God's hand. **R.**

Second Reading: (*sit*) Colossians 3:12-17 (CEV) School Student

God loves you and has chosen you as his own special people. So be gentle, kind, humble, meek, and patient. Put up with each other, and forgive anyone who does you wrong, just as Christ has forgiven you. Love is more important than anything else. It is what ties everything completely together.

Each one of you is part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace. So let the peace that comes from Christ control your thoughts. And be grateful. Let the message about Christ completely fill your lives, while you use all your wisdom to teach and instruct each other. With thankful hearts, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Whatever you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks to God the Father because of him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation: *(stand)*

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God. I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

The Lord be with you

The Lord bless you

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Praise and Glory to God

Gospel: John 19:25-27

Fr Robert Jamieson

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

This is the Gospel of Christ. **Praise to Christ the Word.**

Sermon: Fr Robert Jamieson

Children's Creed:

**We believe in God the Father,
who made the whole world.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, who was born in Bethlehem and lived among us,
who died on the cross for us,
and rose from the dead.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit who brings life and love to us all.

**We believe that the Church is one family,
and that one day we will share everlasting life with God in heaven.**

Amen.

Blessing and Distribution of Flowers:

All praise to you, gracious God, for these flowers, which bear the beauty of all that you have made.

Bless them as we give them to our loved ones as signs of our thanks and love, in the name of God, ✠ the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The flowers are distributed.

Intercessions: Kate Churchill

Rest ✠ eternal grant unto them, O Lord:

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory. **Amen.**

**Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with you,
blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

At the Peace all may exchange a non physical greeting with those near them.

E te whanau, we are the body of Christ.

By one spirit we were baptised into one body.

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace:

Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.

Offertory: Brenda Withell, Jane Evans

The Preparation of the Gifts

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life. **Blessed be God for ever.**

By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share
in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become our spiritual drink. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Offertory Hymn: 185

Sing we of the blessed Mother
who received the angel's word,
and obedient to his summons
bore in love the infant Lord;
sing we of the joys of Mary
at whose breast that child was fed
who is Son of God eternal
and the everlasting Bread.

Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
of the sword that pierced her through,
when beneath the cross of Jesus
she his weight of suffering knew,
looked upon her Son and Saviour
reigning high on Calvary's tree,
saw the price of man's redemption
paid to set the sinner free.

Sing again the joys of Mary
when she saw the risen Lord,
and in prayer with Christ's apostles,
waited on his promised word:
from on high the blazing glory
of the Spirit's presence came,
heavenly breath of God's own being,
manifest through wind and flame.

Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
when on earth her work was done,
and the Lord of all creation
brought her to his heavenly home:
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,
raised on high and crowned with grace,
may your Son, the world's redeemer,
grant us all to see his face.

Pray, sisters and brothers,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty One.

**May the Lord receive the sacrifice at your hands,
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

With joy, Lord, we present to you the sacrifice that brings us eternal healing. Grant in your goodness that we may celebrate this mystery with faith and offer it worthily for the salvation of the world. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

God, you made us, and the world and everything in it. All the good we see comes from you. You have always loved us but people have not always loved you. You sent Jesus to show us how to live and to bring us back to you again.

He died for us on the cross so that through your Spirit we can all be your people.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing...

(Sung)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might.

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.

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father. Send your Holy Spirit, that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

On the night before he died, your Son Jesus Christ took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them, and said: Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

(Sung)

Glory to you, Lord Christ: your death we show forth;

your resurrection we proclaim; your coming we await.

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.

Therefore, loving God, recalling your great goodness to us in Christ, his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ, our great high priest.

United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise:

(Sung)

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,
here and everywhere, now and for ever. Amen.**

As Christ teaches us we pray:

(Sung)

Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Eucharistic Ministers: Rachel Watson, Richard Thompson

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.

(Sung)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us your peace,
grant us your peace.**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Happy are we who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

All baptised Christians are welcome to receive Communion, leave your seat by the side aisle and come down the central aisle and form two lines. To receive the Sacrament please cup your hands and the Priest will place it on your palm. Gluten free wafers are available, please ask.

Anthem: For the beauty of the earth

J Rutter

St Michaels School Choir Anthem: Jubilate (a traditional Russian Air)

Let us pray.

God of majesty, you enlighten everyone who comes into this world; fill our hearts with the light of your grace, that our thoughts may always be pleasing to you and our love for you always sincere. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Notices

Blessing:

The Lord be with you. **The Lord bless you.**

The God of all grace who called you to eternal glory in Christ Jesus, restore, establish and strengthen you in the faith and may the blessing of God almighty, ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Mass is ended. Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

Final Hymn:

St Michael's School Hymn

M Barrell

Michael and the angels keep us;
 parish, school, community.
 Through the years you form and shape us,
 all we were, are now, will be.
 God abundantly providing,
 here we strive for Jesus' sake,
 angels fostering and guiding
 all the work we undertake.

Church and school together founded
 in this new Pacific land.
 In tradition firmly grounded,
 finding here a place to stand.
 Here new chances are unfolding,
 Christian faith and love to share.
 Gospel light and truth upholding,
 trusting in God's constant care.

Serving neighbours, serving nation,
 with the treasures we receive,
 in each rising generation
 Jesus help us to believe.
 Keep our faith alive and growing
 in these ever-changing days,
 seeds for God's great harvest sowing,
 giving God eternal praise.

Final Voluntary:Ein Siegesgesang Israels *alla Handel*

S Karg-Elert

Please pray for...**The Sick:**

Hilary Anderson, Margaret Wallis, Fr Geoff Paterson, Jo Burnside, Ann Jinman,
 Terry & Betsy McKay.

Charles Barltrop, Claire & John Preston, Lois Peters, Denis Coulter, Betty Mechen,
 Suzanne Keys, Ghislaine Brewer-Quirke, Lesta Smithson, John Bertken, Peter Easterbrook,
 Anne Fenton, David & Sandra, Philip Souter, Deb Smith, Andrew Lawson, Ashley Forman.

Anniversaries:

(Sun) Peter Marshall (Mon) Joseph Knowles, Ken Larkin
 (Tues) Harry Burton—Priest (Wed) Neil Curtis
 (Thurs) Stephen Haddelsey—Priest

NOTICES

THIS WEEK

Women's Group—Tuesday 10.30 am, Parish Lounge. Contact: Barbara Moreton 021940890

Meditation Group—Wednesday 12.00 noon in the church. Contact: Therese Aitchison 0212516282.

Lent Study—Thursday 11.00am , Parish Lounge.

Pray the Rosary—Thursday 12.00 noon.

Lent Study—Thursday 6.00 pm, Parish Lounge.

Pastoral Care Team Meeting—Friday 10.00am.

Inasmuch Basket—please continue to donate staple household groceries to support the work of the **City Mission**.

Palm Sunday- If you have access to any palms or cabbage tree leaves please bring these with you on Palm Sunday, or they can be left at the church during the week of 23 March. Buckets of water will be available to keep the palms fresh.

Foot washing and The Prayer Vigil— Sign ups sheets are at the back of the church for Maundy Thursday Foot washing and for the Prayer Vigil.

Health & Safety Regulations: In an emergency, use the closest exit and assemble in the drop-off zone. In an earthquake, drop down and shelter behind or under a pew, covering your head. Follow instructions.

NEXT WEEK

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

22 March 2026

8:00 am Mass

Celebrant: Fr Jordan Greatbatch

Server: Thomas Visakan

10.00 am Mass

Celebrant: Fr Robert Jamieson

Preacher: Fr Jordan Greatbatch

Servers:

SD: Jenny Daniels

MC: Lawrence Watson

Th: Sung Bae

Cr: Eyob Habte

Ac: Callum Robertson, Thomas Visakan

First Reading:

Thomas Visakan

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Second Reading:

Ros Calvert

Romans 8:6-11

Gospel:

Fr Jordan Greatbatch

John 11:3-7, 17-27, 33-45

Eucharist Ministers: Jenny Daniels, Jane Evans

Sides people:

Toni Stewart, Robert Maclagan

Intercessions:

Marla Hughes

Offertory:

Gloria Moyle, Dorothy Burrows

Morning Tea:

Brian Gilberthorpe, Octavia Hodge-Armstrong

Sacristan:

Jenny Daniels

Sacristy:

Shirley Richards

Livestream:

Kathleen Campbell

Flowers:

No flowers during Lent

Evensong Readers:

Taizé

Evensong Server:

Taizé

CONTACTS

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PASTORAL CARE TEAM COORDINATOR - Gloria Moyle 0274355347

**The Anglican Parish of
St Michael and All Angels
Christchurch**

This Sunday	The Fourth Sunday of Lent/Mothering Sunday —15 March 2026
8.00 am	Low Mass
10.00 am	High Mass
7.00 pm	Evensong and Benediction
Monday	Feria No Mass
Tuesday	Patrick, Bishop, Patron Saint of Ireland, 461
12.35 am	Mass
Wednesday	Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, 386
12.00 noon	Meditation
12.35 pm	Mass
Thursday	St Joseph of Nazareth
11.00 am	Lenten Study
12.00 am	Pray the Rosary
12.35 pm	Mass
6.00 pm	Lenten Study
Friday	Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 687
8.30 am	School Service
12.35 pm	Mass
Saturday	Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1556
Next Sunday	The Fifth Sunday of Lent —22 March 2026
8.00 am	Low Mass
10.00 am	High Mass
7.00 pm	Taizé

Online Services
facebook.com/SMAAChristchurch
Sunday 10.00 am Solemn Mass

All readings come from the NRSVUE version unless otherwise stated.
Propers come from the Roman Catholic Missal 1998.
Liturgy taken from The New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book.

**The Anglican Parish of
St Michael and All Angels,
Christchurch**

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday	29 March 2026
	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
8.00 am	Low Mass
10.00 am	High Mass (9.45am gather at Parish Hall for Liturgy of Palm procession to the church)
7.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Thursday	Maundy Thursday
7.00 pm	Solemn Mass of the Last Supper, Foot washing, Procession to the Altar of Repose. The Prayer Vigil
Friday	Good Friday
12.00 noon	Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Saturday	Holy Saturday
8.00 pm	Easter Vigil with Baptism Renewal of Baptismal Vows Solemn Mass of the Resurrection
Sunday	5 April 2026
	Easter Day
8.00 am	Low Mass
10.00 am	High Mass
7.00 pm	Festal Evensong and Benediction