

The Parish of East & West Tilbury & Linford
SAINT CATHERINE'S EAST TILBURY
SAINT FRANCIS LINFORD

Parish Newsletter for the week beginning
Sunday 10th March 2024
Mothering Sunday

New Testament Reading ~ Colossian 3:12-17

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

The Gospel ~ Luke 2:33-35

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, O Christ

Collect for today: 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. **Amen.**

PARISH DIARY

Sunday 10th March: The Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ Mothering Sunday

10am Holy Communion at St. Catherine's

Tuesday 12th March: 7.30pm Lent course Bible Study at St. Francis

Wednesday 13th March: 10am mid-week Holy Communion at St. Francis

followed by the 'Community Drop-in'

Thursday 14th March: 11am-1pm Foodbank at St. Francis

Saturday 16th March: 1pm Lent lunch at St. Francis

Sunday 17th March: The Fifth Sunday of Lent

10am 'Worshipping Together' at St. Catherine's

12 noon Holy Baptism of *Katie, Zak & Poppy*

3.30pm Café Communion at St. Francis

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday 10th March – The Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ Mothering Sunday

Numbers 21:4-9 (OT 145) & Ephesians 2:1-10 (NT 189) & John 3:14-21 (NT 90)

Exodus 2:1-10 (OT 50) & Colossians 3: 12-17 (NT 199) & Luke 2:33-35 (NT 56)

Monday 11th March – Exodus 2:11-22 & Hebrews 9:1-14

Tuesday 12th March – Exodus 2:23-3:20 & Hebrews 9:15-end

Wednesday 13th March – Exodus 4:1-23 & Hebrews 10:1-18

Thursday 14th March – Exodus 4:27-6:1 & Hebrews 10:19-25

Friday 15th March – Exodus 6:2-13 & Hebrews 10:26-end

Saturday 16th March – Exodus 7:8-end & Hebrews 11:1-16

Sunday 17th March – The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passiontide begins)

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (OT 746) & Hebrews 5:5-10 (NT 217) & John 12:20-33 (NT 103)

	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Prayers</u>	<u>Sides persons</u>	<u>Teas</u>
10th March:	<i>Veronica / Geraldine</i>	<i>Pat</i>	<i>Carol B / Margaret</i>	<i>Valerie / Les</i>
17th March:	<i>Pat / Les</i>	<i>Geraldine</i>	<i>Valerie / Les</i>	<i>Pat / Carole H</i>
24th March:	<i>Sheila / Chris</i>	<i>Kathy</i>	<i>Kathy / Geraldine</i>	<i>Pam P / Margaret</i>
31st March:	<i>Robin / Norman</i>	<i>Kim</i>	<i>John D / Pam P</i>	<i>Pam E / Kim</i>

Dates for the Diary

Church Cleaning Dates at St Catherine's –

Saturday 6th April 10am-12noon

Saturday 4th May 10am-12noon

Saturday 1st June 10am-12noon

Lent Lunch – on **Saturday 16th March**, 1pm at St Francis we shall have the second of our lent lunches. The lunch will be a simple fare of soup and a roll. If you are able to make a donation towards the cost of your lunch it will go towards the charity we are supporting during Lent and Easter. Come along to share food and fellowship. All welcome.

Bible Study & Fellowship Group: we will return after Easter on: **Monday 15th April**, 10.30am-12noon at St Francis, Linford.

Other News

Lent Charity Collection – this year we will be supporting the UK charitable body 'Friends of the Holy Land – giving hope to vulnerable Christians'. This non-political Christian charity supports the Christian population of the West Bank, Gaza, Israel & Jordan, working in partnership with organization such as the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem. Their work focuses on 5 key areas: education, employment, family support, health & housing improvement. The smallest of donations can make a difference e.g. £38 provides an emergency hygiene kit; £56 a month's nutritious food parcel; £70 provides 35 litres of fuel to Ambulances and a hospital; £240 provides 6months of vital medicine for someone with a chronic illness.

Children Society Boxes – It is that time of year again. Time to open the collecting boxes and count the money. So, could all box holders please give your box to June Schroeder as soon as possible. And if you don't yet have a Children's Society Box and would like one to support this wonderful cause then please speak to June for more information.

April Pewtalk – please send any articles for inclusion in the April edition of Pewtalk to Chris Ford by **Friday 22nd March**.

Thurrock Foodbank Shopping List:

Tinned fish, mashed potato, tinned potatoes, tinned vegetables, tinned meat (hotdog sausages, spaghetti Bolognese, ravioli, chilli con carne, curry), tinned soup, sponge puddings, tinned fruit, custard, jellies, angel delight, rice pudding, biscuits, crisps, savoury snacks, Easter chocolate & sweets, squash and fruit juice, tea-bags, hot chocolate, coffee, washing-up liquid, washing tablets, shampoo & conditioner, soap, deodorant & toothpaste. Thank you for all your support and generosity.

Events and Services Lent and Easter St Catherine's and St Francis

- **Lent Lunch at St Francis**
Saturday 16th March at 1pm
- **Lent Lunch at St Catherine's**
Sunday 24th March at 12noon
- **Lent Course Bible Study**
Tuesday evenings in March (12th, 19th & 26th), 7.30pm at St Francis
- **Holy Week**
- **Maundy Thursday** - 28th March
Agape Meal & Holy Communion
6.30pm at St Francis
- **Good Friday** - 29th March
Last Hour at the Cross Service
2pm at St Catherine's
- **Easter Saturday** - 30th March
'Come and make an Easter Garden'
Family Event with lots of crafts and activities focusing on Holy Week and Easter, 2-4pm at St Catherine's
- **Easter Sunday** - 31st March
All age Easter Day Celebration with Holy Communion 10am at St Catherine's

Easter Lilies – If you would like to make a contribution towards the cost of the flowers for Easter and in particular buy an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one then please speak to Pam Painter or Kathy Bird or add your name to the list at the back of the church. The Easter Lilies are £3.50 each.

Celebrating the Saints (Mothers)

10th March Mothering Sunday and Mother Church

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigors of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ.

On Mid-Lent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old Covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world. The UK seems to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday has been hijacked to take the place of a special, secular day to give thanks for our mothers.

For help or Location information contact:

Priest in Charge

Rev. Michèle Marshall - Tel: 01375 671754/07749303622; **Email:** mjmarshall@fastmail.co.uk

Churchwarden

Chris Ford - Tel: 01375 675863; **Email:** chris.pewtal@outlook.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Kim Ford – Tel: 01375 675863; **Email:** kim.pewtal@outlook.com

Foodbank – Linford– 01375 768300

(open on Thursdays 11am-1pm at St Francis Church, Somerset Road, Linford, SS17 0QN)

For all enquiries regarding the Linford Foodbank outside of the Thursday session please
contact Chris Ford 01375 675863

Parish Website: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk