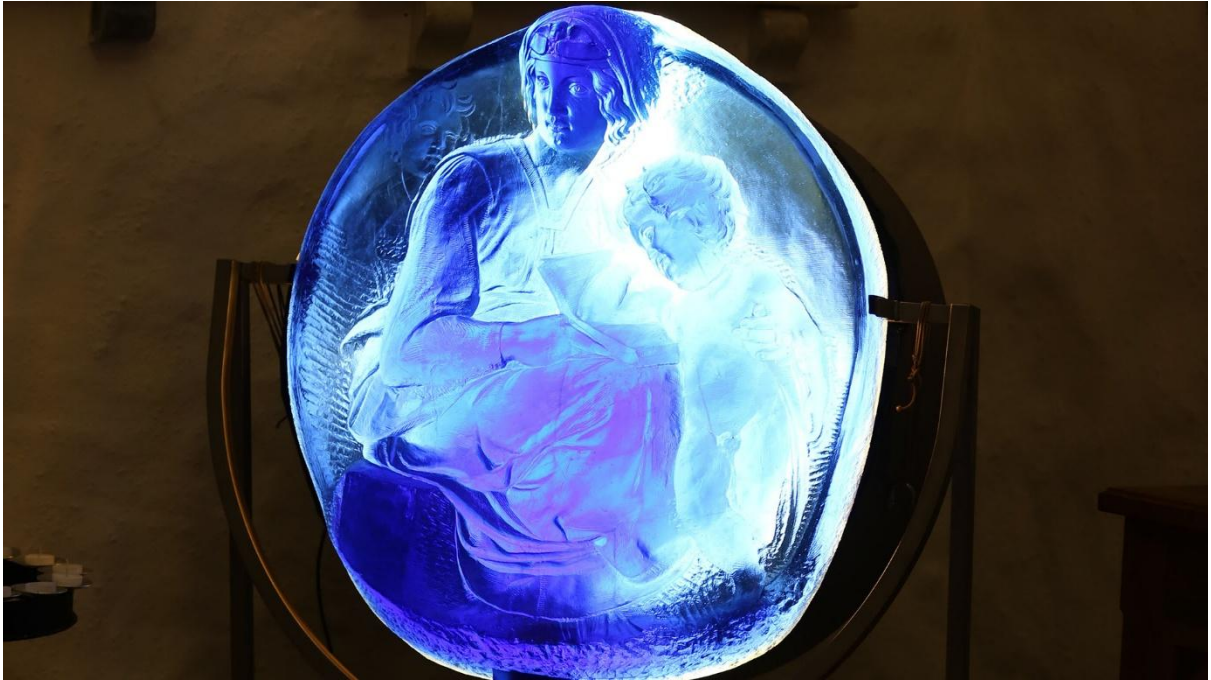


**St. Paul's, Wokingham
St. Nicholas', Emmbrook**



**All Together Mass
for Mothering Sunday**

We wish you a very warm welcome to St Paul's this morning, for this special service shared with St Nicholas'. If you have any questions at all, about anything that's happening, then please don't be afraid to ask.

If you usually receive communion in your own church then you're very welcome to receive communion this morning. If you'd prefer to receive a blessing come forward with everyone else and bow your head when you get to the front.

The service is especially designed for people of **all ages** because it's great when we listen to God and worship God together. God's love is for everyone and we are all his children.

There is a crèche corner for pre-school children in the Children's Chapel, at the back of Church.

If you're putting money in the collection plate today, thank you: if you use a white Gift Aid envelope then we can claim the tax back, and your £10 becomes worth £12.50 to us.

After the service there are refreshments in the Parish Rooms – do come along!

**Jesus said: “How often have I desired
to gather your children together
as a hen gathers her brood
under her wings...”**

We are here today to think of mothers- of what they mean to us or have meant to us. We are here to think of motherhood in all of its aspects and wonder. Above all, we are here to think about God and to reflect on what we can learn of God from the tender relationship between a mother and child.

In the Bible we are told that God longs to gather us together as a hen gathers her chicks in her wings.

As we focus today on those who love us and care for us, so we respond to the one who offers new birth and new life to all.

Jesus said: "How often have I longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings..."

Hymn

The Gathering [We remain STANDING]

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

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be always with you:
and also with you.

Confession and Absolution

A mother sacrifices her own needs for the sake of her children.
Let us call to mind the times when we have not done the same,
and the times we have taken the love of those around us for granted.

**We are sorry for the times when our own needs
have been the only thing we think about.**

**We are sorry for the times when we have not
been loving and kind to others**

**We are sorry, Lord, for the times when we have
ignored you and let you down.**

*We are sprinkled with the Water of Baptism to remind us of our rebirth in Jesus Christ and of his promise of forgiveness.
It is customary to make the sign of the cross as this happens.*

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

May God, who longs to gather us together as a hen gathers her chicks, who longs to protect and heal us, + cleanse you from your sins and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

Praise God who loves us. **Praise God who cares.**
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.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The Reading [We SIT]

At the end of the Reading:
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading:

*Please stand and face the Gospel procession,
which represents the presence of Christ in our midst.*

*When the Gospel is announced: **Glory to you, O Lord.**
At the end of the Gospel reading: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

Responding to the Word of God 1 [We SIT] ***The Sermon***

Responding to the Word of God 2: [We STAND] ***The Creed***

Whatever our experience of family, God is always and everywhere the same, unchanging and true.

We worship a God who loves us and keeps on loving us, in everything. Let us then proclaim together our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts
through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Responding to the Word of God 3: [We SIT or KNEEL] ***The Prayers***



The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace [We STAND]

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says

‘As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you’.

Praise God who loves us. **Praise God who cares.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you: **and also with you.** Let us share with one another signs of that comfort and peace.

Offertory Hymn (*during which the collection is taken,
and the gifts are brought to the altar*)

The Eucharistic Prayer (Prayer One) [We remain STANDING]

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Holy, *Holy*, **Holy**

It is always right to give you thanks,
God our Father, holy and strong, king for ever.

You made us

and the whole universe.

and filled your world with life.

Holy, *Holy*, **Holy**

You sent your Son to live among us,

Jesus, Saviour, Mary’s child.

He suffered on the cross;

he died to save us from our sins;

he rose in glory from the dead.

Holy, *Holy*, **Holy**

You send your Spirit to bring new life to the world,
and fill us with power from on high.

And so we join the angels to celebrate and sing:

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.

Father, on the night before he died,

Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

He took the bread, and thanked you.

He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

Take this and eat it; this is my body, given for you.

Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.

He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you. This is my blood,

the new promise of God's love.

Do this to remember me.

Jesus Christ has died. **Jesus Christ has died.**

Jesus Christ is risen. **Jesus Christ is risen.**

Jesus Christ will come again. **Jesus Christ will come again.**

Father, as we remember

his death and resurrection, send your Holy Spirit,

that the bread and wine we bring before you

may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Pour your Spirit on us

that we may love one another,

as we work for the peace of the earth,

and wait for Jesus to come in glory.

Amen, *Amen*, **Amen**.

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen, *Amen*, **Amen**.

The Lord's Prayer [We SIT]

As God's children, and heirs with Christ,
we cry in the Spirit, Abba, Father:

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup:
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

*The choir usually sing a hymn and then an anthem during communion.
The number is on the hymn board so you can join in.*

Everyone who has been baptised is welcome to receive communion here today. Communion can be received either at the altar rail or in your pew. Please tell the priest if you need a gluten-free wafer.

If you would prefer to receive a prayer of blessing please come forward with everyone else and keep your head bowed at the rail. Please feel free to leave the altar rail after receiving the wafer if you would prefer not to receive the chalice or if you are feeling unwell today.

If you would like to receive communion or a blessing in the pew, please tell one of the welcomers (the people wearing name badges) who are there to help in any way they can.

And if you're at home, please use this time to talk to the Risen Christ—heart touching heart.

Hymn during Communion

Prayer after Communion

The Giving of Flowers

Flowers are collected and handed out to anyone who would like them, as a sign of our appreciation and gratitude.

Lord God, we praise you for everything you give to us.

**Today we praise you especially for those
who love and care for us, for all our family and friends,
for our mothers, and for those who are like a mother to us.**

Thank you for all the times they put us first.

Thank you for their patience when tested.

Thank you for their love when exhausted,

**Thank you for their hope
despite everything we do to disappoint them.**

Help us to be a gift to them as well.

**Teach us what we can do
to show our love more and more. Amen.**

The Notices and the Banns of Marriage

Lent Candle Cross

One of the candles on the cross is extinguished and a prayer is read by the Priest

The Dismissal

The Blessing [We STAND]

Praise God who loves us. **Praise God who cares.**

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless you.

May God, who was born as one of us at Christmas, bless you.

May God, who broods over us as a mother
watches over her children, bless you.

May almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit, now and always. **Amen.**

Hymn

God says that he longs to gather us as a hen gathers her brood,
to hide us under the shadow of her wings.

With these words in our hearts and minds,
let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Organ Voluntary is part of our offering of worship.

*Please pray during it and enjoy the stillness, or leave Church quietly if
you need to. Coffee and refreshments are served in the Parish Rooms
after the service; do please come along.*

There are lots of groups for people of all ages happening during the week and on a Sunday at both Churches. In particular, if you'd like to find out more about groups for pre-school children, and primary school children, and secondary school children then please speak to a member of the clergy or one of our two Children's Advocates, Sally and Pippa.

If this is one of your first visits to St Paul's, please introduce yourself to one of the Clergy who would be delighted to have a chat. Please take a weekly Pews News home with you today so you can know what's happening in the life of the parish and what you can be part of. You can get regular updates and sign up to our weekly 'Bertie' email on the parish website: www.spauls.co.uk

*Do contact the church office if you have any questions at all:
church.office@spauls.co.uk / 0118 979 2122*



White Gift Aid envelopes are available in each pew for visitors.

If you're a UK tax payer we can reclaim the tax on the amount you donate, but please remember to fill in your name and address on the envelope. Our QR code can be used for making donations, with the option of Gift Aid. Your generosity allows us to continue to serve the community we are part of.

Thank you.

This service includes material from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, which is copyright the Archbishops' Council 2000.

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you:
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children;
often you weep over our sins and our pride:
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds:
in sickness you nurse us,
and with pure milk you feed us.
Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life:
by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness:
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead:
your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us:
in your love and tenderness remake us.
In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness:
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

A Song of St Anselm (11th Century)