

~ Notices ~

### Ukraine

The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal has launched a special appeal encouraging all parishes in Ireland to have a special collection this/next Sunday to support the appeal. To donate please use the link on our website: <https://clareanglicans.ie> or go direct to: [www.christianaid.ie](http://www.christianaid.ie)

### The Jesus Prayer

As a Lenten prayer, but also one of solidarity with the Ukrainian people (who are largely Orthodox Christians) you are invited to say the Jesus Prayer as a meditation during Lent. Leaflets are at the back of church, and available in the prayer section of the website. Millions of Ukrainians will be saying this prayer as the bombs and missiles fall.

### Our Lenten Journey walk

Sue is leading an ecumenical walk in Lees Road Woods every Saturday during Lent, starting at 11.30am in the car park. Come and join her, or walk on your own, or walk at a place of your choice, for around an hour. Sue will be walking the route as part of a plan to complete 100 miles in March to support the Irish Hospice Foundation.

### Poem

An Extract from John O'Donohue's 'For a Mother'

..... Mother,  
Formed from the depths beneath your heart,  
You know us from the inside out,  
No deeds or seas or others  
Could ever erase that.

**Website:** [clareanglicans.ie](http://clareanglicans.ie)

**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/c/clareanglicans](http://www.youtube.com/c/clareanglicans)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/clare.anglicans](http://www.facebook.com/clare.anglicans)

**Rector:** Email: [frkevinobrien@me.com](mailto:frkevinobrien@me.com) Tel: 065 672 4721

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## Mothering Sunday The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent 2022 (Year C)

### Collect

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Suggested Hymns** - *For the online service you might like to view these hymns with lyrics on YouTube.*

1) For all the Saints

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OaBgaMcOvM>

2) Now thank we all our God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s99dNPKYtHk>

3) Angel voices, ever singing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nig-VqlyGzA>

4) Brother Sister let me serve you (517)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttW9oQ-yiuU>

### Exodus 2: 1-10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

### Psalms 127.1-4

Unless the Lord builds the house,  
those who build it labour in vain.

Unless the Lord guards the city,  
the guard keeps watch in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early  
and go late to rest,

eating the bread of anxious toil;

for he gives sleep to his beloved.

Sons are indeed a heritage from the Lord,  
the fruit of the womb a reward.

# Happy Mothering Sunday

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## Enjoy the feast!



## 2 Corinthians 1.3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

### John 19.25-27

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.

### Post Communion Prayer

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Commentary

#### Exodus 12:1-10

God has assailed the Egyptians with nine plagues: turning the water of the Nile to blood; infestations of frogs, gnats, and flies; terminal illness of livestock; boils; thunder, hail and fire; locusts; and darkness for three days: all this to convince the Pharaoh to "Let my people go, so that they may worship ... [God]" ( 9:1). The Pharaoh has refused to listen; he has refused to come to the knowledge that "I am the Lord" ( 7:17). God continues to act in history to the benefit of his chosen people. As is the case for the other plagues, the preparation for the last plague is described at length, but the plague itself occupies only a few verses. A lamb or goat is to be kept in safekeeping ("keep it", v. 6) until close to the full moon ("the fourteenth day"); then "the whole assembled congregation" will slaughter it: here all take on the role of priests. The priestly role extends further: the animal is to be "roasted" (v. 8, not boiled), and it is to be completely consumed (v. 10): a perfect ("without blemish", v. 5) and complete sacrifice.

#### Psalm 127

This psalm is made up of two wise sayings (vv. 1-2 and 3-5). The first says that human activity is futile without God's active involvement. ("House", v. 1, means Temple, royal palace, dynasty, as well as house.) V. 1b is an example: a guard on the city wall watches "in vain" unless God protects the city. Genesis 3:17-19 tells us that humankind was committed to a life of toil for "bread" (v. 2) for disobeying God; this verse contrasts this with God's gifts to those he loves. All kinds of houses have "sons" (v. 3); they are a gift from God; they protect and support their father in time of need: for example (v. 5b), when others try to make him back down in court ("the gate"). ("Arrows", v. 4, are a symbol of protection.) In v. 15, the word translated "rule" literally means be umpire or referee: so may "the peace of Christ" be the reference point for your consciences, as it is for you all in the Church ("one body"). May the understanding, the knowledge, of the way Christ works be yours, and may sharing this in the community lead you to deeper understanding ("wisdom", v. 16).

May you show your thankfulness to the Father through the Son in worship. In all your words and actions, speak and do as though Christ were doing them.

## 2 Corinthians

This is a letter, written in the style common in the first century AD. From the text, we know that Paul wrote it in Macedonia after leaving Ephesus, probably in the autumn of 57 AD. It gives us a picture of Paul the person: an affectionate man, hurt to the quick by misunderstandings and evil-doing of his beloved fellow Christians, yet happy when he can praise them. The letter's prime intent is to combat evils which have arisen in the Christian communities in the Achaian peninsula of Greece.

### John 19.25-27

John is the fourth gospel. Its author makes no attempt to give a chronological account of the life of Jesus (which the other gospels do, to a degree), but rather "...these things are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name." John includes what he calls signs, stories of miracles, to help in this process. Mary (the wife) of Clopas seems to correspond easily to "Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses (Joseph)" (Mark 15:40; Matthew 27:56). She is probably "the other Mary" who was with Mary Magdalene at the tomb Friday night and on Sunday morning (Matthew 27:61; 28:1). times -- and only in John's Gospel.

The 'disciple whom Jesus is love' is identified as the author of the Gospel of John (John 21:24). Church tradition identifies this disciple with St. John the Apostle. Possibly the Gospel writer doesn't identify himself by name out of modesty. This disciple, one of three disciples closest to him, is the only male disciple who is at the foot of the cross as Jesus is dying. Jesus addresses his mother not as "Mother," but as "woman,". We might sense a coldness in the term as used in our culture, but in Jesus' culture, it was perfectly proper for a man to address a woman this way -- but still strange for a son to a mother. Perhaps the writer intends his words to be understood as a formal testamentary disposition under Jewish family law.

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