

## In Our Prayers This Week

### The Collect for Mothering Sunday

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.

### A Prayer during the Coronavirus outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.

*Please remember before God those who have asked for our prayers*

<i>Those in acute need</i>	Diana Nicol	<i>Those in long-term need</i>
Katie Aston	Michael North	Vincenzo Blandini
Evangelia Brown	Holly Raber	Theo Bulkai
Rebecca Cable-Nunn	Mary Reeve	John Cantlie
Sarah Deal	Maria Reis	Revd Geoffrey
Andrew Fernandes	June Scully	Connor
Kevin Fitzgerald	Sue Spicer	Joan Davies
Tony Gordon	Alma	Leo Koymans
Joan Jackson	Roger	Simon Portal
Margaret Lyon	Rosie	Annie Redmile
Mary McKenna	Victoria	James Worsley

*And for those who have died recently*

Agnes Ndiweni (known as Masuku)  
Dr John Hogarth Cleave

*also for all those whose anniversary of death falls at this time*

Brian Sale 26<sup>th</sup> March      Arthur Bliss 27<sup>th</sup> March

### St MARY ABBOTS CHURCH CONTACTS

*Church Website:* [www.smaw8.org](http://www.smaw8.org)

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ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH

### NEWSLETTER

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

With no services or events taking place in St Mary Abbots Church, our newsletter takes on a different look!

During the current health crisis, we shall be sharing with you both updates about the church community and some thoughts and reflections, together with prayers for the week.

We wish you all a peaceful Mothering Sunday as we give thanks for our Mother Church, and also for all who care for us, amongst them the many involved in the response to the Coronavirus outbreak who seek to bring help and healing to those affected.

### A Message from Mother Emma

Dear all

You will all know by now that in light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have stated that public worship is to be suspended until further notice. This means that **we shall not be holding public services in St Mary Abbots for the time being. However, the church is open for peace and private reflection throughout the day, and you are very warmly welcome to visit and to pray in this sacred space.**

Morning and Evening Prayer will continue to be said and the Eucharist celebrated regularly. The Church of England has produced resources for people to pray the daily office with us and we shall also put up on the website any Orders of Service we are using. Please let us know if you need any resources to help you in private prayer.

Fr Jonathan will be presiding at the Eucharist on Sunday, and the service will be available to watch from 10.30am on Sunday at <https://www.youtube.com/user/jmacneaney>. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is to lead a service at 8am on Sunday which will be broadcast nationally on BBC local radio.

In addition, churches across the country are joining together in a National Day of Prayer and Action, asking that as we mark Mothering Sunday in our different settings this Sunday, we place a lighted candle in the window at 7 pm, as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished.

We hold you all constantly in our prayers; if you have any particular person or situation you would specially like to be remembered before the altar or by the clergy in their private prayers, please don't hesitate to email one of us. This week we pray especially for the staff, parents, pupils and Governors of St Mary Abbots School, and for everyone whose livelihood is being affected or put at risk by the current situation.

I regret to say that as a long-term kidney transplant patient (26 years), it is possible that I will (like many others) be advised to self-isolate from this week. For the time being I will be praying at home, and hoping to maintain contact with parishioners throughout, while continuing with regular parish administration. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me if I can help or support you in any way. My thanks go to Fr Jonathan for leading worship in the church and to Simon, our virger for keeping the church open for prayer.

We shall be in regular phone contact with as many of you as possible, and Fr Jonathan is co-ordinating a "telephone tree" to maintain contact between parishioners during times of isolation. If you are either self-isolated and would like a call, or would be willing to stay in regular touch with others or offer regular shopping support, please contact Fr Jonathan on [jm@smaw8.org](mailto:jm@smaw8.org). We will also be partnering with other groups or individuals providing care and support, and will give more details shortly.

With my love and prayers at this time

Mother Emma  
[vicar@smaw8.org](mailto:vicar@smaw8.org)

### **Some Thoughts from The Bishop Of Kensington, Dr Graham Tomlin**

As we all face these strange times, I have been reflecting on St Paul's trinity of Christian virtues: Faith, Hope and Love.

**FAITH:** We are in uncharted territory where there is no clear trajectory for spread of Coronavirus and no obvious cure as yet. Yet our Christian faith tells us that we can trust the God who holds our times in his hands. We do not believe that the world is governed by blind fate or random chance but Providence – the sure and trustworthy hand of the God of Jesus Christ working his purposes out through all the confusing and bewildering swings of history. Fear can be as infectious as the disease, so why don't we try to counter it with the even more infectious influence of faith? Faith, especially during this time of Lent, urges us to pray with greater urgency, as the church

has always done in times like this in the past, for those at the frontline in the NHS, for the most vulnerable and for a turning of the tide of this virus.

**HOPE:** one thing that will not be cancelled is Easter Day. We may or may not be able to celebrate it together in person, but it will still happen. We have in our faith the greatest message of hope in the world, and this is the time to hold onto that hope. When we reach the end of our own resources the risen Christ meets us there, and so find ways to practise hopeful action, looking forward to the day when this crisis will pass, and even more, when Resurrection comes. Light a candle in a window. Keep one burning in your home as a sign of hope. Use your social media posts to spread messages of hope and not fear.

**LOVE:** perfect love casts out fear, and now is the time more than ever for the church to be known by its Love, worked out in down-to-earth practical ways. Care for the vulnerable in your community; communicate regularly with one another and take all the recommended precautions as an act of compassion for those who are most vulnerable.

You all remain in my prayers daily, that as the church in this part of London we will rise to the challenge of keeping the faith, holding out hope and living out the love of Christ in these critical days.

### **Foodbank**

Now more than ever the foodbank is in need of donations. If you have any items for the food bank please leave them at the vestry and we will deliver them during the week.

You can also give financially please send Cheques made payable to Dalgarno Neighbourhood Trust and marked foodbank on the reverse to St Mary Abbots Church and we will send them up with the usual delivery. Alternatively you can do a direct bank transfer ask Fr Jonathan [jm@smaw8.org](mailto:jm@smaw8.org) for the bank details.

**Food Items:** Cereal; Soup; Pasta; Rice; Tinned tomatoes/pasta sauce; Lentils, beans and pulses; Tinned meat; Tinned vegetables; Tea/coffee; Tinned fruit; Biscuits; UHT milk; juice;

**Toiletries:** deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste, hand wipes

**Household:** detergent, laundry powder, washing up liquid

**Feminine products:** sanitary towels and tampons

**Baby supplies:** nappies, baby wipes and baby food.