



**Richmond  
Team Ministry**



# **Sung Eucharist**

## **11:00am**

**Mothing Sunday**

*Laetare Sunday*

**15 March 2026**

*Team Vicar: The Rev'd Joe Moore*

*E: [joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org)*

*Churchwardens: Mary Ricketts & Fiona Morgan*

*Director of Music: Gina Kruger*

**The Church of St John the Divine**

**Richmond Team Ministry**

**St John the Divine • St Matthias • St Mary Magdalene**

**RTM Parish Office**

**020 8940 0362**

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**Website: [richmondteamministry.org](http://richmondteamministry.org)**

**WELCOME** to St John's this morning on Mothering Sunday or Laetare Sunday!



In the midst of Lent's reflective journey, Mothering Sunday - also known as Laetare Sunday - offers a moment of gentle joy and refreshment. The word Laetare comes from the Latin for "rejoice," and today the Church pauses, even within this penitential season, to glimpse the hope and new life that God promises.

Traditionally, this was the day when people returned to their "mother church," the place where their faith had been nurtured. Over time, the day has also become an opportunity to give thanks for mothers and all who offer care, guidance, and love. Yet the Church's celebration goes wider still. Today we honour the many ways in which God's nurturing love is reflected in the world: through parents and carers, through families and friendships, through teachers, mentors, and communities that help us grow.

Mothering Sunday also invites us to reflect on the deeper truth that we are all held within the loving care of God. The scriptures speak of God's compassion in images of tenderness and protection - like a mother who gathers her children and longs for their flourishing.

So today we give thanks: for those who have nurtured us in faith and life, for the communities that sustain us, and for the unfailing love of God who continually calls us home.

***This act of worship is livestreamed on our Facebook page,  
please do 'follow' us on Facebook:  
St John the Divine, Richmond Team Ministry.***

***Follow us on Instagram: stjohnsrichmond9***

*The clergy in the Richmond Team Ministry are always happy to meet for pastoral conversations about faith or to offer spiritual counsel. If you would like to speak with a member of the clergy, do be in touch directly or through the RTM Parish Office.*

## Prelude

*Andante Tranquillo* Percy Whitlock

Please stand to sing the **Introit Hymn** when the bell rings.

**1 Our Father God in heaven  
on whom our world depends,  
to you let praise be given  
for families and friends;  
for parents, sisters, brothers,  
a home where love belongs,  
but on this day for mothers  
we bring our thankful songs.**

**2 What wealth of God's bestowing  
for all the world to share!  
what strength of heart outgoing  
to children everywhere!  
Our deepest joys and sorrows  
a mother's path must trace,  
and earth's unknown tomorrows  
are held in her embrace.**

**3 How well we know the story  
that tells of Jesus' birth,  
the Lord of heaven's glory  
become a child of earth;  
a helpless infant sleeping,  
yet King of realms above,  
to find in Mary's keeping  
the warmth of human love.**

**4 Our Father God in heaven,  
to you we lift our prayer,  
that every child be given  
such tenderness and care,  
where life is all for others,  
where love your love displays:  
for God's good gift of mothers  
let earth unite in praise!**

TIMOTHY DUDLEY-SMITH (b. 1926)

A&M 138

TUNE: Aurelia (A&M 506)

## The Gathering

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

**Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and  
the love of God, and the communion of  
the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*A welcome is given by the presiding priest.*

## The Penitential Act

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from  
the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into  
the wilderness, where for forty days he  
was tempted by the devil. Let us confess  
our sins remembering before God the  
times when we have fallen from  
temptation into sin:

**Father eternal, giver of light and  
grace, we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour, in what  
we have thought, in what we have  
said and done, through ignorance,  
through weakness, through our own  
deliberate fault. We have wounded  
your love, and marred your image in  
us. We are sorry and ashamed, and  
repent of all our sins. For the sake of  
your Son Jesus Christ, who died for  
us, forgive us all that is past, and lead  
us out from darkness to walk as  
children of light. Amen.**

*The Kyrie is sung, during which the priest sprinkles  
the congregation with holy water, symbolising the  
cleansing of the people. You are invited to make the  
sign of the cross when sprinkled with holy water.*

**Kyrie eleison**

**Christie eleison**

**Kyrie eleison**

## The Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Collect

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

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.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

*Please sit for the readings and the psalm.*

### First Reading

*A reading from the book of 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.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 34. 11-20

*The Psalm appointed for the day is led by the choir, and the congregation are invited to join in with the sung **Response.***

**Response: O taste and see, O taste and see that the Lord is gracious.**

11 Come, my children, and listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.  
12 Who is there who delights in life  
and longs for days to enjoy good things?

**R**

13 Keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from lying words.  
14 Turn from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it. **R**

15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the  
righteous and his ears are open to their  
cry.

16 The face of the Lord is against those  
who do evil, to root out the remembrance  
of them from the earth. **R**

17 The righteous cry and the Lord hears  
them

and delivers them out of all their  
troubles.

18 The Lord is near to the  
brokenhearted

and will save those who are crushed in  
spirit. **R**

19 Many are the troubles of the  
righteous;  
from them all will the Lord deliver them.

20 He keeps all their bones,  
so that not one of them is broken. **R**

### **Second Reading**

*A reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians  
(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.

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*We stand to sing the **Gradual Hymn***

**1 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.**

**2 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.**

**3 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.**

**4 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.**

GEORGE B. TIMMS (1910–1997)  
A&M 315

*Gospel acclamation:*  
**Praise to you, O Christ,  
King of eternal glory.**

### **Gospel Reading**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**  
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John (19.25-27).  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon**

*Please sit.*

## **The Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,  
our Lord, who was conceived by the  
Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the  
Father, and he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
**Amen.****

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*Kneel to pray.*

Lord, in your mercy *or*: Lord, hear us.  
**Hear our prayer *or* Lord,  
graciously hear us.**

*At the end:*  
**Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## The Peace

*Please stand.*

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. The peace of Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*We greet each other with a sign of peace, and then sing the **Offertory Hymn.***

**1 For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies,**

*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.*

**2 For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light:**

**3 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
pleasures pure and undefiled:**

**4 For each perfect gift of thine,  
to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:**

**5 For thy church which evermore  
lifteth holy hands above,  
offering up on every shore  
her pure sacrifice of love,**

*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.*

FOLIOTT SANDFORD PIERPOINT (1835–1917)  
A&M 537i)

*We would love you to give financially to the life and work of the Richmond Team Ministry, please scan the QR Code below with your smart device. There are also card readers and cash plate at the back of church. Thank you!*



## Preparation of the Altar

### The Offertory

*The Altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life. **Blessed be God for ever.**

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

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

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

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

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.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For as the child of an earthly mother he opened all families to the presence of God's love. On the cross he took upon himself all that damages human relationships, and opened the way of redemption; And even in his final agony, his thoughts were for his mother and the disciple whom he loved. Recalling his love for us, which transcends all human love, we join with saints and angels ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed is he, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: *Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.* When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: *Drink this, all of you; 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, in remembrance of me.*

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St John the Divine, St Mathias, St Mary Magdalene and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

*The Great Amen is sung.*

**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

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

### **Agnus Dei**

**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.**

### **Giving of Communion**

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

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

*The Church of England welcomes baptised members of all Christian traditions to receive Communion. If it is your usual practice to receive Communion, you are very welcome to do so here. Everyone is invited to come to the altar rail for a blessing if you do not wish to receive Communion. If you would like to know more about Baptism or Confirmation, please do speak to the clergy.*

*During the distribution of Holy Communion the choir sing: Hail, Virgin Mary Franz Liszt*

### **Prayer after Holy Communion**

*We say together:*

**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.**

### **The Notices**

*Information about our life together is shared.*

### **Blessing of Flowers**

Praise God who loves us.

**Praise God who mothers us.**

For the care of all who mother;

**Thanks be to God.**

For their patience when tested;

**Thanks be to God.**

For their service when tired;

**Thanks be to God.**

For their hope when despairing;

**Thanks be to God.**

Lord God, creator of all life, bless these flowers, that they may be a symbol of your love for us, and a sign of our love for one another. Amen.

## **The Dismissal**

*We stand to sing our* **Recessional Hymn.**

**1 God of Eve and God of Mary,  
God of love and mother-earth,  
thank you for the ones who with us  
shared their life and gave us birth.**

**2 As you came to earth in Jesus,  
so you come to us today;  
you are present in the caring  
that prepares us for life's way.**

**3 Thank you that the Church, our  
Mother,  
gives us bread and fills our cup,  
and the comfort of the Spirit  
warms our hearts and lifts us up.**

**4 Thank you for belonging, shelter,  
bonds of friendship, ties of blood,  
and for those who have no children,  
yet are parents under God.**

**5 God of Eve and God of Mary,  
Christ our brother, human Son,  
Spirit, caring like a Mother,  
take our love and make us one!**

FRED KAAN (1929–2009)  
A&M 137

## **The Blessing**

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

May God, who gave birth to all creation,  
bless you: The Blessing may God, who  
became incarnate by an earthly mother,  
bless you; may God, who broods as a  
mother over her children, bless you. And  
the blessing of God almighty, Creator,  
Redeemer and Giver of life,  
come down upon you and those whom  
you love, this day and always.  
**Amen.**

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

*Antiphon for the Magnificat* Ernest Chausson

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN FOR REFRESHMENTS AFTER OUR WORSHIP!**



# *St Joseph's Day* **Drinks & Nibbles** *for Newcomers*



*at St John's Vicarage*

Thursday 19th March  
6:30pm – 9pm

St John's Vicarage  
19 Old Deer Park Gardens  
TW9 2TN

*If you've joined St John's in the last year, you're very welcome to  
St John's Vicarage to celebrate the Feast of St Joseph!*

*Please email Joe to let him know you're coming:  
[joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org)*



## LENT BOOK AND LENT DISCUSSION GROUPS 2026

Our parish Lent book for 2026 is 'Easter in Disguise', published by Bloomsbury, by Liz Dodd.

Liz Dodd is a well-known Christian writer, retreat leader, and spiritual director, with a particular gift for helping us notice God at work in the ordinary, the overlooked, and the quietly transformative moments of life. She has written widely on prayer, discipleship, and the rhythms of the Christian year, and her writing is marked by warmth, theological depth, and a gentle attentiveness to lived experience.

In 'Easter in Disguise', Liz invites us to approach Lent not simply as a journey towards Easter, but as a season in which resurrection life is already breaking through—often in unexpected and disguised ways. Through scripture, reflection, and prayer, the book explores themes of hope, transformation, loss, and renewal, encouraging us to look closely at our own lives and communities for signs of God's redeeming work. It is reflective without being heavy, honest without being bleak, and deeply rooted in the promise that new life is always nearer than we think.

To accompany this book, we will be offering two Lent Groups:

- Rev'd Anne will lead a daytime Lent Group on Mondays at 10.00am at St Matthias, beginning on Monday 23rd February.
- Rev'd Joe will lead an evening Lent Group on Tuesdays at 7.45pm at St John's, beginning on Tuesday 17th February.

Both groups will run for six weeks and are open to all. If you are planning to come along, please do email us to let us know:

- Rev'd Anne: [anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org)
- Rev'd Joe: [joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org)



# Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday 6:30pm

*For 20 minutes*

[richmondteamministry.org](http://richmondteamministry.org)



# Said Eucharist

at 7pm on Tuesdays

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*All are welcome!*

[richmondteamministry.org](http://richmondteamministry.org)

# COME BACK TO ME

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## *A Journey of Return for Lent*

*Inspired by the prophet Hosea*

*“Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God.”*

— Hosea 14.1 —



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### SUNDAYS IN LENT

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*Lent 1 — Sunday 22 February 2026*

*When You Come Back Hungry*

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*Lent 2 — Sunday 1 March 2026*

*When You Come Back Afraid*

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*Lent 3 — Sunday 8 March 2026*

*When You Come Back Thirsty*

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*Lent 4 — Sunday 15 March 2026*

*When You Come Back Able to See*

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*Lent 5 — Sunday 22 March 2026*

*When You Come Back Broken*

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*Palm Sunday — Sunday 29 March 2026*

*When You Finally Come Back*

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### ST JOHN THE DIVINE, RICHMOND

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*A sermon series at the 11am Sung Eucharist*

*All are welcome*