

# Distant but United

## St Martin's Parish Church



## Mothering Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March



If things were 'normal', we would be together celebrating Mothering Sunday. We'd have bunches of flowers to distribute and sing '*For the Beauty of the Earth*' in strong voice.

It is a great sadness that we cannot be together to worship this year, and to give thanks in person for our Mothers, and those who have shown a mother's love to us.

This year, in these extraordinary times, perhaps we can also give thanks for those on the front-line of healthcare (our nurses, doctors and care staff) who are tending to the sick and reassuring the vulnerable -who are called to share nurturing love and compassion.

Our hymn would continue with the words:

"For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
pleasures pure and undefiled."

Even in these anxious days, such love remains unbreakable, inspiring and truly joy-giving.

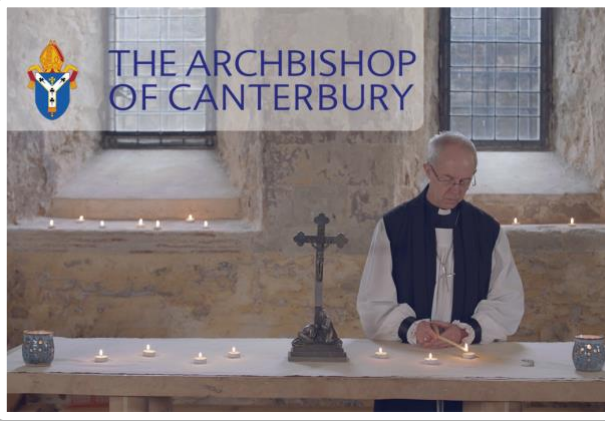
To guide your prayers this Mothering Sunday, I am grateful to Jackie Edwards for sharing her intercessions, found on our prayer sheet.

## Your Church is Open

Your Church remains open for anyone who feels the call to pray there; we have lit a candle on the High Altar that will burn day and night until we can gather again for worship. It burns as a symbol of Christ's presence with us in prayer - even as we are dispersed. I have been praying by its light every day for our church, our community and the world.



It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of our friend Hugh Fauvel this week. Hugh was a dedicated member of the church family for many years, and I enjoyed meeting him at occasional Healing Service, and he spoke with great fondness of God and His church. He will be laid to rest with his late wife Betty in our graveyard during a private ceremony this week.



## Virtual Worship

For those who wish to join in 'virtual worship' on a Sunday Morning - there are a host of churches operating 'live-stream' service on the internet, and details of many of these can be found on the Church of England website:

[www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

I would also like to recommend that you tune into BBC Radio Jersey this Sunday Morning at 8am to hear the Archbishop of Canterbury lead the nation in prayer.

## Parish 'Telephone-Tree'

Our parish Telephone-Tree is now up and running - through an amazing team of ten volunteers, we can ensure that over 50 of our older church members are kept in regular contact. They are sharing updates, having a chat, and listening out for those in need. This is a remarkable system, and a true testament to the compassion and kindness of our church family.



## Your Giving

On behalf of the church, can I please say a huge 'thank you' to those who have continued their giving, even in the absence of a collection plate. The ministry of the church will continue, come what may, but with your help we can ensure we will meet the costs ahead. Everyone's financial situations are changing as a result of this crisis, so please think carefully of your own needs before you decide whether and how to give.

To speak to Rev Jonny, please ring: 07797 939692 or email: [smartinsrector@gmail.com](mailto:smartinsrector@gmail.com)