



**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**

**Mothering Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH (Fourth Sunday of Lent)**

1 Samuel, Chapter 16, verses 1 to 13;

Psalms 23;

Ephesians, Chapter 5, verses 8 to 14;

John, Chapter 9.

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CORONA VIRUS SITUATION**

**PRAYERS FOR THE CORONAVIRUS SITUATION**

*Almighty God, as we come to you*

*We acknowledge that we are not in control of this situation.*

*We bring to you our changing times, from our own homes to the other side of the world and we ask for your mercy, grace, and love.*

*Please help us to bring this disease to an end quickly.*

*Jesus said 'I am the light of the world'. Shine light into this situation and into our hearts and bring us to do what is right for this time.*

*Help us not to be people of fear but of courage;*

*Help us not to be people who protect our own safety alone but those who protect our neighbours' safety*

*Help us not to be people of greed but of generosity*

*Help us to be giving and loving wherever we can be,*

*Whatever it costs, for as long as we need to.*

**A WORD FROM THE BIBLE**

*'Rejoice in the Lord always! I say again "Rejoice!" ....the Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God; and the peace of God which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Finally, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.'*

*~ Paul's Letter to the Philippians, Chapter 4*

## **PRAYERS FOR OTHERS**

*For all who are affected by coronavirus,  
through illness or isolation or anxiety,  
that they may find relief and recovery:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.***

*For those who are guiding our nation at this time,  
and shaping national policies,  
that they may make wise decisions:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.***

*For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,  
that through their skill and insights  
many will be restored to health:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.***

*For our homes and families,  
our schools and young people,  
and all in any kind of need or distress:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.***

*For a blessing on our local community,  
that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship,  
where all are known and cared for:  
Lord, hear us,  
**Lord, graciously hear us.***

*We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.. **Amen***

### **Words from a hymn you may know:**

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
Forgive our foolish ways.  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind  
In purer lives thy service find  
In deeper reverence, praise  
In deeper reverence, praise.*

*Breathe through the heats of our desires  
Thy coolness and thy balm.  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire  
Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire  
O still, small voice of calm.  
O still, small voice of calm.*

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

### **A CELTIC BLESSING**

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.