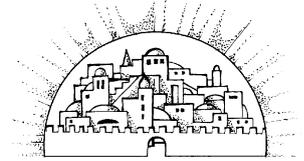


The United Benefice of St Michael on Greenhill, Lichfield with St John, Wall

COLLECT AND READINGS 22nd March Mothering Sunday



Collect Contemporary

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

Old Testament Reading: 1 Samuel 1.20-end

²⁰Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the LORD.'²¹The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. ²²But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.'²³Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only - may the LORD establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. ²⁴When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young.²⁵Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. ²⁶And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. ²⁷For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him. ²⁸Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD.' She left him there for the LORD.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2.41-52

⁴¹ Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' ⁴⁹ He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

ST MICHAEL

Those newly in need of prayer

Yvonne Harper, Jeyan Anketell, Ian and Judith Watson, Alison Cox-Toplis

Those in continuing special need of prayer:

Julian & Wendy, Jamie, Gary and Denise, Sam Bassett, Mark Berry, Paul Clarke, Dorothy Clayton, Jo Cobb, Dottie Collins, Robert Harris, Bill Hill, James Knight, Marielouise Oliver, Arthur Palin, Nick Rutter, John Tipper, Sheila Vaughan, Renee Wellings, Felicity Woodfield

Those who have died

Thanks for Prayers

Raquel Ebbutt is now back at home and being cared for

ST JOHN

Those who are ill and their carers:

Pat Crowe, Jo Hearn, Christine Gilbert, Ann Kinson, Allan Law

Prayer Resources

We have produced a booklet of resources for prayer at home which contains a short act of worship that you can use. This can be found here along with other resources for prayer: <https://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk/resources-for-prayer-at-home.html>

The act of worship is also being sent out along with these readings and will be printed in the next edition of the Parish Magazine.

In preparation for each Sunday we will email out and post on the website the Collect and Readings for the day. If possible, please join us in using the short act of worship and the readings at 10.00am which is our usual service time on a Sunday. There will also be a short sermon video available on the website

You can text prayer requests to 07388 529020

Church open for private prayer

Even though the church cannot be open for public worship we will open the church for private prayer at the following times.

Monday to Saturday	10.00am – 12.00noon
Sundays	10.30am – 12.00noon

We will staff the church at these times so that it is safe for everyone.

Useful numbers

The Rector, Simon Baker	01543 253010
The Office	01543 262211