

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.*

**COLLECT**

O God, who through your Word  
reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way,  
grant, we pray,  
that with prompt devotion and eager faith  
the Christian people may hasten  
toward the solemn celebrations to come.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**FIRST READING** Joshua 5:9a. 10-12

A reading from the Book of Joshua.

In those days: The LORD said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.' While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. R. 9a

**R: Taste and see that the LORD is good.**

1. I will bless the LORD at all times,  
praise of him is always in my mouth.  
In the LORD my soul shall make its boast;  
the humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**
2. Glorify the LORD with me;  
together let us praise his name.  
I sought the LORD, and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free. **R.**
3. Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
This lowly one called; the LORD heard,  
and rescued him from all his distress. **R.**

**SECOND READING** 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ; God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL** Luke 15:18

**R: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.**

I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him,  
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you'.

**R: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.**

**GOSPEL** Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

At that time: The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me." And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

'But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."'

'And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound." But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, "Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!" And he said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

We place before you with joy these offerings,  
which bring eternal remedy, O Lord,  
praying that we may both faithfully revere them  
and present them to you, as is fitting,  
for the salvation of all the world.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*You must rejoice, my son,  
for your brother was dead and has come to life;  
he was lost and is found.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world,  
illuminate our hearts, we pray,  
with the splendour of your grace,  
that we may always ponder  
what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty  
and love you in all sincerity.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



## The Parish of St Anselm, Hayes

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
The Fourth Sunday of Lent,  
Laetare Sunday and  
Mothering Sunday

Today's gospel reading is the beautiful parable of the Prodigal Son – uniquely found in Luke's gospel, and perhaps the most extensive and worked through of all Jesus's parables. Whilst the major themes in this story are repentance and forgiveness, it also touches on generosity, resentment and jealousy. More in the homily!

This is Laetare, meaning rejoice, Sunday because of the opening words of the mass today: Rejoice, Jerusalem. Of course, on Mothering Sunday we also remember our mothers, and our mother the Church.

After mass we will move straight from the Angelus to the Stations of the Cross. Please join in and follow us on way to Calvary and Jesus's death on the cross.

### Entrance Hymn

106 The God of love my shepherd is

### Offertory Hymn

562 Rock of ages, cleft for me

### Recessional

84 Be thou my guardian and my guide

### THIS WEEK

31<sup>st</sup> March: Monday of 4<sup>th</sup> week of Lent. No services in church; Offices said privately.

1<sup>st</sup> April: Tuesday of 4<sup>th</sup> week of Lent. Morning Prayer 0945; Mass 1000; Boys' Brigade meeting 1700; Lent Course fourth session 1830 at church, or on Zoom.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Wednesday of 4<sup>th</sup> week of Lent. Morning Prayer 0945; Mass 1000; Warm Centre 1100-1400; Evening Prayer 1700

3<sup>rd</sup>: Thursday of 4<sup>th</sup> week of Lent. Morning Prayer 0945; Mass 1000; Stations of the Cross 1030; Evening Prayer 1700

4<sup>th</sup>: Friday of 4<sup>th</sup> week of Lent. No services in church; Offices said privately.

5<sup>th</sup>: Saturday of 4<sup>th</sup> week of Lent. Offices said privately.

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday). Mass at 1000 as usual, followed by Stations of the Cross.

### PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS

Kathyan Fenton; Desiree Loderick; Eustace Fenton; Adeline and Leila; Tom Shipman

(If you wish a name to be on the list, please give the details to Susan, Fr Josiah, or Fr Stephen.)

**RECENTLY DEPARTED:** David Kelly, Bonnie Macey

### ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

31<sup>st</sup> March: Charles Channon, Freddie Wilson

2<sup>nd</sup> April: Albert Rogers

4<sup>th</sup>: Cyril Henry Moore, Harry Miller, Elaine Wilkins, Kingston Murray

5<sup>th</sup>: Freddie Fiddler

**SPECIAL BLESSINGS:** Please let one of the sidespeople or a churchwarden know before mass begins if you'd like a special blessing. If you have requested a blessing, please come up to the chancel step after the intercessions.

**YOUNG CHILDREN IN CHURCH:** Don't worry if they make a noise or move about! Young visitors to the sanctuary are always welcome, so no drama if they go for a walk! We'll have a look at the children's work after mass...

**FINANCIAL POSITION:** During February 2025, our income was £696.21, but our outgoings were £3,195.70. It is now clear that part of this problem was due to not being able to pay money into the bank for several weeks. So, things are not quite as bad as they seemed, but we are still spending more each month than we are receiving. Please consider if you can increase your contributions to the church or set up a regular donation through the Parish Giving Scheme if you don't already do so.

**SPONSORING CANDLES, ETC.:** If you would like to help us by sponsoring votive candles, sanctuary lights, incense, or wafers for communion, please do sign up! A sanctuary light costs £3.50, votive candles (next to the statues of the saints) are £1.00 each, and 100 communion wafers are £1.50. Please talk to one of the clergy or to Susan. We'll be delighted to receive your sponsorship.

### STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Fr Stephen: [fr.stephen@stanselm.co.uk](mailto:fr.stephen@stanselm.co.uk); 020 4603 7795

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Susan: [susan@stanselm.co.uk](mailto:susan@stanselm.co.uk)

**EASTER CONFESSIONS:** During Holy Week (April 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>), Frs Stephen and Josiah will be available to hear confessions, by appointment. Please speak to them or use the contact details above.

Please see the HOLY WEEK services on the notice board at the back of church – or pick up a leaflet.

**PLEASE JOIN US IN THE HALL AFTER MASS FOR TEA AND COFFEE, AND BISCUITS OR CAKE!**