



ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL
MUMBAI

Established 1718



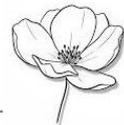
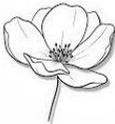
The Church of North India
A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

Sundays 7 am Eucharist (*said*) † 8.45 am Eucharist (*sung*)
Weekdays 7 am to 6 pm for a time of quiet prayer and reflection

Mothering Sunday

*So because you love me, and because
I love you, Mother, I have woven a wreath
Of rhymes wherewith to crown your honoured name:
In you not fourscore years can dim the flame
Of love, whose blessed glow transcends the laws
Of time and change and mortal life and death.*

Christina Rossetti



"I will comfort you in Jerusalem, as a mother comforts her child."

Isaiah 66:13

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Choral Eucharist

Sunday 15th March 2026 • 8.45 a.m.

Welcome to St Thomas' Cathedral for this service

We are the mother church of the Diocese of Bombay in the Church of North India, a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion. For over 300 years, the people of St. Thomas' Cathedral have sought to be a body through which the light of Christ is seen, his life is shared, and his work is done.

The basis for our worship is the *Book of Common Prayer*, our common liturgical heritage with Anglicans across the world (all churches descended from the Church of England). We are rooted in tradition but celebrate the richness and diversity of the Communion. Music and hymnody represent the best of the Anglican choral tradition.

Follow the readings and the Order of Service for the Lord's Supper from *The Book of Common Prayer* (refer page numbers).

The hymns can be found in *The English Hymnal*.

The choral setting for the Eucharist is by John Merbecke and Martin Shaw.



We kindly request that you do not take photographs, or video or sound recording in the cathedral at any time during services. You are welcome to take photographs at any other time.

Please take this order of service away with you.

Bank details to make your online offering and payment of subscription.

Name: Society of St Thomas' Cathedral

Account no.: 917010054452406 *Bank:* Axis Bank Ltd

IFSC code: UTIB0000004 *Branch:* Fort, Mumbai - 1



Society of St. Thomas Cathedral

This order of service is printed on sustainably-produced paper. Worship material has been drawn from the Book of Common Prayer and <https://www.churchofengland.org>. Some material in this service is copyright: Common Worship © 2000 The Archbishops' Council and Common Worship. The picture on the front cover is a drawing "Child Praying at Mother's Knee" by the French artist Pierre-Édouard Frère, 1819-1886.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

“As truly as God is Father, so just as truly is He our mother.”

~ Julian of Norwich, 1342 - 1416

Today is mid-Lent Sunday, known as Mothering Sunday because of the ancient custom on that day for everyone to return to their mother church, the minster or cathedral church of the area. For some, this would be the only time that the whole family could gather together.

Mothering Sunday is a day when Christians choose to use the occasion to think about all things which concern motherhood. We give thanks for the Church as Mother, the Virgin Mary as the mother of Jesus, we remember that God cares for us like a mother, we give thanks for our own mothers, for all who undertake a mothering role and all who care for the young; recognising the pain that some carry through childlessness or bereavement at the loss of a child or parent. We pray for the *Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (WFCS)* and the worldwide church, who is 'mother to us all'. The gospel set for today, recognises also that we are in the season of Lent, with its journey encouraging us to enter into the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Order of Service

The congregation is asked to join in all text printed in **bold**.

The Gathering

Voluntary

Prelude on the tune 'St Columba' - Gordon Cameron (1900 - 1989)
(The King of love my Shepherd is)

Welcome

All keep silence and prepare for worship

Trisagion

All sing repeating after the Cantors

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

An ancient hymn of the eastern church.
The term, *Trisagion*, is from the Greek, meaning "thrice holy."

All stand and sing the opening hymn

Entrance Hymn

**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.**

Continued

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!**

Words: Fred Kaan (1929 - 2009)

Tune: LOVE DIVINE

Please be seated

All say together

Prayer of Preparation | **page 260**

Kneel as able or remain seated

Kyrie Eleison

Lord have mercy. ///
Christ have mercy. ///
Lord have mercy. ///

Setting by John Merbecke (c. 1510 - c. 1585)

The Liturgy of the Word

The Collects for the Day | **page 368 & page 357**

Read by the Presbyter

The Old Testament Reading | **page 368**

Exodus 16: 2 - 7

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

At the conclusion of the reading the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

*While seated, sing the refrain.
The verses are intoned by the choir*

**Refrain: The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
- ³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Refrain*
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city, it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
- ⁶ The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
He utters His voice, the earth melts. *Refrain*
- ⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us:
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- ⁸ Come, behold the works of the Lord:
see what desolations He has brought on the earth.
- ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
He breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
He burns the shields with fire. *Refrain*
- ¹⁰ Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations.
I am exalted in the earth.”
- ¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Refrain*

The Epistle | **page 369**

Hebrews 12: 22 - 24

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews.

At the conclusion of the reading the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

All stand and join in singing the gradual hymn

Gradual Hymn | **# 383**

Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Tune: REPTON

Remain standing for the Gospel as the cantor sings and we respond

The Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

As a mother comforts her child,

So I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

Isaiah 66:13

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Gospel of Christ | **page 369**

St. John 6: 1 - 14

The Gospeller The Lord be with you
All **and with thy spirit.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

All **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

At the conclusion of the reading

The Gospeller This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
All **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

All sing **‘Can a woman’s tender care
Cease towards the child she bare?
Yea, she may forgetful be,
Yet will I remember thee.’**

Words: W. Cowper (1731 - 1800)

Tune: ST. BEES
J. B. Dykes (1823 - 76)

Remain standing for the Creed and all recite together

The Nicene Creed | **page 265**

Please be seated

Sermon

Dr. Adelaide Vaz

Dr. Vaz is a well-known educationist having over 50 years of teaching experience. Besides being a school teacher, she was a Professor at the Bombay Teachers Training College and went on to become the Principal of St. Xavier’s Institute of Education, Mumbai. Currently Dr. Vaz is the Director General of the Secular Institute of Madonna della Strada, a world-wide lay religious institute, with its Central House in Vienna. She is also a member of the Executive Council of the World Conference of Secular Institutes, Rome and the Asian Federation of Secular Institutes, having been its President a number of times. She is the recipient of several awards for her work as an educationist including a national award from the government. Dr. Vaz has been directing the choir in her parish church for almost 50 years. She has scripted and staged many musicals in a number of schools.

A Celebration of Mothering Sunday

The choir sings

At this time posies are distributed

Mothering God, you gave me birth
in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of every breath,
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

Mothering Christ, you took my form,
offering me your food of light,
grain of life, and grape of love,
your very body for my peace.

Mothering Spirit, nurturing one,
in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow
until I flower, until I know.

Words: Jean Janzen (b. 1933)

Tune: NORWICH, Carolyn Jennings (1936)

While seated, all say

**Father in heaven,
bless all mothers
and those who look after us in our daily lives.
Make us grateful for their goodness
and thankful for their care.
Help us to respond to them in loving obedience;
following the example of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.
Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

All stand

The Peace

The Celebrant offers a greeting of peace.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says, 'As a mother
comforts her child, so I will comfort you.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Members of the congregation greet one another.

Remain standing to sing the offertory hymn.

At this time the altar is set with the gifts of bread and wine and the gifts of the people are gathered and presented. Thank you for your generosity.

All join in singing

Hymn at the Offertory | # 490

The King of love my Shepherd is

Tune: ST. COLUMBA

See inside front cover for bank details to make your offering.

All say

Offertory Prayer | **page 270**

Please be seated

Lent Prose

Cantor

Hear us, O Lord,

All

have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against Thee.

Choir

Sins oft committed now we lay before Thee with true contrition, now no more we veil them: grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

arr. John Scott, 1956 - 2015

Kneel as able or remain seated

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Intercessor

On this Mothering Sunday thank you for all those who care for us. We thank you for giving them compassion, grace and love displayed in your image.

We pray for mothers who struggle to bring children up in uncertain times, mothers in war zones where safety and protection are not a constant. God of love.

All

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for those who have taken on the role of a mother: grandparents, fathers, and friends.

We pray for families and communities who struggle to feel and share love that they may be brought together on this day.

For the sacrifices and time, they have given us for the memories they have shared and guidance they have provided.

Please give them love, strength and patience and give us the inspiration to share and be thankful for all people that care for us. God of love.

Hear our prayer.

Continued

Intercessor

We pray for our nation and all others,
that leaders are directed towards creating a society of justice
and peace, where everyone is welcome and loved. God of love.

All

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all those affected by violence and terror in our
world. We give thanks for all emergency services who put
themselves at risk to help others.

For the police, for ambulance crew and all at hospitals and for
the fire brigade, coastguard, who do their best to protect and
save others.

We pray for the armed forces and those who work away from
home to try and create a more just world. May they will feel
your love and the love of those around them. God of love.

Hear our Prayer.

We give thanks for your Church. May we share your
love in a struggling society. We pray for the worshipping
community here in our Cathedral and for its mission and
outreach in our communities. May we show your love by
welcoming all and spread the message of your love.

We pray that this church can flourish and grow. God of love

Hear our Prayer.

We pray for all those who face challenges.

We pray for those known to us who are ill or fighting with
illness, who are injured and struggling to recover.

For all doctors, nurses and care givers who work hard to aid
recovery.

At uncertain and stressful times, we pray for all those struggling
to see your light in a world full of darkness.

We pray for love, friendships and communities to bond and
support the lonely, lost, homeless and desolate at our
doorstep. God of love.

Hear our Prayer.

We lift up these prayers to you, O Lord, and all the spoken
and unspoken prayers of your people that you may comfort and
protect us all and that we may go out loving and celebrating all
those we hold dear.

Amen.

A candle is lit

The Presbyter says

On this day, this candle is lit to remember mothers not with us, to bring into the light of Christ any shadows of imperfect mothering and to draw into Christ's love all who mother others today.

All say

**Thank you God for the love of our mothers;
thank you God for their care and concern;
thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;
thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;
thank you God for all that they give us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The General Confession & Absolution | *pages 275, 276*

The Consecration | *page 277*

The Communion | *page 284*

Proceed to the High Altar for receiving Communion.

During the administration of Communion, while seated we sing

Hymn at the Communion

**^{1.} Are you down and feeling lonely,
are you weary and oppressed,
you don't have to be discouraged,
Jesus says, 'Come unto me.'
Come to me, all you weary,
and I will give you rest.
Come to me, all you burdened,
and I will give you rest.**

Continued

2. **Tell your brother and your sister
that the Saviour is a friend.
He offers you his shoulder,
lean on him and you'll find rest.
Come to me, all you weary,
and I will give you rest.
Come to me, all you burdened,
and I will give you rest.**

Words: Written for the 2026 World Day of Prayer

Tune: CALON LÂN (Welsh tune)

All stand and say

Prayer after Communion

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Presbyter

The Blessing

May God, who gave birth to all creation,
bless you:
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,
† the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

All join in singing

Hymn at the Closing | # 309

For the beauty of the earth *verses 1 to 5*

Tune: DIX (# 39)

From the West Door, the Presbyter says:

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude

Choral Song - S. Wesley (1810 - 76)

Birthdays this week

*"I thank my God every time I remember you.
In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy."*

Please stay back after the service for a time of fellowship over a cup of coffee.
Introduce yourself to the Presbyter if you are worshipping with us for the first time.

Philippians 1: 3, 4

Mrs. Rebecca Dhanasekaran (16), Mr. Kevin Paul (18),
Mr. John Abraham (19)

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.

St. Patrick's Breastplate Prayer

The Cross of Christ

A Lenten devotion on the Passion of the Holy Redeemer
in scripture, verse and music

With the Cathedral Choir

Saturday 21st March 2026 • 6:30 pm

All are welcome



"Prayer at Dawn"

Daily morning prayer for half an hour (6 am to 6:30 am)
during Lent (except on Sundays).

Zoom ID 849 1958 1943

Passcode 697159



Lenten Bible Study series

Message to the Churches Revelation 2:1 - 3:22

online 7 pm to 8 pm • zoom ID: 875 9250 2710 (passcode 880734)

Wed 25/2/26	Revd Dr. Wilson Paluri
Wed 4/3/26	Revd. Dr. Jacob Thomas
Wed 11/3/26	Deacon Paul George
Wed 18/3/26	Revd. Dr. Paras Tayade
Wed 25/3/26	Pastor Peter Akbar, <i>Grace Community Fellowship</i>

- Please remember to pay your annual **subscription** before 31st March 2026.
- A **Bible quiz** will be conducted next Sunday (22nd March 2026) at 10:45 am. Questions will be based on the Second Epistle of John, the Third Epistle of John, the Epistle of Jude and the Book of Nehemiah. Participants have been informed of their respective teams.
- If you are keen on a **prayer meeting** being held in your home (Fridays) please contact the Presbyter.
- All Church of North India candidates seeking sponsorship from the Synodical Board of Health Services (SBHS) are requested to fill in the online application form <http://admission.cmcvellore.ac.in> by 30th March 2026. The last date to apply to CNI SBHS for availing scholarship (CMC Vellore and CMC Ludhiana) is 20th April 2026. Interviews for the same will be held in Delhi on 28th April 2026 at CNI Bhawan, 16 Pandit Pant Marg, New Delhi. Contact the Presbyter for any additional information.
- The application form and bulletins for the MBB, BSc Nursing—Vellore campus, BSc Nursing—Chittoor campus and Diploma Nursing, AHS Degree, AHS Diploma, AHS PG Diploma, AHS Frllowships and AHS Masters courses are available till 30th March 2026 on the CMC website.
- Contact person: Dr. Priya Mammen (416) 2284495/ 2284362/ 2284363

Registrar, Christian Medical College, Vellore

Sponsoring body is the Marathi Mission (Mr. Mohan Luke - 9223414998

Mr. Nandkumar Shinde 9820544262)

Cathedral ministries...*Get involved!*

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| • Sunday School | Sunday morning during term time |
| • Women's Fellowship | 2 nd Sunday of the month 10.45 am |
| • Youth Fellowship | 2 nd & 4 th Sunday of the month 10.45 am |
| • Choir | Sunday 10.45 am & Saturday 5.30 pm |



TAKE UP YOUR CROSS
AND FOLLOW ME

Lent,
Holy Week
and Easter 2026

Lent

Wednesday 18th February

ASH WEDNESDAY

7.00 am Holy Eucharist with the
imposition of ashes

6.30 pm Holy Eucharist with the
imposition of ashes

Sunday 22nd February

First Sunday in Lent

7.00 am Holy Eucharist (said)

8.45 am Holy Eucharist (choral)

Sunday 1st March

Second Sunday in Lent

7:00 am Holy Eucharist (said)

8.45 am Holy Eucharist (choral)

Sunday 8th March

Third Sunday in Lent

7.00 am Holy Eucharist (said)

8.45 am Holy Eucharist (choral)

Saturday 14th March • 6:30 pm
Lenten reflections (Bach chorale
preludes: baritone, cello, organ)

Sunday 15th March

Mothering Sunday

7.00 am Holy Eucharist (said)

8.45 am Holy Eucharist (choral)

Saturday 21st March • 6.30 pm

“The Cross of Christ”

*A service of readings, hymns
and choral music for Passiontide*

Sunday 22nd March

Fifth Sunday in Lent

7.00 am Holy Eucharist (said)

8.45 am Holy Eucharist (choral)

Holy Week and Easter

Sunday of the Passion: PALM SUNDAY

29th March

Procession and the Blessing
and Distribution of Palms

7:00 am Holy Eucharist (said)

8.45 am Holy Eucharist (choral)

Monday in Holy Week 30th March

6.30 pm Holy Week Meditation
in Word and Organ Music

Tuesday in Holy Week 31st March

6.30 pm ‘Hymns of Faith’

Wednesday in Holy Week 1st April

6.30 pm Holy Week Meditation
in Word and Organ Music

Thursday 2nd April

THE MAUNDY THURSDAY LITURGY

AND THE WASHING OF FEET

6.30 pm Holy Eucharist (choral)

GOOD FRIDAY 3rd April

9 am to 12 noon

Meditation on the

Seven Words from the Cross

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER 4th April

8 pm

Lighting of the Paschal Candle
and the First Eucharist of Easter

EASTER DAY Sunday 5th April

9 am

A joyful sung service of Holy Eucharist with
canticles, hymns, readings and sermon

† **THE WORLD** We pray for all caught in the conflicts of the Middle East— especially in Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Iran, and surrounding regions—that leaders may seek wisdom and restraint, that violence may cease, and that justice and lasting peace may grow among all peoples. We remember civilians, families, aid workers, and refugees whose lives are torn apart by war. May God bring comfort to the grieving, protection to the vulnerable, and courage to those working for reconciliation. We pray for our fragile earth as it faces rising temperatures, extreme weather, and environmental loss. Give wisdom to governments, scientists, and communities to act with urgency and cooperation to safeguard the planet for future generations. We ask that God stir in all people a deeper reverence for creation and a commitment to peace, so that nations may turn from destruction and work together for the healing of the earth and the flourishing of all life.

† **OUR COUNTRY** We pray that LPG and petroleum supply chains be eased and restored following the conflict in the Middle East.

† **THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH** St. Patrick's Day falls on 17th March. Born in Scotland, he was ordained bishop and sent to Ireland. He and his disciples preached and converted thousands and began building churches all over the country. Kings, their families, and entire kingdoms converted to Christianity when hearing Patrick's message • Cyril of Jerusalem (Bishop, Theologian 386 AD) is commemorated on 18th March • The 6th century monk, Benedict, is commemorated on 21st March • For the new Archbishop of Canterbury the Most Revd and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally. Archbishop Sarah will be installed in Canterbury Cathedral on 25th March 2026 (The Feast of the Annunciation). Pray for her ministry as she assumes leadership of the many millions in more than 165 countries in the worldwide Anglican Communion • The Anglican Church of Kenya and Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit

† **THE CHURCH IN INDIA** Vethappan Solomon ('The Apostle of Nicobar') is commemorated on 15th March. Vethappan arrived at Car Nicobarin 1895 and established a school in Mus village with 12 pupils. His sojourn in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands yielded great rewards for the Nicobari people, changing their lives forever • The Diocese of Eastern Himalaya and Bishop Roshan Thapa • The Diocese of Coimbatore and Bishop Prince Calvin.

† **THE DIOCESE OF BOMBAY** Jubilee Church, Sanpada (Marathi Pastorate) and Revd Graham Engineer.

† **OUR CATHEDRAL** All senior citizens and those who are unwell. Pray for their care providers. This week for the Altar guild—the Servers and Lay Readers.

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

3 Veer Nariman Road, Fort, Mumbai – 400 001

Presbyter-In-Charge: The Revd. Avinash T. Rangayya

Telephone: **98207 50090**

Contact the Presbyter for pastoral visits and administering Communion to the house-bound.

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY. PLEASE SHARE THIS SERVICE BOOKLET WITH A FRIEND.

Website <http://stthomascathedralmumbai.com>

Subscribe to the Cathedral's YouTube channel