

Mothering Sunday

Notes for a sermon preached by the Rector, the Very Reverend Tim Barker, at the parish church of St Andrew Guernsey on 27 March 2022

Readings: Exodus 1 vv 1-10 and John 19 vv 25b-27

A difficult day for many – those who have lost children, those who have never been able to have children, those who have difficult memories of parents

Commercial Mother's Day: much glitz, cheerful cards, flowers, etc

However the Bible readings for today don't sugar the pill

Moses

- Desperation, not unfamiliar to many in the world, some even having to sell their children into slavery
- No subterfuge or lies, but Moses' elder sister, lurking and watching, offers to find a nurse for Pharaoh's daughter – who happens to be Moses' mother
- Pharaoh's daughter is either oblivious to, or simply ignores, her father's edict
- Compassion – such as we are seeing in relation to Ukrainian children and refugees

Prodigal son

- Gospel for Lent 4 (Luke 15 vv 1-3 & 11b-end), printed in newsletter
- Misnamed – parable of the two sons
- No sign of the mother, but father and two sons feature
- Father's role is crucial – especially his generous forgiveness and his careful explanation to the grumpy older son
- The complexity of parenthood and relationships is all too apparent

Mary

- Warned by Simeon;
- Gifts from wise men indicated the complexity and challenge of her role as mother of Jesus
- Perhaps she had not fully appreciated the cost of her role until she saw Jesus being crucified
- Brutal reality of Calvary
- Even there, compassion and relationship – John

Realism about parenting

The importance of working at relationships