

Jn 19: 25b-27
Care for one another

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

/over

Prayer

*As we reflect on your word O God,
help us to walk in your ways.*

Web cast welcome ...

We worship today under circumstances that are strange and new to us,

but circumstances that are this week the experience of peoples the world over.

And in these circumstances we share fear and anxiety over the future,

our futures,

the futures of those we love,
of every one.

And in worship we share hope too.

Hope for ever

and hope for now.

Let me read you this.

The Archdeacon of Macclesfield shared it during the week.

The words are from the Bishop of Boga.

Boga is a link Diocese for Chester,
in the Congo.

No more church gatherings, no more political rallies, no church services, no markets, no travels. Stay home and see what the Creator has in plan. Coronavirus, a small creature, invisible to naked eye is causing destruction to human pride. Where are your guns and missiles? What can your economies do? They are crumbling. Spend time reflecting on God's mighty power to save, to provide, to control the earth business! Not China, Russia, America, but GOD. Only God. Creator of all, visible and invisible. Never undermine the invisible, it will surprise you. The great invisible, the SPIRIT is the master we need to refer to for answer. I am happy to spend time with the family and God. Whether I am coronavirus candidate or not. Life is eternal!

As our Archdeacon said,

“Full of faith and typically direct.”

Our Gospel reading belonged to the day of Jesus' execution.

And this story sits at the centre of our thoughts on Mothering Sunday,
Mothers' Day,

every Mothers' Day,
and never more appropriately than
this Mothering Sunday.

Whilst Jesus is dying,
he still cares for these two people:

His mother, standing nearby,
And somebody we know as "the
Beloved Disciple".

John's Gospel ends with these words,
"This is the disciple who is testifying to
these things and has written them..."

The "Beloved Disciple" is possibly the
author of the account we read.

Possibly, at the time, somebody
whose mother had died.

Maybe still a minor himself.

And Jesus creates a new family -
during his own execution.

At the cross he blesses motherhood.

And he fills the hollow that must have
entered Mary's heart.

Three pictures of love in one moment.

In these days,

in our time,

we might share something of the
hollowness of Mary's heart,

Or the isolation of the Beloved
Disciple,

Or the pain of Jesus.

Whichever it is, the Godly response is love
leading to hopefulness.

These days ask much of us;

Much especially of those who seek to be
followers of Jesus Christ.

It is a time to notice those around us
who are in need or vulnerable,

and time to do something about it.

It is not a time to bemoan what we cannot
do, but to do what we can do.

That may be as simple as picking
the phone up and give somebody
five minutes of your time,

to check in with them.

It may mean picking up some shopping for somebody else when you go out for your own.

It may mean looking up on the local authority web site what you can do to help.

Cheshire West for sure are co-ordinating voluntary help that way.

And there will be those of you already committed to caring for others,

working in the health system or other essential public svc. or ensuring the provision of food and the basic essentials of life.

The majority of us need to show you our thanks, and respect.

These are all Godly things.

These are the good news amongst so much bad.

These make Jesus more present.

In the words of the first reading for Mothering Sunday:

“As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

Amen.