Welcome back to Fr Chris Lee and many thanks for his agreeing to preach and preside for us today.

Mothering Sunday - Flowers today will be placed under your seats in advance of the service. They will be blessed before the final hymn.

Next Sunday - Reserve your seat at St Saviour’s mass via Liz on 07718918846.

Covid Precautions - Many thanks for all those who are heeding our covid precautions. As a reminder, once we enter church we go to our places and stay there until the end of the service. At the end of the service we leave quietly through the middle doors. It is only outside where conversations/fellowship is allowable. Recently, many individuals are gathering and catching up before the service starts which is against our risk assessment and if it continues may place our opening for worship at risk. Please help us stay open for the rest of Lent and Holy Week by abiding by our precautions and keeping socially distant from each other. Many thanks again for your continued forbearance, Fr Phelim.

South Cardiff Ministry Area - Steering Group meets on Wed 14 April.

Easter Flowers - Order forms for those wishing to sponsor Easter Floral arrangements will be available from Gwyneth today. Anyone wishing to make a donation towards the flowers/plants for the Altar of Repose and Easter Garden please see Liz.

Lenten Charity - This year we are supporting our neighbours at the ‘Oasis Cafe’ as they work with refugees and asylum seekers. So far over £330 has been raised by all those who attended and supported our two fundraiser Bingo events on zoom. We will continue to collect for this worthy cause during Lent.

Faith QI - Next meets on St Patrick’s day 17 March at 7pm via zoom. Each evening we explore a different topic related to our faith and spirituality - sometimes prayer, sometimes philosophy, sometimes theology. At the heart of it is a desire to understand and deepen our own faith.

Lent Course - There are a list of courses and retreats available to choose from on our website. We will follow our pattern from last year and explore an Easter Course or Book Group.

Evensong and Benediction - Tonight at 6:30 pm in St German’s. All are welcome.

Stations of the Cross - Are now available to be played during the season of Lent. Stations are available from St Saviour’s and also St German’s. Many thanks to Brian Williams for his recording of Cesar Franck’s ‘Stations’ for this recording.

Recently Departed - Margaret Underwood RIP

We thank God for Jesus who by his Holy Cross has saved the world.

“Not for nothing is John 3.16 one of the best-known, best-loved verses, proclaimed on countless church notice-boards and felt by generations as an individual promise. It belongs to each of us as if it were addressed to us alone. We might imagine our- selves, on Laetare Sunday, picking up our Bible, finding John 3.16, crossing out “the world”, and writing our own name: “God so loved me . . .”. That might give us the en- couragement that we need to trust that God sent his Son into the world not to condemn it, but to save it.”

(Cally Hammond, Church Times 8243)
COLLECT:

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to the smiters and did not hide his face from shame: give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

TODAY’S MUSIC:

Amazing Grace (my chains are gone)
O virgin fair
From heaven you came helpless babe
Sing we of the blessed mother

FIRST READING:

A reading from the 2nd book of Chronicles.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, ‘Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.’

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: ‘Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.”’

This is the word of the Lord. 2 Chronicles 36

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

This is the word of the Lord. Eph 2

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son: everyone who believes in him has eternal life. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

GOSPEL:

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord. John 3