

LAETARE SUNDAY

BE GLAD!

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally known as Laetare Sunday, after the first word of the Latin Introit for the Mass:

“Be glad, Jerusalem; and come together, all you who love her.”



We are more than half way through Lent, and today offers a chance for refreshment, a lightening of our Lenten discipline.

Flowers are brought into Church today, the organ is played, and the vestments and hangings change from sombre Purple to hopeful Rose.

In England, today was traditionally the time when people would pray for the Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Diocese. The day thus came to be associated with human mothers as well.

We honour our mothers and all who care for us by giving them flowers, which are blessed in Church today:

O God,
you are the joy and gladness of all your faithful people.

We ask you to bless these flowers,
that they may be symbols
of our love for our mothers and all who care for us,
and our devotion to our Mother, the Church.

Grant that we might walk always
in the fragrance of Jesus Christ,
the divine Flower which sprang from the Stem of Jesse;
so that we might inherit the joys of the New Jerusalem,
which is our spiritual mother and our heavenly home.