



Mothering Sunday, 14th March 2021

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone is keeping well. We had snow, rain and sunshine this morning. A soggy week, wild and windy, daffodils slightly flattened but holding their own as we head to Mothering Sunday. We have had wonderful walks. Children are back at school. Our granddaughter is sick on day one. Reading is resumed as little one learns to mute Nanna on zoom! Nanna is loving it. Our new granddaughter in Tokyo slept seven hours.

This week has been rocked by events. The 25th anniversary of Dunblane. A beautiful young woman tragically had her life taken on our streets. Our Royal Family is navigating new territory. However, hearing children in the playground again is delightful. Folk begin to plan ahead. Amidst all the crazy world around us we have a solid rock. We have our God who loves us and always stays close by.

Mothers can be grateful children are back at school. Grateful their children can begin catching up on lost learning and maybe a little relieved they can concentrate more on the mum aspect, rather than the home school teacher role. Some mums will be nervous. It can be very hard being a mum. This week, our hearts and prayers go out to Sarah Everard's mum and all her family. Our Queen has truly been at the challenging end of motherhood this week. Tomorrow is Mother's Day.



A CHILD'S PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Dear Jesus, thank you for my mum
and for all the many ways she loves and cares for me.
Amen.

2,000 years ago, Jesus' mother Mary, stood at the foot of the cross. Nearly all Jesus' followers had deserted him. His mother hadn't! She loved him and was there for him right until the end. Her love for him was in some ways a reflection of his love for us. Despite our failings, Jesus died on the cross for all of us. Jesus' love was also very practical. Jesus cared for his mum up until the end, asking the disciple who he loved to look after her when he had gone.

JOHN 19.25

"Jesus' mother stood near his cross."

Mother's Day is a special time to reflect on the many ways in which our mothers loved and love us. Things might not be perfect. Motherhood is complex. We can think about ways we can show how much we appreciate our mothers and their love for us and demonstrate this in both word and action. Mother's Day is also a good opportunity to remember and be thankful for the perfect love God showed for us when Jesus died and rose again for us on the first Easter.

Isaiah 66.13

"As a mother comforts her child,
so will I comfort you"

We are having two Mother's Day services on zoom tomorrow, one at 11 o'clock and one at 2pm. At both there will be a special opportunity to thank God for our mothers. The 2pm service is shorter and should work especially well for families. All you will need for the afternoon service are five daffodils and a Mother's Day card!

This week our Wednesday evening group will be discussing the commandment to "Honour your father and mother". If you would like to join please let me know. All are very welcome.

Please let Judy or I know if you would like a zoom invitation for any of these.

Kirsty would like to thank folk for making Christ Church look so beautiful for her mother Marie's funeral. Marie's family did a wonderful job. She would have been so proud. In Foulridge churchyard the heavens opened. Marie was laid to rest in a beautiful spot, wonderfully peaceful, close to the lake.



A MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

Loving Lord, today we honour our mothers,
may we love and cherish the special women who have born us,
who have nurtured us, and who have prayed for our well-being.

May our hearts overflow with gratitude to you,
who formed and knitted each of us in our mother's womb.

Amen.

The Diocesan Service this week is a Service for Mothering Sunday from Blackburn Cathedral. You can link to that from the Cathedral website.

Please take care and look after yourselves. You are continually in my thoughts and prayers. If there is anything you need please call. I love to learn how things are going and to catch up. If you have special prayer requests for yourself or others please let me know. I love to pray each day and if you are happy for us to do so, we pray for folk each week at Compline.

With love, blessings and continued prayers,

Rev John

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MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

We thank you for mothers and carers everywhere,
and for the special love they have for their children.
We thank you Jesus for your special care and comfort
and the perfect love you have for us all.
Help us all to show your love to those who care for us,
and to the people that we meet in our lives.

Amen

QUOTATIONS ABOUT MOTHERS

"I learned more about Christianity from my mother
than from all the theologians in England." (John Wesley)

"Only God Himself fully appreciates the influence of a Christian mother
in the molding of character in her children." (Billy Graham)

"There's no way to be a perfect mother
and a million ways to be a good one." (Churchill)