

## All Age Worship for MOTHERING SUNDAY 2021

Today, we celebrate all the people who care for us and look after us and the Church, which is God's gift to us.

We sing "Morning has Broken"

We hear a litany for Mothers, read by members of our Churches:

### A LITANY FOR MOTHERS

Eve our first mother – thank you for stepping out and being the first to understand the complexities of life.

Sarah, Hannah and Elizabeth – thank you for your patience and courage in waiting for a miracle. May all people longing for children be strengthened by your stories and comforted in their pain.

Hagar – thank you for your resolve in the face of exile. May all mothers who are forced to flee or are forgotten be given hope in you.

Rebecca – thank you for your flexibility. Let us remember all mothers who have to raise their children in a different country or far from their relatives and who feel isolated.

Rachel – you carried the burden of grief and wept for your children. Hold the hands of all those mothers who weep for their children – children who have gone missing, who have died or are lost to them in other ways.

Naomi and Ruth – you showed that love can conquer all trials. Help all mothers to love constantly when life seems impossible and despair weighs hard upon their souls.

Mary – the new Eve whose 'yes' to God changed our world forever. Thank you for sheltering the Holy One all those years ago, for your faithful love and tender care of God's most precious Son. May we never forget that in your giving is our greatest receiving – the gift of life wrapped in a manger and in a tomb. May we know the true cost of relationship by holding our faith in Christ deep within our hearts as you once held him deep within your womb. **Amen**

*We pray*

Loving God, we give thanks for all who care for us, who have encouraged us and helped us grow, who have forgiven us, and cared for us when we were unwell, who have supported us when times were hard, who have challenged us, who have told us about you.

Nurturing God, we give you thanks. **Amen**

### CONFESSIOIN

God said, through the prophet Hosea: "When you were child, I loved you. It was I who taught you to walk, I took you up in my arms; but you did not know that I healed you. I led you with cords of human kindness, with bands of love, I was to you like those who lift children to their cheeks. I bent down to you and fed you.'

But sometimes we forget that we are loved – and we forget to love others, and so we spend a moment of quiet before God, coming back to him who is our original and perfect parent.

May the God of love, forgive you, heal you and free you  
To share his love in the world  
**Amen**

### A reading from Exodus 2:1-10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup>The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. <sup>3</sup>When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. <sup>4</sup>His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. <sup>5</sup>The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. <sup>6</sup>When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. <sup>7</sup>Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from

the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"<sup>8</sup> Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother.<sup>9</sup> Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it.<sup>10</sup> When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses,<sup>[a]</sup> "because," she said, "I drew him out<sup>[b]</sup> of the water."

*Activity... how many people were responsible for caring for Moses?*

### **The Gospel Reading (from John 19)**

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.<sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son."<sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

*While the music plays ("Compassion Hymn") we go to find something in our house that reminds us of someone who cares for us or cared for us when we were young. We share these with one another and are reminded how much God cares for each one of us.*

*Our prayers are led by some of the children of our parish:*

Dear God, Thank you that everyone belongs in your kingdom, and that you know each of us as your dearly loved children. This Mothering Sunday, we pray for everyone who cares for us and helps us to know that we are loved. We thank you for parents and grandparents, children and grandchildren, brothers and sisters, friends and neighbours.

We thank you for everyone who is there for us when we are in need.

Help us to be friends in need too.

This Mothering Sunday, we pray for our world. We give thanks for the beauty of spring and the promise of new life and all that brings us hope. Help us to care for the world that you have given us, so that generations who come after us may be able to enjoy it too.

This Mothering Sunday we pray for our Churches – for everyone who has worshipped in this Parish over the years and for everyone who has found a welcome and God's love amongst our people. Help us to be welcoming, forgiving, and loving, just like you.

This Mothering Sunday, we pray for all those who miss loved ones, and think about them on this day. We pray, too, for anyone we know who is unwell or unhappy at the moment.

Father of all, you show us your love each & every day. Help us to show your love in the Church, in the world, and in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the  
glory, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*We join in singing "Praise my Soul the King of Heaven"*

### **BLESSING**

The Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit,  
Strengthen us for the Christian life.  
The Lord who provides for all our needs  
Sustain us day by day.  
The Lord whose steadfast love is constant as a  
mother's care,  
Send us out to live and work for others.  
And may the blessing of God Almighty.  
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
Be with us and remain with us always. Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ

**Thanks be to God.**