

# PSP arish Support Pack

## Mothering Sunday

<b>Contents</b>	
<b>Readings, Introduction, Prayers</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Prayers os the Church</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>A Mothering Sunday Creed</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Quotations on motherhood</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Sermon sources</b>	<b>Page 8</b>

### READINGS FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

Exodus 2 : 1-10

The mother of Moses worked a deception to preserve her son's life, when the Egyptians were controlling the population by killing every new-born Jewish boy.

or

1 Samuel 1 : 20-28

Samuel, that great Old Testament figure, was born to a mother who for years had been unable to bear a son. In thankfulness for God's gift, his mother took him to the Lord's house to give him back to God.

2 Corinthians 1 : 3-7

Paul writes of the consoling strength of God, the one we can all turn to in trouble, and how this grace we receive enables us to sustain one another.

or

Colossians 3 : 12-17

Paul writes of the compassionate gifts, forgiveness and love. These, received and given always in the name of Jesus, are a vocation for us all.

### INTRODUCTION

On the Fourth Sunday of Lent one of the traditions for Anglican received from the Church of England. Most Sundays in the year churchgoers in England worship at their nearest parish or 'daughter church'. In the medieval church people often made annual pilgrimage to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church – which typically in the church family was the main church or Cathedral of the area.

### PRAYERS

God our Creator, we pray:

for new mothers, coming to terms with new responsibility ;

for expectant mothers, wondering and waiting;

for those who are tired, stressed or depressed;

for those who struggle to balance the tasks of work and family;

for those who are unable to feed their children due to poverty;

for those whose children have physical, mental or emotional disabilities;

for those who have children they do not want;

for those who raise children on their own;

for those who have lost a child;

for those who care for the children of others;

for those whose children have left home;

and for those whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled.

Bless all mothers, that their love may be deep and tender,

and that they may lead their children to know and do what is good,

living not for themselves alone, but for God and for others.

Amen.

Loving God,  
we thank you for the love of the mothers you have given us,  
whose love is so precious that it can never be measured,  
whose patience seems to have no end.  
May we see your loving hand behind them and guiding them.  
We pray for those mothers who fear they will run out of love  
or time, or patience.  
We ask you to bless them with your own special love.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus, our brother.  
Amen.

Gracious God,  
We thank you for adopting us into your family through the miracle of  
your grace, and for calling us to be brothers and sisters to each other.  
Today, loving God, we pray for our mothers:

who cared for us when we were helpless  
who comforted us when we were hurt  
whose love and care we often took for granted.

Today we pray for:  
those who are grieving the loss of their mother,  
those who never knew their biological mother, and now yearn for her  
those who have experienced the wonder of an adopted mother's love  
the families separated by war or conflict.  
Lord, give them special blessings.

Keep us united with you and with each other, so that we can be and become all that we  
are meant to be. Amen.

Loving God, you have given us the right to be called children of God.  
Help us to show your love in our homes that they may be places of love,  
security and truth.  
Loving God, Jesus, your Son, was born into the family of Mary and Joseph;

bless all parents and all who care for children;

strengthen those families living under stress and may your love be known  
where no human love is found.

Loving God, we thank you for the family of the Church.

We pray that all may find in her their true home; that the lonely, the  
marginalized,

the rejected may be welcomed and loved in the name of Jesus.  
Loving God, as we see the brokenness of our world we pray for healing  
among the nations;

for food where there is hunger; for freedom where there is oppression;

for joy where there is pain; that your love may bring peace to all your children.  
Amen

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH 1

Lord God, you are the father of all people and we bring our prayers knowing that you will hear us and help us.

We thank you for our church, for those who have worshipped here over the years and for those who serve it today.

Grant that all who enter its doors may be enabled to renew their relationship with you and may find your peace, your strength and above all your presence. Help us as a congregation to be outward looking, so that what we find within our fellowship we may share with those outside.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

In our baptism you welcomed us into the family of your church. May your blessing be upon \_\_\_\_\_ who we have welcomed into the church family this morning. May your love surround him/her and grant that he/she may grow up to be a faithful member of your family and may learn to love you and know you as a friend.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Thank you Lord for our mothers. We remember today their loving care and their ceaseless love for us. Make us grateful for their goodness and thankful for their care and may we show them by our gifts, our words and our actions that we love them and care about them too.

Lord Jesus, we are glad that the bible story tells us a little about your family life and introduces us to Mary, your mother.

She was happy when she knew she was to be a mother

She was pleased when people were glad to meet you

She was worried when you were lost and she went to look for you

She stayed by you when everyone else was against you

She shared your pain and suffering and she shared your triumph.

In the love of our own mothers we also have received this same care:

– as babies they do everything for us, as children they teach us, help us and comfort us, sharing our interests and ideas and keeping us happy. When we become adults and leave home they continue to offer advice and support and share our troubles and joys. We are better people because of all they have done for us. Let us pray that the love they have shown us may also be shown by us.

Lord in your mercy

**hear our prayer**

Hear our prayer, Lord, for people who are ill, in hospitals, at home, or wherever they may be. Give them courage, hope and peace, and the knowledge that you are present in their weakness, pain and suffering. May the skills and knowledge of those who care for the sick be fully used to help and to heal.

We pray for those mothers for whom motherhood is a particular challenge, for mothers

throughout the world who have lost children through illness, through natural disasters, through war and civil unrest.

We pray for people whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them, for members of our families who have died and whose anniversary we recall. Help us to experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit within us, and the fellowship of the church family around us until we are reunited once more in your heavenly kingdom.

Jesus Christ is the light of the World, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember before God those who have died and light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. We remember today\_\_\_\_\_

You turn our darkness into light in your light shall we see light

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
*This is Church*

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH 2

Let us pray.

God our Father, in your unfailing love and goodness, hear us as we bring to you our prayers for the world and for all people . In this period of Lent we come to you aware of our unreadiness for the enormity of the Easter message, that Christ suffered and died for us and was yet raised in glorious victory.. Grant us healing in our souls Lord, and in the souls of all who search for meaning in their lives.

We give you thanks for your beautiful world , for all its richness and complexity .for the foretaste of spring and summer we have enjoyed this week and pray for better awareness of the needs of our planet and sensitivity to the conservation of its resources. We give you thanks for our senses which enable us to enjoy the splendour of your world around us, the sight and scent of flowers, the sound of birdsong, the feeling of warmth from the sun.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for the health and vigour of your Church on Earth, for all who preach your Gospel and have responsibility for the cure of souls. We pray for those churches that struggle to keep their doors open in an era when attendance at worship is poor. Grant them willing hands and sufficient funds to maintain regular worship to your glory. We pray for the decisions made at the Circuit Meeting this week, that your will be done, and especially for those seeking a new minister for the partnership.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Lord, we thank you that you have brought us safely thus far to this point in our lives. We thank you for the past, with gratitude for the people who cared for us in our infancy and childhood - remembering particularly today our mothers, teachers who taught us in school, and all who shaped us into the people we are, giving thanks especially for those who showed us the way of Christ and helped plant our footsteps in His.

## Mothering Sunday

We thank you for the present, for our families and friends who support us and surround us with their love, for this community at \_\_\_\_\_ which sustains us and keeps us rooted in Your love. Help us to be supportive to our friends, families and neighbours and sensitive to their needs.

We would ask your blessing on all who are at turning points in their lives, those preparing for marriage, those who have lost their job and face uncertainty, and all facing illness or infirmity, give them courage and hope.

And we pray for the future, certain in the knowledge that you will continue to guide us and guard us throughout all things. Support us through times of ill health or doubt or trouble. and fulfil your promise to be with us to the end of the age. We remember the troubled nations of the world, praying for an end to warfare and for negotiations for peace throughout the world.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We thank you Father for your many miracles of healing, and we pray for all who work with the sick and infirm. We name in our hearts those we love who are in need of your healing touch. We pray that your blessing be upon them and those who love and care for them and we pray that they may find encouragement and peace, that their sorrows and concerns be transformed into comfort, and their loneliness into fellowship with you.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We remember those who we love but see no longer. Almighty Father, be with all those who are grieving today over the loss of a loved one.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember before God those who have died and light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ, which eternally shines and brings hope. We remember \_\_\_\_\_

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Merciful Father:

accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*This is Church*

### A MOTHERS' DAY CREED

Possible uses: Parish magazine; incorporated at end of a sermon.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, who was born of the promise to a virgin named Mary.

I believe in the love Mary gave her Son, that caused her to follow him in his ministry and stand by his cross as he died.

I believe in the love of all mothers, and its importance in the lives of the children they bear.

It is stronger than steel, softer than down, and more resilient than a green sapling on the hillside.

It closes wounds, melts disappointments, and enables the weakest child to stand tall and straight in the fields of adversity.

I believe that this love, even at its best, is only the shadow love of God, a dark reflection of all that we expect of him in this life and the next.

And I believe that one of the most beautiful sights in the world is a mother who lets this greater love flow through her to her child, blessing the world with the tenderness of her touch and the tears of her joy.

Thank God for mothers, and thank mothers for helping us understand God!

### QUOTATIONS ON MOTHERHOOD

The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness.

**--Honore' de Balzac**

The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom.

**--Henry Ward Beecher**

Youth fades; love droops,  
the leaves of friendship fall;  
A mother's secret hope outlives them all.

**--Oliver Wendell Holmes**

The joys of motherhood are never fully experienced until the children are in bed.

**--Author Unknown.**

Becoming a mother makes you the mother of all children. From now on each wounded, abandoned, frightened child is yours. You live in the suffering mothers of every race and creed and weep with them. You long to comfort all who are desolate.

**--Charlotte Gray**

## Mothering Sunday

A mother's yearning feels the presence of the cherished child even in the degraded man.

--**George Eliot**

Women know the way to rear up children (to be just). They know a simple, merry, tender knack of tying sashes, fitting baby-shoes, and stringing pretty words that make no sense. And kissing full sense into empty words.

--**Elizabeth Barrett Browning**

Making the decision to have a child is momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body.

--**Elizabeth Stone**

A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials, heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine, desert us when troubles thicken around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts.

--**Washington Irving**

All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother.

--**Abraham Lincoln**

My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her.

--**George Washington**

A mother is not a person to lean on, but a person to make leaning unnecessary.

--**Dorothy Canfield Fisher**

### SERMON SOURCES

There is a range at **Sermon Central**:

<http://www.sermoncentral.com/articleb.asp?article=mothers-day-sermons-videos-illustrations#illustrations>

**The United Catholic Church** - is not well known at all! But here is a source which would give you in its first half (it goes on a bit...) material on (i) human motherhood, (ii) the motherhood of Mary, with quotation from the Magnificat, and (iii) the motherhood of God. The explanation of Mothers' Day is American and does not reflect Mothering Sunday.

<http://www.rmbowman.com/catholic/s980509h.htm>

**!7 Biblical texts** for Mothering Sunday

<http://www.evangelismcoach.org/2009/17-mothers-day-bible-verses/>

Sermon on **1 John 4:7-21**. Mainly on the love of God, but ties this in with a concluding section relating to the day.

<http://pastorbobcornwall.blogspot.com/2009/05/no-fear-mothers-day-sermon.html>

Scroll down for three children's addresses at:

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/hso.htm>