

# PSP arish Support Pack

## MOTHERING SUNDAY

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### INTRODUCTION

The fourth Sunday in Lent is called Mothering Sunday. There are traditions associated with Mothering Sunday in England which date back as long ago as the 16th century. It is told that this was the day when people were encouraged to return to worship in their 'mother church' where they had been baptised. People who usually attended the local parish church, would make a longer journey to the 'mother church' or cathedral of the Diocese. Girls in domestic service would bake to show their mothers their new skills in the form of a gift, traditionally a simnel cake. On this day many girls who were in service were allowed time off from domestic chores to visit their mothers and their family.

Today Mothering Sunday is a popular day when Christians choose to use the occasion to think about all things which concern motherhood. We give thanks for the Church as Mother, the Virgin Mary as the mother of Jesus, we remember that God cares for us like a mother and last but not least we give thanks for our own mothers.

Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Lent and it is a time of special for thanksgiving. Sunday is the one day of joy in Lent, when flowers abound in all churches and when people are allowed a time off from the penitential season. It is also known as Mid-Lent Sunday, Refreshment Sunday or Laetare Sunday. The Latin name of Laetare, means rejoice.

**BIBLE READINGS AND COMMENT**

*Bible Readings etc for Mothering Sunday remain the same for each liturgical year*

**Exodus 2:1-10 or 1 Samuel 1:20-28**

**Colossians 3:12-17**

**Third Bible Reading (*Choice of two*)**

**Luke 2:33-35 or John 19:25-27**

**Psalms 34:11-20 or Psalm 127:1-4**

**Exodus 2.1-10**

1 A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman.

2 The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months.

3 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.

4 His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 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.

6 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.

7 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?'

8 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother.

9 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.

10 When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because,' she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

**Or 1 Samuel 1.20-28**

20 Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the LORD.'

21 The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow.

22 But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.'

23 Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only - may the LORD establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him.

24 When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young.

25 Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli.

26 And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD.'

27 For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him.

28 Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD.' She left him there for the LORD.

**Colossians 3.12-17**

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### COMMENT

In the fourteenth century Julian of Norwich, the first woman to write in modern English, experienced and understood the motherhood of God in her visions. Mothering Sunday is a good day to share her vision and recognise that although we are distinguished by our gender, God is not. Instead God is both mother and father to us .

‘As truly as God is Father, so just as truly is he our mother.’

Julian of Norwich.

### Luke 2:33-35

The reading from Luke which we know as the 'Prodigal Son' is one of the most profound teachings of Jesus. It gives to us a glimpse of that forgiveness which is found in God as parent. As no human parent can fail to forgive, so too God's forgiveness is not limited by the human capacity to sin.

Motherhood was not easy for Mary. She was young, inexperienced and unmarried. Her pregnancy was viewed with suspicion. Her baby was born far from home in difficult and dangerous surroundings. When she took her son to the temple, only days old, Simeon's prophecy for his future was both ominous and exciting. Jesus' childhood gave her cause for concern and in adulthood, it was clear that his life would become increasingly dangerous and he would be marginalised. Mary had to learn to put her own feelings to one side to support him in his mission. Finally, she suffered the worst thing that can happen to a mother, she had to watch her son die a tortured death.

The two passages from the Gospels this morning are taken from the extreme ends of Jesus' relationship with his mother, Mary. In the excerpt from Luke we meet Joseph and Mary in the temple celebrating the birth of the first born son, bringing him to be circumscribed according to the rites of their people. It should have been a joyful occasion and they have been greeted by Simeon prophesying Jesus' greatness and heroic future life. Any parent would have been reeling from shock, even after the extraordinary events that had gone before. But it is Simeon's prophesy about Mary's suffering as a result of Jesus' great calling on which we focus now. The first phrase stresses Jesus' disruptive, transforming quality "this child is set for the rise and fall of many in Israel" and then says , almost incidentally that a sword would pierce Mary's heart too. Note that the word chosen to describe the sword isn't a genteel little dagger but rhomphaia meaning a huge battle weapon. This is a deadly weapon bringing death rather than injury and the selection of this word suggests Jesus' death. The final phrase prophesying that Jesus will bring out the truth about people continues the theme that Jesus will be a catalyst for change, an force for change, a challenge for authority and bigotry down the ages.

The second part of the Gospel reading is taken from when Jesus, as a grown man in his thirties is about to die. We see Mary choosing to watch her son's suffering, rather than leave him. We see that she waits with her women friends all the long hours when Jesus suffers on the Cross. Jesus displays equal loyalty to her, thinking of her plight as a widow

and consigned her into the care of his disciple John. In the sermon today I shall be thinking about what that gesture implies for Jesus' understanding of what family means, but here we shall notice Jesus' love and compassion for his mother, and note their mutual loyalty and sense of responsibility for the happiness and well-being of the other. We take these feeling for granted and that is why we are so deeply shocked when the bond between parent and child is wrecked by cruelty, violence or deceit.

### **Colossians 3:12-17**

The reading from Paul's letter to the church family at Colosse is an appeal for them to put aside differences over heresies and factions and to concentrate on the meaning of Christianity. "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another". Paul saw that the little church was being pulled apart by disputes and begged them to be governed by compassion, patience, kindness, gentleness and humility. All these peacemaking, reconciling qualities are essential for family life in every form.

*Joan Crossley*

### PRAYERS

Merciful Lord, you know our struggle to serve you: when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts, come to our aid and turn us back to you again; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Common Worship Shorter Collect*

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen *Common Worship*

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful; watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Common Worship Shorter Collect*

Lord Jesus, you know well the blessing an earthly home can bring: receive our thanks for all the love we have received in our homes, especially from those who have nurtured us from our earliest years. Hear our prayers for mothers everywhere, that they may never lose heart nor ever be taken for granted, but receive from their children the honour and love you showed to your mother, Mary, even as you were suffering on the Cross. Bless and keep them all, for your love's sake. Amen *Church of Ireland*

Dear God  
We thank you for mothers.  
We thank you for all those who care for us  
in quiet, often unrecognised ways;  
we thank you for all those who care for others  
in patience and love.  
We are sorry for those times when we have failed  
to care for others  
and pray that you will teach us  
to care as you do  
and that you will hold all mothers  
and carers  
in the light of your presence  
and guide them to you. Amen. *Mother's Union*

God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ lived in a family in Nazareth:  
Grant that in our families on earth  
we may so learn to love and to live together  
that we may rejoice as one family in your heavenly home;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*For mothers.*

Lord Jesus, you know well the blessing an earthly home can bring:  
Receive our thanks for all the love we have received in our homes,  
especially from those who have nurtured us from our earliest years.  
Hear our prayers for mothers everywhere,  
that they may never lose heart nor ever be taken for granted,  
but receive from their children the honour and love you showed to your mother,  
Mary,  
even as you were suffering on the Cross.  
Bless and keep them all,  
for your love's sake. Amen

### *For those in need*

Remember, O Lord, all those in need:  
people with no good food or proper clothes,  
no home of their own, or no work to do;  
those who have neither family nor friends  
and no knowledge of the your love.  
Supply their needs.  
Bless those who try to help them  
and bring us all to trust in you.  
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

### *For those who live alone*

God our Father,  
we ask you to bless all who live alone,  
those who have lost their partner in marriage,  
those who have never married,  
those whose families are grown up and away from home  
and those who have outlived other members of their families  
and many of their friends:  
Be with them to assure them of your love  
and of their value to you every moment of their lives,  
and enable them to rejoice in the fellowship of your Church  
on earth and in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Eternal God, you are constant with your people. Like a mother you draw all your children to your heart ... Guide us in the ways of truth that we may rejoice in your bountiful goodness.

Holy God, your presence is always before us. We give thanks for all who have nurtured us and helped us grow in faith and trust ... Bless all midwives of the gospel. Increase your Church in hope and courage to proclaim your love.

God our Father and Mother, you allow us to share in your creative purpose. Sustain and keep all parents and children that through the love that is shared our lives may be blessed ... Be with all for whom this day brings pain and regret to the fore. Transform us through your brooding grace.

God our succour and protector, in times of plenty and need, you cradle our life in your hands. We entrust to your care all in any kind of need ... Encircle them with your love and keep them ever within your tender mercy.

From the cross your Son commended his mother to the care of his beloved disciple. Hear the cry of all who mourn. Comfort and sustain them in their grief ... Bring us to rejoice with you in the New Jerusalem, our heavenly home. Amen. Ian Black, 'Intercessions for years A, B and C'

Remember, O Lord, all those in need: people with no good food or proper clothes, no home of their own, or no work to do; those who have neither family nor friends and no knowledge of the your love. Supply their needs. Bless those who try to help them and bring us all to trust in you. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

God our Father, we ask you to bless all who live alone, those who have lost their partner in marriage, those who have never married, those whose families are grown up and away

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from home and those who have outlived other members of their families and many of their friends: Be with them to assure them of your love and of their value to you every moment of their lives, and enable them to rejoice in the fellowship of your Church on earth and in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Motherly God, in whose arms are held all who cry out to you. Teach me to open my heart, my home, even when I have little to give to make room for all your children and give them space to grow. Amen *Dear Life, Christian Aid, 1998*

For mothers. Lord Jesus, you know well the blessing an earthly home can bring: Receive our thanks for all the love we have received in our homes, especially from those who have nurtured us from our earliest years. Hear our prayers for mothers everywhere, that they may never lose heart nor ever be taken for granted, but receive from their children the honour and love you showed to your mother, Mary, even as you were suffering on the Cross. Bless and keep them all, for your love's sake. Amen

For those in need Remember, O Lord, all those in need: people with no good food or proper clothes, no home of their own, or no work to do; those who have neither family nor friends and no knowledge of the your love. Supply their needs. Bless those who try to help them and bring us all to trust in you. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

For those who live alone God our Father, we ask you to bless all who live alone, those who have lost their partner in marriage, those who have never married, those whose families are grown up and away from home and those who have outlived other members of their families and many of their friends:

Be with them to assure them of your love and of their value to you every moment of their lives, and enable them to rejoice in the fellowship of your Church on earth and in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Forgiving God, we thank you for welcoming us, your wayward children, into your kingdom of peace and justice again and again. We are astounded with your patience and generosity in your dealings with recovering sinners like us. We seek your help in removing the spiritual roadblocks from our lives that keep us from moving closer to you, Lord, on the highway of life. Renew us and guide us, O God.

Life is full of celebrations and challenges. You are with us, O Lord our Companion, through it all. Our burdens seem looming and diverse: declining health, cancer, heart disease, A.I.D.S., mental illness, financial problems, family discord, and more. Yet our blessings also are many; anniversaries, birthdays, graduations, homecomings, life giving relationships, early spring blossoms, and the Enduring Love of Christ Jesus. You know our concerns Healing God, even before we speak them. You have felt our agony through Christ and we are encouraged to know that you walk with us through all of life's trails and tribulations.

Loving God - we come before you today aware of how you call us to be like you - remembering that you made us in your own image - that you entrusted to us this world and all that is in it- that you gave to us brothers and sisters - mothers and fathers people to love and to enjoy and to work for and pray for. Help us dear God to remember our own sin before you and how you forgive it - help us to remember the Cross of Christ - and why he died upon it. And make us messengers of your reconciling love, ambassadors for your kingdom, people who show forth your grace, and celebrate with your joy. Amen.



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Father in heaven, bless all mothers and those who look after us in our daily lives. Make us grateful for their goodness and thankful for their care. Help us to respond to them in loving obedience; following the example of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. Amen. *Prayers for children*

Most Gracious Heavenly Father, We thank You for our mothers to whom You have entrusted the care of every precious human life from its very beginning in the womb.

You have given to woman the capacity of participating with You in the creation of new life. Grant that every woman may come to understand the full meaning of that blessing, which gives her an unlimited capacity for selfless love for every child she may be privileged to bear, and for all Your children.

Watch over every mother who is with child, strengthen her faith in Your fatherly care and love for her and for her unborn baby. Give her courage in times of fear or pain, understanding in times of uncertainty and doubt, and hope in times of trouble. Grant her joy in the birth of her child.

To mothers You have given the great privilege and responsibility of being a child's first teacher and spiritual guide. Grant that all mothers may worthily foster the faith of their children, following the example of Mary, Elizabeth, and other holy women who follow Christ. Help mothers to grow daily in knowledge and understanding of Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and grant them the wisdom to impart this knowledge faithfully to their children, and to all who depend upon them.

Assist all "spiritual mothers", those who, though they may have no children of their own, nevertheless selflessly care for the children of others -- of every age and state in life. Grant that they may know the joy of fulfilling this motherly calling of women, whether in teaching, nursing, religious life, or in other work which recognizes and fosters the true dignity of every human being created in Your image and likeness.

We beseech You to send Your Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to all mothers who sorrow for children that have died, are ill or estranged from their families, or who are in trouble or danger of any kind. Help grieving mothers to rely on Your tender mercy and fatherly love for all your children.

We ask your blessing on all those to whom You have entrusted motherhood. May Your Holy Spirit constantly inspire and strengthen them. May they ever follow the example of Mary, mother of Our Lord, and imitate her fidelity, her humility, and her self-giving love. May all mothers receive Your Grace abundantly in this earthly life, and may they look forward to eternal joy in Your presence in the life to come.

We ask this through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER**

We thank God for giving us others to share in our lives:  
For parents, and the love which brought us to birth:  
**We praise you, O Lord;  
and bring you thanks today.**

For mothers who have cherished and nurtured us:  
**We praise you, O Lord;  
and bring you thanks today.**

For fathers who have loved and supported us,  
**We praise you, O Lord;  
and bring you thanks today.**

For brothers and sisters with whom we have shared our home:  
**We praise you, O Lord;  
and bring you thanks today.**

For children and their parents:  
**We praise you, O Lord;  
and bring you thanks today.**

For other relatives and friends, who have been with us in our hopes and joys and times of sadness:  
**We praise you, O Lord;  
and bring you thanks today.**

For all who first spoke to us of Jesus, and have drawn us into the family of our Father in heaven:  
**We praise you, O Lord;  
and bring you thanks today.**

**Help us to live  
as those who belong to one another,  
and to you, our Father, now and always. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - 1**

*The Priest introduces the prayers:*

My brothers and sisters in Christ, it was God our Father's will that his Son should share family life with Mary and Joseph, that he will continue to enrich our homes with his love and his grace.

*Reader:*

We pray for all mothers throughout the world,  
may they experience the joy and appreciation of those they have brought into the world,  
and may they be blessed today as they are surrounded by a loving family.

**Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for the family of the Church,  
may all Christians remember that they are brothers and sisters in Christ, and so learn to live in harmony with one another.

**Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for the sick and those who care for them,  
for the unemployed, the homeless, the widowed and orphaned; that the strains which adversity put upon family life may be borne with patience and trust in God.

**Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for those departed this life,  
may all families be reunited in the Kingdom of God.

**Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.**

In silence, we make our private prayers.

*The Priest concludes the prayers:*

Father, in union with Mary, the Mother of our Saviour, we make all our prayers to you,  
confident that you will hear and answer them, through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - 2**

O loving God, who has so ordered this world,  
that children are looked after by mothers and fathers,  
and others who care deeply for them;  
we praise you for trusting us  
with this most precious creation,  
and implanting in us the desire to love and nurture.

**We praise and thank you, O God.**

O creator of all the world,  
we thank you that we share our natural instincts  
and affections with your animal creation.  
Help us to see them as fellow creatures made by you,  
and to learn from those of them who are good mothers and providers.

**We praise and thank you, O God.**

We thank you that Jesus, in his human life

was part of a family and had both a mother  
and a grandmother, giving us an example for our own lives. \*

**We praise and thank you, O God.**

We thank you that our mothers still support us when we are grownup  
and help us look after our own children;  
we thank you for the deep and enduring relationship  
that can spring up between grandmother and grandchild. \*

**We praise and thank you, O God.**

We pray for those families where there is conflict and division,  
where there is neglect and misunderstanding,  
for those who never received love when they were young  
and cannot give love in their turn

**O Lord, receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who have lost their mothers  
or other dear ones who have cared for them  
in the place of their mothers.

We pray they know they are precious to you  
and may they be loved by those around them.

**O Lord, receive our prayer.**

We pray for those mothers and fathers who have lost children  
and have to carry on their daily life  
with the emptiness in heart and home.

We pray they may know that their lost ones are safe with you  
and that they will be reunited.

**O Lord, receive our prayer.**

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,  
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:

strengthen us in our daily living and loving  
that in joy and in sorrow

we may know the power of your presence  
to bind together and heal;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and ever. Amen.

*From Common Worship*

Let us join in the family prayer which Jesus taught us:  
The Lord's Prayer.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

O God, who nurtures us and our world  
as a mother looks after her children,  
hear us as we confess that we have fallen short  
of what we ought to do:  
we have rebelled against your commandments;  
we have damaged or neglected those we look after;  
we have not given respect and love to those who care for us.  
We are sorry for all our sins  
and for all that has gone wrong,  
and we ask forgiveness, always remembering  
that we must forgive those  
who have sinned against us. Amen.

### Forgiveness of Sins

May God the Father who cares for us as a mother,  
forgive us all our sins;  
May God the Son, our Lord and Brother Jesus,  
guide us in our daily life;  
May God the Holy Spirit, our enabler and comforter  
lead us to walk in the way of the way of Christ, now and always. Amen.

### Alternative Forgiveness of sins

May God, our Mother and Father,  
forgive us for all our sins and confirm us  
in our relationships with those we love.  
May God the Son, our Lord and Brother Jesus,  
guide us in all the actions of our daily life.  
May God the Holy Spirit, our enabler and comforter,  
give us the strength and power to walk in the way of Christ,  
which leads to life, love and peace. Amen.

## POST COMMUNION SENTENCE

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament  
with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in  
grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## BLESSING

May the love of the Father fill our hearts;  
May the love of the Lord Jesus fill our homes;  
And may the grace of the Holy Spirit  
bind us together in love  
in our families and communities.  
And may the blessing of God be with you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**MOTHERING SUNDAY HYMN**

**Onward, Christian families**

Onward, Christian families,  
Sing a happy song,  
Lifting hearts and voices  
As you march along.  
Festal banners waving,  
Young and old adore  
Father, Son and Spirit,  
God for evermore.

*Chorus*

Onward, Christian families,  
Sing a happy song,  
Lifting hearts and voices  
As you march along.

For that home at Nazareth  
Hear our songs of praise:  
For all those who shared in  
Jesus' boyhood days.  
Praise too for his manhood  
When in Joseph's trade,  
In his home and district  
His full part he played.

*Chorus*

Onward, Christian pilgrims,  
As through life you roam,  
Sing a song of gladness  
For a Christian home;  
For the love that binds you,  
For the things you share,  
For laughter, tears and friendship  
And the constant care.

*Chorus*

Onward, Christian families,  
Sing a joyful song  
For that greater family  
To which we all belong.  
Sprinkled with the water  
In the threefold name,  
Of the holy Church of Jesus  
Membership we claim.

*Chorus*

### WEB SOURCES

#### IDEAS AND RESOURCES

MOTHERS' UNION has an excellent collection of resources including publicity material, cards for colouring etc at:

[www.themothersunion.org/features\\_motheringsunday.aspx](http://www.themothersunion.org/features_motheringsunday.aspx)

#### ORDER OF SERVICE

MOTHERS' UNION has a complete order of service on the theme, "Everything we touch". Nice candle lighting ceremony which can involve different generations

[www.themothersunion.org/features\\_motheringsunday.a](http://www.themothersunion.org/features_motheringsunday.a)

#### ORDER FOR EUCHARIST

With prayer of consecration adapted for use on Mothering Sunday. From the Diocese of Wakefield.

<http://www.wakefield.anglican.org/events/everydaygod/resources/Everyday%20God%20-%20Mothering%20Sunday%20Liturgy.pdf>

#### SERMONS

For a baptism on Mothering Sunday

<http://www.st-michaels.org.uk/sermons%202004/Mothering%20Sunday.pdf>

Sermon which highlights the work of the Mothers' Union and concludes with MU prayer.

<http://www.stmarysburghfield.org/documents/sermon090322.pdf>

SERMON PLUS - There are four sermons, each on a different passage

<http://www.sermonsplus.co.uk/Mothers%20Day.htm>

Sermon on 'Mothering' from Salisbury Cathedral

<http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/services.sermons.php?id=278>

## Mothering Sunday

From Christ Church Moreton Hall in Bury St Edmund's, a C of E church but with ecumenical partners ministering on a large housing estate. Starts - mothering is about more than giving birth.

<http://www.ccmh.org.uk/node/1075>

### IDEAS FOR WORSHIP

From Christian Aid

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/images/count-your-blessings-mothering-sunday-resources.pdf>

### ASSEMBLIES

Primary school - would do children's address also

[http://www.assemblies.org.uk/2006/mar06\\_laughing.php](http://www.assemblies.org.uk/2006/mar06_laughing.php)

Practical ideas and talks for infants and juniors.

[http://cowo.culham.ac.uk/assemblies/001p\\_mothersday.php](http://cowo.culham.ac.uk/assemblies/001p_mothersday.php)

A dangerous pet - talk for school assembly or church.

<http://frsimon.wordpress.com/2008/02/25/a-dangerous-pet-a-school-assembly-for-mothering-sunday/>