

St Thomas' Mothering Sunday newsletter

Inscribed upon our heart,
the maker's mark,
indelible,
the Word of God,
'Love'
beautifully written,
heartfelt,
that all God's people
might know
that we are precious,
children becoming family together,
and may eyes lift upward
as we listen together
to hear angels worship.

Contributed by Rev Cat

This prayer is from my late Mother's dairy which I only read recently. My mother died in 2009. The prayer is dated 21/08/97. - Malcolm

***Give me a sense of humour Lord,
Give me the wit to see a joke
To get some happiness from life,
And pass it on to other folk.
Amen***



'Mum' by Fiona

A Mother's Love

A mother's love is something
That no one can explain
It is made of deep devotion of sacrifice and pain
it is endless and unselfish
And enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it or take that love away...
It is patient and forgiving
When all others are forsaking
And it never fails or
Falters even though the heart is breaking...
It believes beyond believing
When the world around condemns
And it glows with all the beauty
Of the rarest brightest gems...
It is far beyond defining, it defies
All explanation,
And still remains a secret
Like the mystery of creation ...
A many splendid miracle that man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence of
God's tender guiding hand.

By Helen Steiner Rice

(contributed by Margaret Bloomfield)

A Mother's Day Prayer

contributed by Emma

Lord, on this day in which we honour 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 a mother's womb. We pray you give each mum strength. We ask you to be the daily bread of tired mothers.

May each mother find rest in you.
Amen.

Reflection on Mothering

Mothering, like other aspects in life, can refer to the moulding, shaping and affecting of the lives of the family. It follows, therefore, that mothering, like all good parenting, has a legacy to bare and can be one of our most precious inheritances.

My own mother used to say "When I'm gone you can do this and do that" etc. I told her, "You will be gone, but you will not be out of sight, out of mind."

Mothering Sunday, therefore, reminds me that not only do we celebrate our legacy of mother church, passed down the centuries and generations, but also that life is a relay race. I'm not a very good mother, but I have had to try to ensure that that legacy is handed down to my children.

My own mother was well known over many, many years at St Thomas's, but her enduring love reminds me of the love of Christ on the cross. As we prepare for Easter, I hold on to the fact that as we pass on, so love is a legacy that endures for ever in the overall power of the love of God.

Keith Brisland



Memories of my Mum from Alison

Mum,
Open your arms
To me, and keep me in your
Heart for
Ever, so I can
Rest, knowing your love is secure.

Also, I love proverbs 31:25-26
"Strength and dignity are her clothing,
And she laughs at the time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom,
And the teaching of kindness is on her
tongue."

Lyanne

Mothering Sunday Hymn

Lord, we thank you for Mother Mary
who the angel's message heard.

She said 'gladly I obey Lord
I am here to do your word.'

Through blessed Mary, Jesus' mother
Christ is born within our race-
Mail Mary, Hail Mary,
Hail Mary, full of grace.

Here we thank you for your church Lord,
like a mother in her care.

Round your table, as we gather
prayer and sacrament to share.

Strengthened by your living Word, Lord,
send us out to work and play-
serving all the human family,
Christ in us, your church, today.

And we thank you for our mothers,
for their caring by our side.

For our parents and our family
all the love which they provide.

Come among us, heavenly Father,
as your family may we grow.
Peaceful living and forgiving,
that our homes your love may show.

On this special Mothering Sunday
when we think of mothers all,
honour to the virgin Mary,
willing to obey God's call;
For the mother holy church
and her teaching good and true;
for our mother, she who bore us;
Lord we give our thanks to you

Words: Sandra Hemingbrough Chapman
Tune: Daily Daily

Lockdown Life

What a year it has been for everybody. This time last year we had just begun to hear the words Covid 19 but if you are the same as me I had no idea what it really was and how it was going to change our lives. We continued as usual, cooking, washing, shopping and the usual hum-drum of life. As March came we heard more and realised a bit about this being different, but little did we think it was going to be so serious. Our family told us to stay at home and they would get anything we needed. We did just that but by the time lockdown 1

came we had both caught the virus and began feeling unwell. Long story short we went into hospital on April 2nd and spent four nights there, Fortunately neither of us was seriously ill but it affected us and has left us with some side effects. We are just so thankful to be here to tell the tale.

Alongside Covid Jim suffered with his bulging spinal discs, thankfully he was able to have an injection into his spine but had to wait until November for it, and is still benefiting from it.

We are trying to get on with life and Jim is very glad of his allotment and has realised that his 'allotment family' is so valuable. They helped him when he was not well by digging and planting things. I still knit whenever I can. I have knitted baby blankets and clothes, two shawls, one for our third great grandchild, Freya, who was born in July, one I gave to David and Gemma Brunning for their daughter, Holly, who was born in January, hearts for the hospital and hospice and the list goes on. If anyone would like anything knitted let me know, I am very happy to knit for others. When lockdown 1 ended I did start to do the shopping again so it is nice to go out each week for that. The site where we will have our caravan is hoping to open on March 19th, that will be lovely. We have both had our first jabs so feel very grateful for that. It gives us all hope that one day, in the not too distant future, life will get back nearer to what we used to call normal. I think we are all praying for that, being able to enjoy a meal with others, going where we want when we want to and of course having services in church and enjoying a coffee together afterwards. Love and blessings to you all and hoping to see you soon, stay safe, and stay well.

Daphne.



Some Reflections from Mary

Jesus bids us shine like a pure clear light, like a little candle burning in the night, in this world of darkness you and I must shine, you in your small corner and I in mine.

Prayer: Let us all shine like lights in the world, to brighten and inspire us all. Amen.

Jesus our Saviour, this is our prayer, readily sharing one with another, our daily bread.
God ever living may we walk with you all of our days.

Prayer: Thank you that the Church our Mother gives us bread and fills our cup and the comfort of the Spirit warms our hearts and lifts us up. Amen.

Firmly I believe and truly. Forth in thy name O Lord I go. This is our God, the servant King, he calls us now to follow him. Give me joy, peace, and love in my heart. He's got the whole world in his hand. Thank you Lord for making me me. Walk in the light of the Lord. Let us love one another as God has loved us. What a friend we have in Jesus. Great is Thy Faithfulness.

Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you, I have called you by your name, you are mine.