

## Month of May - A Family Prayer for Mary and Mother's.

*"From Mary we learn to surrender to God's will in all things. From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ her son and the son of God."* – Pope John Paul II

### Introduction

For as long as I can remember my notion of Mary, stirs images of her motherhood. The Visitation is one of my favourite Gospel Stories and as a child, I vividly remember my grandmother, never far from her Rosary Beads, having a close and personal relationship with Our Lady. I reflect on my memories of her faith; she would no sooner say *'Don't worry dear, I'll start my Hail Mary's'*, when I would relax and know that any problem that I had shared, would work out somehow through my grandmothers relationship with Mary, and peace would return to my being.

One of the most important roles of mothers, and mother figures is to bring peace, security, and love to those, who may have more faith and trust in their ability and wisdom, then they have in themselves. Having learnt very early on that my female role models turned to their spiritual nature for strength was reassuring and gave me confidence to explore this side of myself through prayer and meditation practices, in my own way, throughout my life.

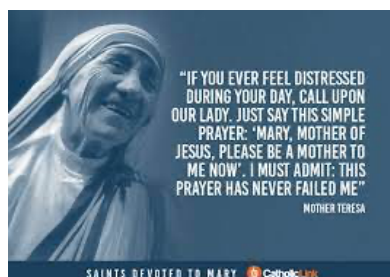
### Scripture

*A reading from the Gospel of John 19:25-34*

Jesus' mother stood near his cross. So did his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother there. He also saw the disciple he loved standing nearby. Jesus said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son." He said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, the disciple took her into his home.

### Reflection

We often hear Mary portrayed in the Nativity stories as incredibly brave, and along with Joseph, protecting Jesus, looking after her unborn child and then her baby when they discover they need to flee to neighbouring Egypt. This reading reminds us that Jesus reciprocated this love and understood the role of a child in a parent's life. Jesus knew the inexplicable pain she would be experiencing, watching his suffering. This act possibly goes beyond the cultural expectations of the time, and perhaps invite us to think of the love we have for our families and the people who are there to support our families in time of need. As mother's we feel we need to be the one helping, providing, supporting, and having the answers (especially to 'What's for Dinner?' And 'Where's my uniform?') In this gospel we see that Mothers too require support from time- to – time. Mother Teresa so beautifully put it into the quote below.



How comforting to know that we too can form the same in-depth relationship with Mary, just by asking. Mary weeps at the foot of the cross with every other mother who has wept when watching their child suffer. No matter how big or how small the problem, Mary offers the perspective hardship, challenge and pure human pain, as well as delight, love, hope and joy.

### **Blessings for Mothers**

Almighty God, We ask You, the source and sustainer of all life, to bless all mothers, step mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and mother-in-laws in the role you have set before them.

Gift their lips with the wisdom to speak the truth so it can be heard.

Gift their ears with sensitivity as they listen to the needs of us, their children.

Gift their souls with a faith radiating your intimate presence in their life.

Gift their minds with patience and understanding to handle the changing needs and demands placed before them each day.

Guide their hearts as they seek out and reconcile the areas of conflict and pain that may exist.

Through all these things, may your abundant blessings continue to affirm and support all they do as mothers. We ask this blessing upon each of them, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Blessing from Geraldine Martin [australiancatholics.com.au](http://australiancatholics.com.au)*

### **Call to Action**



✚ This Mother's Day as a family light a candle or plant a small tree/bush/ flower for all those children who will not be with their mothers, due to illness or war or the continued impact of COVID-19 for so many in our world.

✚ Pray the Hail Mary together.

✚ Make cards for your local nursing home so that mother's that may be separated from their children are also able to feel the spirit of Mother's Day in their heart.

✚ Allow your children to spend time drawing or creating or (even cooking) so they too can show you their love, as Jesus showed his love for his mother. We often want to do these things for our children for numerous reasons and we can help them grow by allowing the time and space for them to express themselves in their various creative ways!

✚ Take time to ring, facetime to contact those who support your family, just to say hello or thank you.