

A Mother's Day Prayer

Acknowledgment of Land, Seas, Skies and Waterways

As we remember the love, we have for the mother figures in our life we acknowledge the Traditional owners of the lands, seas, skies and waterways where you gather this Mother's Day. We pay our respects to elders, past, present, and emerging as we journey together towards reconciliation.



Image CC by unknown

Context of This Prayer

Mother's Day is special to families across the world. Celebrated on various dates it is a time to acknowledge the dedication, sacrifice, love, and energy that mothers, and mother figures display in their daily lives. In the Catholic Tradition, Mother's Day emerged from the fourth Sunday of Lent known as Laetare Sunday, when people would return to their home parish and leave an offering.

This became known as "Mothering Sunday" and eventually it became a time when domestic servants were given time to gather with their families. Mothers started to become a part of the focus of the celebration and as many had to walk great distances to the home parish, they would pick flowers on the way for their mothers, creating a gift giving tradition within this celebration.

Scripture From the Responsorial Psalm Sunday 8th May (4th Sunday in Easter)

A Psalm of thanksgiving. [Psalm 100: 1- 2, 3,5]

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness;

come into God's presence with singing.

Know that the LORD is God.

It is God that made us, and we are God's;

We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

For the LORD is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever,

and God's faithfulness to all generations.

Reflection by Bec Burns

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When reflecting on motherhood, a Psalm of Thanksgiving is relatable. This Psalm is read as a part of four pieces of Scripture heard in Sunday's Service. It is read between the First Reading; where Paul and Barnabas, crucial members of the early church are threatened by members of the Jewish Community for spreading the news that all people are included in the promise of eternal life; and the Second Reading and the Gospel which both speak of the inclusion of all in God's love and protection.

These readings also speak deeply of the journey of motherhood. Mothering can involve isolation and challenges, especially when seeking inclusion and justice for all their children. It can involve heartache, rejection, frustration and worry as mothers seek to protect and guide their children, even when they are fully grown.



Jesus Christ with Mary (colour litho). Photograph. *Britannica ImageQuest*, Encyclopædia Britannica, 22 Apr 2020. [quest.eb.com/search/108_2509498/1/108_2509498/cite](https://www.britannica.com/search/108_2509498/1/108_2509498/cite). Accessed 29 Apr 2022 .

Mother's Day often bombards us with the images of the Psalm of Thanksgiving. Flowers, jewellery, smiling children hugging mum, or presenting her with pancakes. Often the reality of motherhood is found in different images, an image that includes struggle, an image that includes a love so deep that it not only hurts at times, it transforms the understanding of love and therefore can also transform the understanding of life.

It is this love of struggle and transformation that is highlighted throughout the Easter Season. The love of high and lows, death and life, certainty and mystery, exhaustion, and energy. The Sacred Texts and Traditions held by Faith groups around the world, including the Catholic Tradition, explore this reality of love deeply, perhaps much more deeply than that we see displayed in the media where superficial social images may leave many feeling they need material possessions and a certain lifestyle to have a so called 'perfect family.' Love is so much more than this, and can it be beneficial to look at how love is explored, explained and discovered not just in the media, but through the lens of a faith in something greater than ourselves.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

You placed yourself as an infant into the hands of a human mother.
Let this trust placed in Mary be an inspiration to all mothers today.

Not an inspiration to be perfect, but rather an inspiration to love fully, to embrace good times and bad. To guide and trust their children so they make a positive contribution to the world which has been entrusted to us to care for and nurture.

We ask this in Your Holy name, Amen.

Call to Action

As a family pray and light a candle for all the mothers who are unable to be their children this Mothers Day.

Talk about as a family the way you show you appreciation for the female role models in your life every day and not just on Mother's Day.

Look at how we celebrate Mother's Day around the world. This [article](#) could be a good starting point.

