

'MOTHER'S DAY'
5th Sunday of Easter ~ 10 May 2020



I rejoice in the shadow of Your wings | Rosemary Bugden | used with permission

MOTHER'S DAY

Today we celebrate our mothers, grandmothers, foster mothers and carers with a mothering role. We pray for each of you.

History brings further insights to this celebration. There is an interplay between *Mothering Sunday*, especially Ireland and England, and *Mother's Day* in the USA.

ORIGINS OF MOTHERING SUNDAY

For hundreds of years, there has been a mothering theme to the 4th Sunday of Lent, *Laetare Sunday* in England and Ireland. By the 16th Century, families were returning to their mother church, where they had been baptised or to their home parish. Sometime in history, domestic servants received a holiday, a day off, to visit the mother church, often with their family. Mothers and the local parish community were foci. Later in 1914, *Constance Penswick-Smith* began the "*Mothering Sunday's Movement*".

ORIGINS OF MOTHER'S DAY

In 1870 *Julia Ward Howe* in the USA was campaigning for women to take a lead in uniting for peace in the world. She lobbied for a mother's peace day in the month of June.

In 1908 *Anna Marie Jarvis* in the USA commemorated her mother *Anna Reeves Jarvis* at a church service.

Her mother had been an activist for peace, after her experiences nursing during the American Civil War (1861-65). Ann continued her mother's role with a passion for public health issues. In 1914 the USA declared the 2nd Sunday of May as Mother's Day, at a time when there was a grave concern of upcoming war.

In the 1920s, *Janet Heyden* from Sydney added to this tradition with her visits to the lonely mothers and others at the local hospital. As we remember the joy and gratitude expressed today, and the family reunions, we also note that for some mothers, it is a lonely day.

The challenge of Mother's Day / Mothering Sunday continues in

- Lives of faith, hope and love
- Advocacy for peace
- Public Health advocacy
- Advocacy in overcoming the sin of domestic violence in society
- Poverty in many nations
- Response to COVID-19 Pandemic
- And many other issues.

GOSPEL OF JOHN 14:1-12

Today's Gospel is popular and well-known.

As we focus on our relationships this weekend on Mother's Day, we learn from John's Gospel about the *relationship in God* between the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Today we call it a *communion of love, communio, Trinitarian communion, a spirituality of communion* and other terms. From John we learn that *we* are called *into* that communion.

One of the Old Testament revelations into God, is as Creator. Another revelation – we are created in the image and likeness of God. From Jesus we see God as a parent, Father. And the love of Jesus for Mary his mother.

John's Gospel leads us into the mystery of communion.

14:20 ***"On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you."***

We gain insight when Jesus says of himself

14:6 ***"I am the way, and the truth, and the life."***

Each of us finds our way, truth and meaning, and life in Jesus.

And of the Holy Spirit, John 14 says,

14:16 ***"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever."***

14:17 ***"This is the Spirit of truth ... "***

As we recall those earlier advocates for women in solidarity for genuine peace, public health and justice on this Mother's Day,

we pray to the *Holy Spirit (the Advocate, the Paraclete)* to guide us and strengthen our resolve.

We reflect on Mary as mother.

We are invited into the love of God, strengthened and blessed.

In a few moments we ask God in love to bless our mothers.

SHARING THIS MOTHER'S DAY

Thanks to *Bronwyn* for mailing out last week to parish members without computer access, and emailing on Friday,

- A page of insights of *Pope Francis on Mary*, the mother of Jesus, and mothers.
- A beautiful picture painted by *Rosie*, one of our parishioners in celebration of Mother's Day.

Thank you, Pope Francis and thank you Rosie.

- The Scriptural Readings for today.
- Children's liturgy resources from *Liturgy Brisbane*. Thank you.

And this week, for those who wish, we continue the second and final week of our *fourteen-day isolation retreat*, thanks to the *Jesuits in Ireland*.

Thanks Netta for providing the link on our parish website, and enabling our weekly livestreamed parish Mass to be on our social media.

During our celebration today in this livestreamed Mass

- *St John Fisher College* students share an audio recorded reflection and the Hail Mary prayer. Thank you
- *Susan* from our parish has kindly written a reflection on Mother's Day.

We follow the current Queensland five-person livestreaming rule.

Thank you to *Phil* for livestreaming today.

And thank you to *Susan, Julie and Michael* for leading in the Music and Readings.

Next week at Mass, we praise and thank God for creation, and we reflect on how God calls us to care for creation.

Around the world, Pope Francis invites us to remember the fifth anniversary of the 2015 papal social teaching, **Laudato Si**, the Earth, Our Common Home.

Thank you, *Pope Francis*.

Thank you to our *mothers, grandmothers, foster mothers* and *carers with a mothering role*.

As a parish family, we pray for *God's blessing on each of you today*.

Amen.

We now invite Susan to lead us in her reflection on *Mother's Day over four generations*.

Thank you, **Susan**.

Fr Gerry

Readings: <https://universalis.com/Australia/20200510/mass.htm>

[YouTube video of 5th Sunday of Easter 10 May 2020](#)