

Mothering Sunday 2026

I stand here in need of God's mercy and grace. May I speak in the name of the God who reveals Godself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mothering despite... Mothering despite being afraid, mothering despite great difficulties, mothering despite not having given birth, mothering despite great loss. Mothering despite, that is a theme that goes through both our readings today.

The mother of Moses gave birth to him as a Hebrew mother in Egypt, while a law was in force that demanded that all male Hebrew babies should be killed. And despite that she mothers her baby, not the way she wanted, but the best she could under the circumstances, hiding him in a basket on the river with his big sister watching over him.

Then the princess finds the little baby and chooses to mother him, despite him being condemned to death, simply because he was Hebrew, and despite her not having given birth to him. And his biological mother keeps mothering him as a nurse, despite the pain of knowing she will eventually have to let him go to be mothered by the princess.

Mary mothers Jesus all the way to the cross, despite the unbearable pain of witnessing her child's brutal execution. And despite her pain and loss she accepts her son's call to now mother John, as Jesus declares them mother and son from the cross.

Mothering despite... I am sure there are many of us here who have and are again and again choosing to mother despite. Despite exhaustion, despite

the impossible task of keeping all the balls in the air, despite loss, illness, pain, despite all the difficulties life brings.

And whether we are aware of it or not, I am sure that we all have received mothering from our birth mothers, adoptive mothers, foster mothers or simply people who have felt somehow called to mother us, despite their own exhaustion, pain, loss and fear.

Mothering can be an unbelievable joy and privilege, but anyone who mothers children of any age, sooner or later also experiences the difficult moments of mothering despite... The choice to mother Moses, by both his birth mother and his adoptive mother, despite everything they faced, saved Moses' life. Mary's choice to mother Jesus to the very end and then to adopt John as her son must have been a great source of comfort and strength to both Jesus and John.

Both our readings today show us how mothering can happen in many different ways, overcoming great danger, pain and difficulty. Mothers come in countless different shapes and forms and so do children. Sometimes the children in need of a mother are infants like Moses and sometimes they are fully grown adults like Jesus and John. We all are in need of mothering at times, in need of someone comforting us, challenging us, someone who simply stays with us or protects us.

**As a mother comforts her child,
so I will comfort you;**

These words are from the book of Isaiah, spoken by God to the people of Israel. We are more used to talking of God as a father, but God also encounters us as a mother. God wants to comfort us, challenge us, God wants to

simply stay with us and protect us like a mother. And whether we are currently mothering with great joy or despite everything life throws at us, or whether we are not mothering at all at this time in our lives, God is there, all our lives, to mother us as we need it. No matter our age or circumstances, God is always ready to mother us, no matter the challenges or difficulties, God will always choose to mother us despite them.

And as God mothers us throughout live, God also invites us to mother others in different ways throughout our lives. As our readings today have shown us, mothering can come in many different shapes and forms. How might God call you at this time in your live to mother, who might be the children, young or old, that God is calling you to mother? And as we consider our calling to mother others, we might also want to take a few moments to think of all those who have or are mothering us, sometimes despite the great difficulties and pain they are faced with themselves. How would you like to express your thanks to them and God for the mothering you have received?

Amen.