

## Mothering Sunday Reflection

The call to motherhood is one that not all receive but all of us have the experience of being “mothered”, though not necessarily by our own physical mother for a variety of reasons.

To be a mother, though natural, is not easy. Mary was given this message from Simeon that “a sword will pierce your own soul too.” As she watched her child grow there were highs and lows;-

Luke 2: 40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Luke 2 48 His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”

Luke 2:52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

But what did she make of this incident?

Mark 3:31-33 –“Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.”

“Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked.”

Mothers are all affected by the actions of their children. They rejoice when their child does well but hurt deeply when their child is hurt or hurts others. Sadly there are occasions when a human mother stops loving their child for the damage caused has gone too deep.

As I look back I wonder how much hurt I have caused my mother over the years? There are a few occasions I may recall but many times when the hurt happened it was unknown to myself. Yet my mum still loves me.

How much more the same is true of God

Isaiah 49:15-16

“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast

and have no compassion on the child she has borne?

Though she may forget,

I will not forget you!

<sup>1</sup>See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;

your walls are ever before me.

In this space of Mothering Sunday reflect on your past, present and future, your ability to hurt God and God’s amazing ability to love you always. God’s love never fails, however much we may cause God pain and hurt. God’s love is a constant; accept it, rejoice in it, and share it.

**Rev Michael Payne**