

Devotional blog Mothering Sunday

A few years ago, a church member shared with me a special interpretation of Psalm 23, The Lord is my Shepherd. And it goes like this:

*My mum is my shepherd; I shall not want.
She makes me lie down under cool, downy duvets.
She watches me play beside still waters. She restores my soul.
She leads me in paths of respect, responsibility, and goodness,
for I am her namesake!
Even though I walk past monsters in the dark, I will not be scared,
because my mum is always near me. Her hands and her voice, they comfort me.
Mum sets the table and cheerfully calls me to dinner
even in front of big, mean bullies.
She anoints my skinned knees and broken heart with kisses.
She smiles and throws me a towel when my cup runneth over.
Surely God's peace, power, and mercy shall uphold me all the days of my life,
for my Mother taught me to dwell in the house of God forever.*

After hearing it, you may find it familiar and yet different. What are your initial feelings?

We may have various feelings and reactions towards it. No matter how you feel, that's ok, because feeling is not measured by right or wrong. They are just feelings, which enable us to recognize that we have emotions to express ourselves in relation to things and people around us.

Being human, we are all different and have different feelings, and we react differently towards even the same thing. However, there is always something that can connect us together. This time it is Psalm 23.

The Mothering Sunday's interpretation portrays a home, a loving family. We know in a home, we have different members, different roles, different skill sets, different genders etc. But there is someone as a lynchpin who has brought us together and connected us.

In your family, perhaps is your mum, dad, grandma or someone that has tirelessly offered you unconditional motherly love. In Church's family, we know Jesus who died on the cross for us all has offered us his selfless and self-giving love. Through him, we have been given the right to be the family of God.

Therefore, on this Mothering Sunday, though it is traditionally a home-coming event for people to give thanks and honour their mothers through celebrations, we also give thanks to Jesus and celebrate his family, our mother Church, for their love for us as a spiritual home on earth, especially when we are in the complexity of life, in grief

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and in sorrow. In his home, we are always welcome, always accepted, we always belong, always protected, and forever loved, just as the sheep in the good shepherd's sheep pen, just as a child in his/her mother's arms.

May God's peace, power, goodness and mercy through Jesus his son uphold us, all the days of our lives. In Jesus and through his Spirit, we dwell in the house of God forever and ever. Amen.