

# March

## **Proposed Theme: All Mothers**

### **The joy of love: (Pope Francis)**

*A mother joins with God to bring forth the miracle of a new life. Motherhood is the fruit of a “particular creative potential of the female body, directed to the conception and birth of a new human being”. (168)*

*Mothers are the strongest antidote to the spread of self-centred individualism. It is they who testify to the beauty of life. Dear mothers, thank you. Thank you for what you are in your family and for what you give to the Church and the world. (174)*

*A mother who watches over her child with tenderness and compassion helps her or him to grow in confidence and to experience that the world is a good and welcoming place. (175)*

### **Some Thoughts:**

- Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup> is Mother’s Day, or as it is traditionally called, Mothering Sunday.
- It is largely a commercial occasion when prices go up, and hype is increased.
- But it is also a real family occasion. Children are busy making special cards for their mothers. Plans are made to have a special meal to celebrate each mother. Flowers are a must!
- How do we, as the Church/parish, celebrate this occasion? Maybe we should take it a lot further and begin celebrating March as the Month of Mothers.

The whole idea of being a mother, like so many other things, has changed radically over the past number of years.

- The place of women generally in society has changed and mostly for the best. This has an effect on what it means to have a child or children.
- The ease with which people talk about abortion today has a profound effect on how pregnancy is viewed. This, in turn, colours our appreciation of the wonder of new life.
- We are no longer content to idealise anything, even motherhood. Again, although this has its truth, it also can give way to people seeing motherhood as a burden without the joy of love.
- And we are aware of the fact that mothers, like everyone else, are less than perfect. This however should not blind us to the fact that they hold a very special place in human life.

### **Questions:**

1. How do we, as Christians, value the gift of motherhood?
2. How can we help mothers to share their experiences of being mothers?
3. How can we raise the level of appreciation for the gift of motherhood in a society that plays down the value of self-giving?
4. How can we, as a parish, celebrate the importance of women, and consequently mothers, in transforming the world in which we live?

## **Suggested actions:**

- Establish March as Mothers' Month.
- Encourage schools, even though largely online at present, to get children and young people to write a letter of appreciation to their mother as well as making a card.
- Encourage fathers, where this is possible, to also write a letter of appreciation to their wives/partners.
- Include something in the weekend Masses each week of March about mothers and the great contribution they make to family and parish
- Make mothers a focus for the day of prayer for Marriage & Family life.

## **Points for the organising group to keep in mind**

- A full day of Prayer for Marriage & Family Life every month is a very significant event in a parish.
- Because it is a quiet event it could easily go unnoticed. That is why preparing for it each month is so important.
- A notice should be put into the Parish Newsletter on the weekend before the date for your parish.
- This notice should be an appreciation of the generosity of those who have taken on an hour of prayer for that day. It should also be an invitation to others to sign up for an hour, with clear instructions on how to do so.
- This notice should also be a call to focus all the prayer of the parish on Marriage & Family Life for that day.
- Each month you receive a document with a particular focus for the month. This is meant to open us up to developments in parish support for various aspects of Marriage & Family Life.
- These developments need planning; they need people who will lead them; they need resources to support them. But they are coming from, and are grounded in, the on-going monthly day of prayer. The Organising Group has a special place in initiating these developments and in getting other people to help to implement them.
- One or two initiatives each year, even small ones, will eventually make a real difference to our homes and to the whole parish.