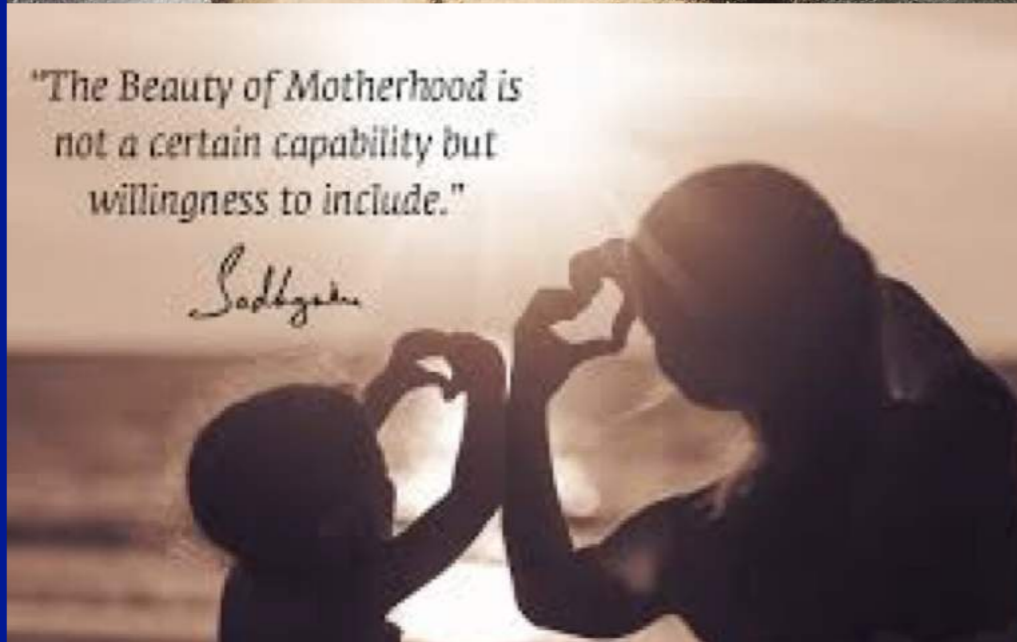
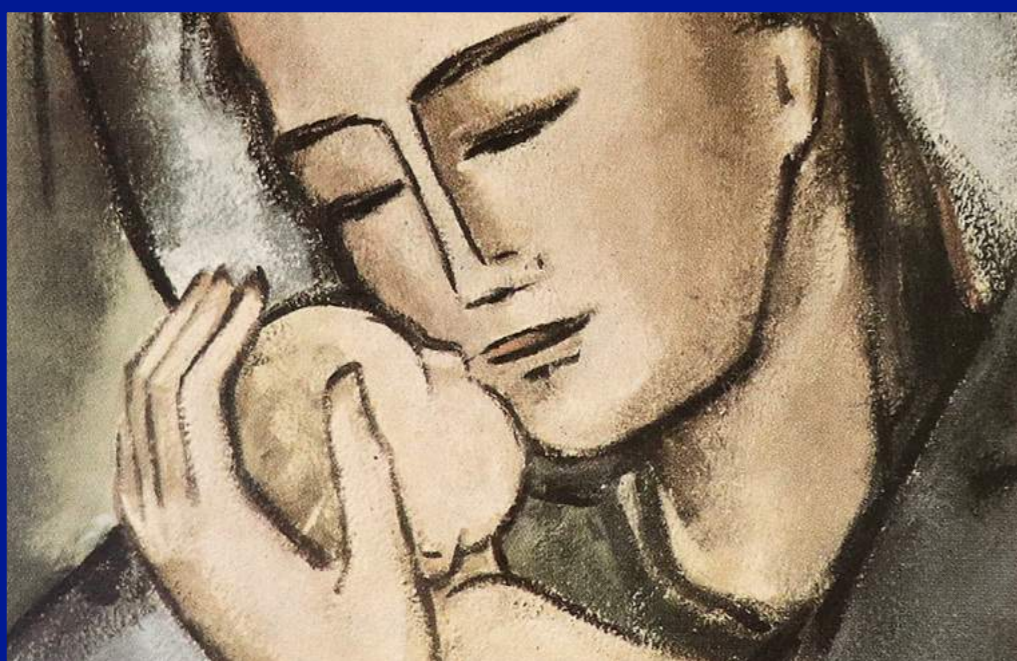


# More Than A Mum

A TRIBUTE TO ALL MOTHERS

Happy, Blessed Mother's Day to all Mothers (Godmothers and Spiritual Mothers too)



# Who Is My Mother?

THE JOYS AND PAIN OF MOTHERHOOD (MATTHEW 12:48)

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## A Mother's Prayer

Lord, give me strength just for today  
To lead my children in your way;  
Oh, give me wisdom, Lord, and grace  
To show to them your precious face!

And help me, Lord, to teach them, too,  
The things of Christ so rich and true,  
Just let them see in me, dear Lord,  
Your holiness in life and word.

Keep me from sinning with my tongue,  
From harsh, quick words that might have stung  
Their tender hearts that trust me so  
And watch to see which way I go.

Dear Father, keep my thoughts so pure  
That they will always know for sure  
My Lord has lead me all the way,  
Lord, grant my prayer just for today.

{Author Unknown}



**Mother's Day 2020** will go down in history - for the global lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But this lockdown must not be an obstacle to celebrate Mother's Day and show gratitude to our mothers.

We want to firstly **salute all mothers**, (married, widowed or single mums). Your title of "mother" carries a heavy responsibility whether you have 1 child or 6 children. It takes a whole village to raise a kid. And mothers sometimes feel they are 'the solo village' with no 'henchmen' [helper] at their side. Hence this tribute to you for being **more than a mum**, because you wear many hats and aprons. As a kitchen manager, floor manager, concierge manager, house manager, discipline manager and most importantly as the main educator and nurturer of your children. Watering the seeds so that they grow up strong and resilient and will bloom wherever they are planted.

Motherhood has its fair share of joys and pain, challenges and successes, struggles and laughter, anxieties and confidence. The list goes on. But today we want to reflect how modern day mothers can relate to the "forgotten mothers of the bible" and take from them the torch of faith these women carried in the dark and uncertain times that they too experienced.

A good mother teaches her children many things, but the most important lesson she imparts to her children is that the ultimate goal of human life is to live forever with God in His kingdom.

# The Forgotten Mothers of the Bible

A REFLECTION

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*Blessed Mothers' Day!*

MARY,  
HOLY MOTHER  
PRAY for US!



## Biblical Stories of Mothers

To celebrate Mother's Day, we remember the many biblical stories of motherhood - stories that many of us forget, or lack words, to celebrate.

If you relate to any one of the biblical woman's name, please make an effort to read about her from scripture, from research on internet, ensuring it's a Catholic website. And spend some time with the passage, meditating and reflecting on your own role as a 'biblical mother'. And to pray also for all mothers who are struggling right now with many challenges of life.

**Dinah and Joseph**, children of **Jacob and Rachel**, burying their mother on the way to Bethlehem and leaving her grave behind. Some of us have seen many children who have faced this day, suddenly without their mother.

**Rachel, Sarah, and Elizabeth**, remind us of mothers who held their new born child and found it to be simultaneously the greatest gift and the hardest task. Maybe some are with special needs and some may be physically challenged.

There are also those women who never merited a name in Scripture because they were unable to bear children to pass on the family faith. We too know women who faced miscarriages, infertility, and loneliness today.

**"AS ONE WHOM HIS MOTHER COMFORTS, SO I WILL COMFORT YOU." (ISAIAH 66:13)**

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## Women of Faith and Valour

**Rahab, Deborah, Joanna, and Phoebe**

Were they childless by choice, by circumstance? Were the names of their children lost to a history that found them unimportant? Were they shamed in their lifetime for putting work ahead of family? Today we know of families who have been estranged from their children because of long hours of work or children being left solely to the care of grandparents and maids.

The **mother of Moses and the daughter of Pharaoh**, linked and yet so separate. One gave up her child to save her child, and one took in a child despite the risks. We remember all the women who have given up their children in the hope of a better life for them. Conversely, women who want to start a family through adoption, because they were not able to conceive.

Then there was **Naomi** who asked to "Call me 'bitter.'"

The **unnamed wife of Job** like many women who buried their children, lives lost unbearably early.

**Dinah**, the daughter of Jacob, and **Tamar**, the daughter of David. Like the many women whose bodies, sexualities, marriages, and children should be a source of joy, but instead were corrupted by someone else's sin.



There were **Hagar, and Tamar** the wife of Er, women whose only hope for protection and care lay in having a child with a man who was not married to them. Hagar was sent into the wilderness to die, her son Ishmael at her side. Many women today are raising their children alone.

**Rebekah**, and her twins Esau and Jacob already at war within her womb. She chose a favourite son, just as her husband had. There are many children who bear the trauma of parents who, perhaps, did what they thought was right and did the best they could, and scarred their children's hearts for life.

We remember **Hannah**, her heart so wounded by the abuse of her husband's other wife that she wept at the altar of God until she could not speak, and how Eli, the holy priest, assumed she must have been drunk to pray so hard. Like many women today whose heartbreak has been turned into a weapon against them or being ridiculed by society.

We remember the **woman at the well**, silenced and shunned by divorce. We know too well the wretched freedom found in divorce, the messiness of new life with a broken heart.

## "SHE IS CLOTHED WITH STRENGTH AND DIGNITY; SHE CAN LAUGH AT THE DAYS TO COME." (PROVERBS 31:25)

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The foreign women described in Ezra and Nehemiah, who came home with their husbands to rebuild the temple only to be cast aside by men claiming to be righteous and pure. We remember how many mothers have been made homeless or landless, often for reasons beyond their control, and how powerful men have turned them into pawns to be manipulated and ostracised. Today's equivalent of human trafficking for illegal prostitution, for cheap labour, etc. We recall the **Syrophoenician woman**, alone, unsupported, and persistent beyond comprehension on behalf of her dying child. Today there are many women whose cries were mocked or pushed aside, whose insistence on justice and equality fell on deaf ears.

**Mary Magdalene**, the first preacher of the resurrection, soiled by centuries of slander that turned her from wide-eyed witness to reformed harlot. In her testimony, she gave birth to the church.



Today women are discriminated for gender, sexuality, history, and find themselves on the fringes of society.

Then came, **Mary** the virgin, a teenage girl, cradling her stomach with wonder, answering the shock of a miracle and the sureness of societal judgment with a simple and determined "Yes" which make heads turned and stomachs churned. For sure there were gossips in the little town of Nazareth about a teenage pregnancy. This still happens today. These women obeyed God's calling, served sacrificially, and built a life of faith for their family. Just to name a few...

**Sarah:** The mother who waited

**Hagar:** The mother who endured

**Rebekah:** The mother who believed

**Leah and Rachel:** The mothers who had to share

**Manoah, (Samson's Mother):** Who followed the rules

**Naomi:** The mother-in-law who shared her faith

**Hannah:** The mother who kept her promise

**Elizabeth:** The mother who believed in miracles

**Mary:** The mother who is blessed among women (A woman of faith)

Each of these women, described here, found an **inner courage to face the impossibility.**

May the God who mothers each of us be a source of life for all who long for hope.

# It is Now or Never!

A SHORT STORY - WHAT WILL WE DO FOR OUR MOTHERS TODAY?

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A man stopped at a flower shop to order some flowers to be sent to his mother who lived two hundred miles away. As he got out of his car he noticed a young girl sitting on the curb sobbing. He asked her what was wrong and she replied, "I wanted to buy a red rose for my mother. But I only have seventy-five cents, and a rose costs two dollars." The man smiled and said, "Come with me. I'll buy you a rose." He bought the little girl her rose and ordered his own mother's flowers. As they were leaving he offered the girl a ride home. She said, "Yes, please! You can take me to my mother." She directed him to a cemetery, where she placed the rose on a freshly dug grave. The man returned to the flower shop, cancelled the order of flowers and instead picked up a bouquet and drove the two hundred miles to his mother's house.

**Moral of Story:** Never wait till it's too late to say "I love you" to our mothers. During this Covid-19 Circuit Breaker, find creative ways to send flowers, card and a delicious hot meal to show our gratitude and love to our mothers. And offer a spiritual bouquet of rosary for our mothers.

Please share with us an inspiring story of yourself as a mother or as a son/ daughter sharing about your own mother. (In not more than 200 words). Email your story to [feedback.csc@catholic.org.sg](mailto:feedback.csc@catholic.org.sg). You can choose to remain anonymous or have your name as a testimony to God's Goodness.

We will compile and post it on CSC website: "*An Attitude of Gratitude: A Tribute to Mothers*". Let your sharing touch someone's life. Thank you and God bless.