



Dear friends,

As this Sunday is the Fifth Sunday of Easter, in the Gospel of John (Jn 14:1-12), Jesus speaks to us of the home which God has prepared for us in the Heavens: 'there are many rooms in my Father's house.' (Jn 14: 3) However, this Sunday is also Mother's Day when we honour our Mothers, living and deceased. Aware of how rich our home life can be, we turn our minds and hearts to our home here on earth, and the special way in which mothers make a house, into a home.

Pope Francis recently spoke about motherhood when he said: "I would like to say a few words about the irreplaceable contribution of women in building a world that can be a home for all. Women make the world beautiful, they protect it and keep it alive. They bring the grace of renewal, the embrace of inclusion, and the courage to give of oneself. Peace, then, is born of women, it arises and is kindled by the tenderness of mothers. Thus the dream of peace becomes a reality when we look towards women." The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has during his Pontificate, been more inclusive of women at every level of Church, drawing on their experience, insights and motherly concern as a way of unifying the Catholic community throughout the World.

The month of May has always traditionally been the month where we honour Mary, the Mother of God, mindful that we are the parish of St Mary and St Joseph. Mary, as mother of Jesus, was both mother and disciple of her Son. While giving birth to Jesus in Bethlehem, and sharing in that great joy, she also grieved for him as he died on the cross. Motherhood, rejoices in the graces of being a mother, but it also bears the painful moments of her children's lives.

The Church, is often described as a Mother, and I think this is one of the best images we have of our Church. As the mother feeds and nurtures her children, so the Church embraces all its children. From our birth we are all on a pilgrimage of faith which begins in our earthly home, is nurtured by our spiritual home: the House of God, St Mary and St Joseph parish. And, as Jesus alludes to today, the more permanent home built for us in the heavens.

We are fortunate to have, and to have experienced the joys and struggles of family life in a home where we can feel accepted and loved.

On this Mother's Day 2020, let us pray for all our Mothers, living and deceased, and let us join with Pope Francis in praise of the 'tenderness of mothers.'

May we all one day be reunited in that heavenly home, where we will be saints among the saints in the halls of the everlasting Kingdom. As Jesus promises us in today's gospel: 'I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too.' (Jn 14: 7-8)

Happy Mother's Day,

Fr Kelvin