

Today, as we celebrate Mother's Day, we are reminded of the importance of our earthly mothers. We are reminded of the life, love and care which they have given and show, the sacrifices they often make, and we take time to honour and thank God for them. For some, however, this day is bitter sweet. It calls to mind perhaps grief - grief for a mother who has died, or grief for a child who has died. For others this day may heighten the gap between the ideal of motherhood and the reality that as human beings not all mothers or parent child relationships exemplify the Hallmark card ideal. For others this day may be a reminder that being blessed with motherhood is not always a given. But no matter who we are, or the emotions that we may bring to this day, we are each and every one of us, mother or father, sister or brother, child or friend, reminded of an ideal - an ideal of self giving love and care, comfort and security. And while we honour those attributes as we celebrate Mother's Day, as Christians we are also reminded that those attributes come first and foremost from God, and that we, as followers of Jesus, are called to live into that love more fully and show it forth more faithfully in both word and action.