

**Sermon Given at the Anglican Parish of Kingscliff** -St James Kingscliff & St Mark's Pottsville, Mother's Day, 10 May 2026

**Title:** A Revolution of Nurturing and Tenderness

On Mother's Day, we give thanks for mothers in every sense of the word: biological mothers, spiritual mothers, single mothers, grandmothers, greatgrandmothers, carers, mentors, and all those women whose love, sacrifice and nurturing presence shape our lives. We honour and bless them, praying that they may know joy, peace, and deep appreciation for all they give so generously.

There is something profoundly moving about a mother's love. During my ministry as a prison chaplain in Victoria, I noticed that most visitors to prisons were women: wives, partners, sisters, and especially mothers. I remember one mother in particular whose son had spent years in and out of prison. His relationships with the rest of his family had broken down, yet she continued to visit him faithfully. Through tears she said to me, "I do not condone what he's done, but he is still my son, and I love him."

That unwavering love speaks powerfully of the depth of a mother's heart — a love marked by mercy, faithfulness, sacrifice, and hope. Today, we pause to remember the women who have nurtured us and helped shape who we are, and we give thanks to God for them.

Motherhood is rarely easy or painless. The ancient symbol of the pelican feeding its young with its own blood became an image of sacrificial love in the early Church. Many mothers can relate deeply to that image. Their lives are often marked by self-giving, endurance, and quiet acts of love that frequently go unnoticed.

Having witnessed the birth of our three children, and the bond between our littlest -Kene Patrick -and my wife, Faith, and having experienced the sacrificial love of my own mother, Matilda, I remain deeply grateful for the gift of mothers.

An old Jewish proverb says, "God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers." While we know God is everywhere, the saying captures something true: mothers often reveal God's tenderness, compassion, and nurturing love in ways that touch our hearts profoundly.

The medieval mystic Julian of Norwich beautifully described Christ as our mother, writing that "God is as truly our Mother as He is our Father." She spoke of the nurturing, compassionate love of Christ who draws humanity close with gentleness and mercy.

Indeed, the Scriptures are rich with maternal images for God. Through the prophet Isaiah, God says: “*Can a mother forget the child at her breast? Even if she could forget, I will not forget you... (Isaiah 49:15)*” And in Psalm 139 we hear those comforting words: “*You knit me together in my mother’s womb.*”

A wise old priest puts it beautifully, God is a Father who loves us with the tenderness of a mother.

Mother’s Day is about more than flowers, gifts, or family lunches — important and joyful as those celebrations may be. It is also a day to reflect on the vital role women and mothers play in our families, our Church, and our society. In a world that can often feel harsh, divided, and overly driven by power, bravado, and achievement, we are reminded of the importance of tenderness, compassion, patience, and care.

We see these qualities most beautifully in Mary, mother of Jesus. Mary models faithful discipleship through humility, quiet strength, and trust in God. At the wedding in Cana, she simply tells the servants, “*Do whatever he tells you*” (John 2:5). Her life continually points us toward Christ.

Perhaps Mother’s Day is also an invitation for all of us — women and men alike — to rediscover the nurturing dimension of our humanity. As author Colette Lafia writes in her book *Comfort and Joy*, “Mothering is something we all need, no matter our age.” We are called not only to care for others but also to show gentleness toward ourselves: to slow down, to listen deeply, and to make space for healing and grace.

Today we pray especially for mothers who carry heavy burdens: mothers grieving children, single mothers, expectant mothers, mothers living in poverty, mothers in refugee camps and detention centres, mothers affected by violence and abuse, and all who struggle quietly behind the scenes. May God surround them with strength, comfort, and hope.

And may we, as the Christian communities of Kingscliff and Pottsville, become people who nurture one another with tenderness, kindness, and compassion. May we begin, in our own small way, a revolution of nurturing, love and tenderness.

Let us pray:

Dear Lord, enable our homes, our Church, and our hearts to grow kinder, gentler every day, until a revolution of tenderness transforms the world through love’s quiet way.  
Amen.

*The Reverend Constantine Osuchukwu, AMDG, 09 May 2026.*