

# Mother's Day 2018

I'm very conscious this Mother's Day of Jessica and Andrew, and little Archie, who arrived just three weeks ago; of Brydan and Chris, who are expecting twins who will join their much-adored Frankie; and of Becky and Tim, who are anticipating the arrival of their first baby. These little people will join so many other children who bring overwhelming and often unexpected joy and delight to their families.



I'm also very conscious of Jenny, who spends this Mother's Day without her beloved husband, David, who died last September, and of Margaret, David's mum. This day is one of so much deeply felt emotion for so many mothers. We remember them all.

On this day, as we give thanks for the mothers who are an essential part of who we are, we acknowledge also the many opportunities for mothering that all of us are called to live out in our daily lives – in our moments of expectation, our bringing to birth new life and growth, our love and compassion for each other. We are so often filled with awe as we recognise that the most radical, world-changing events may be happening anonymously in our homes and small communities, and that we must never undermine the significance of this.



In giving thanks for the presence of mothers in our lives, we pray a blessing of gratitude, strength and compassion, of patience and support, of faith and hope for all mothers.

And we join them in their prayer:

*Loving God, may our children be blessed and kept as they sleep.  
And, for our sake (and theirs), may we be helped to cope when  
they're awake.*

Jan Barnett rsj