

## LOCKDOWN DAY 43 – 8 MAY 2020

Good day dearly beloved children of God,

Scripture: Mark 10:35-45    Hymns: *You Raise me up. He Touched Me*

Please do not let Covid-19 get you down. We shall again become the Cape of Celebration. We can only marvel at these facts. The **eagle** that soars high in the sky is used as **John's** symbol.

As it is Mother's Day on Sunday, we pray that the hand of God will touch them and that joy will flood their souls. Mothers serve self-sacrificially. We consider this weekend how we can serve mothers. To **minister** means to serve. We acknowledge with gratitude that our Government Ministers are serving and guiding us as best they can.

St John died at Ephesus about the year hundred, and according to St Epiphanius, he was about 94 years old when he died. We need to care for the elderly who are very lonely at this time of lockdown.

Let us learn some lessons about serving from Mary, our Divine Mother.

**Mary at Elizabeth's door teach us to be generous with our capacity to care.** On Mother's Day we remember mothers trying their best to raise children, given the circumstances. We serve them, we care for them. We pray that they may be enriched in body, mind and spirit. May all mothers know themselves as loved and appreciated not only on Sunday but every day.

**Mary giving birth to Jesus.** We thank God for those who have a beautiful relationship with their birth mother. We think of young and adult children who have difficult relationships with their mothers. We pray for teenage mothers and daughters who have had to step up to run households as they have lost their mothers. We pray for Mothers who have welcomed children from another mother into their homes.

**Mary at Nazareth with your family.** We pray for mothers in extreme poverty, working hard to feed and clothe their children. In some situations, the evil is womanising, rape and gambling.

**Mary meeting Jesus on the way to Calvary.** We remember grieving parents who have lost children to human trafficking, substance abuse, crime and violence, gang warfare. Six young men lost their lives in Eastridge on Saturday. We pray for mothers who are health workers and essential workers, putting their lives on the line to serve humanity at this time, often working long hours without adequate protection.

**Mary in the Upper Room with the disciples, teach us the strength of community and the power of prayer.** We pray for a more equal society and an end of enforced servitude of those who are downtrodden. We remember our mothers who have gone on to another sphere of life, we welcome our memories of them and how much they mean to us. If they were troubled on earth, they are now at peace.

Each mother gives her child the gift of life and the possibility of a worthy future. They cannot do it alone. They need our help and encouragement. We pray for mothers who are frantic, having their children home due to schools being closed. Some do not have the capacity to do home schooling and their children who are depended on school feeding are often going to bed hungry.

The power of love makes the Apostle John the theologian of charity, the poet, the philosopher, the prophet, the mystic and pastor that he was. John would tell the people every time, *"My dear children, love one another."* Remember, that it was to John that Jesus entrusted his mother. Love is to be the style of life of every Christian.

Today you are asked to reach out to any member of the Mothers Union. I encourage you to learn and pray The Angelus, the Hail Mary, at noon every day.

I am, Because we Are, Because God is ... Opening Hearts to Heal God's World. *Happy Mother's Day for Sunday.*