

Mothering Sunday 30MAR2014

What is Mothering Sunday?

During the sixteenth century, people returned to their mother church, the main church, or cathedral of the area, for a service to be held on Laetare Sunday (in ecclesiastical Latin). This was either a large local church, or more often the nearest Cathedral.

Anyone who did this was commonly said to have gone "a-mothering," although whether this term preceded the observance of Mothering Sunday is unclear.

In later times, Mothering Sunday became a day when domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother church, usually with their own mothers and other family members. It was often the only time that whole families could gather together, since on other days they were prevented by conflicting working hours, and servants were not given free days on other occasions.

Children and young people who were "in service" (as household servants) were given a day off on that date so they could visit their families (or, originally, return to their "mother" church). The children would pick wild flowers along the way to place in the church or give to their mothers.

Eventually, the religious tradition evolved into the Mothering Sunday secular tradition of giving gifts to mothers.

We are told that the "head" of the house is the dad but the way the head turns is from the neck – from Mom! In the military we jokingly say we have to check with the CinC at home. We also hear mom's referred to with the statement, "if momma's not happy, nobody is happy!"

God said it wasn't right for man to be alone – thank goodness!!!

Eve was told she would become the mother of all the living.

This set the stage for mothers through time.

What should we do to honor them?

Why should it be only one day?

Leviticus 19:2-4 (NIV)

3 Each of you must respect your mother and father, and you must observe my Sabbaths. I am the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy 5:16 (NIV)

16 Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

Proverbs 15:20 (NIV)

20 A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish man despises his mother.  
ll,

Proverbs 17:25

A foolish son brings grief to his father and bitterness to the mother who bore him.

Proverbs 19:26

Whoever robs their father and drives out their mother is a child who brings shame and disgrace.

Proverbs 20:20

If someone curses their father or mother, their lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness.

Proverbs 23:22

Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

Proverbs 23:25

May your father and mother rejoice; may she who gave you birth be joyful!

Proverbs 29:15 (NIV)

15 A rod and a reprimand impart wisdom, but a child left undisciplined disgraces its mother.

Ephesians 6:1-3 (NIV)

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

## Proverbs 31 (NIV)

### Epilogue: The Wife (Mom) of Noble Character

- 10 A MOM of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.
- 11 MOM's husband has full confidence in MOM and lacks nothing of value.
- 12 MOM brings him good, not harm, all the days of MOM's life.
- 13 MOM selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.
- 14 MOM is like the merchant ships, bringing MOM food from afar.
- 15 MOM gets up while it is still night; MOM provides food for MOM's family and portions for MOM's female servants.
- 16 MOM considers a field and buys it; out of MOM's earnings, MOM plants a vineyard.
- 17 MOM sets about MOM's work vigorously; MOM's arms are strong for MOM's tasks.
- 18 MOM sees that MOM's trading is profitable, and MOM's lamp does not go out at night.
- 19 In MOM hand MOM holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with MOM's fingers.
- 20 MOM opens MOM's arms to the poor and extends MOM's hands to the needy.
- 21 When it snows, MOM has no fear for MOM's household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
- 22 MOM makes coverings for MOM's bed; MOM is clothed in fine linen and purple.
- 23 MOM's husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.
- 24 MOM makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.
- 25 MOM is clothed with strength and dignity; MOM can laugh at the days to come.
- 26 MOM speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on MOM's tongue.
- 27 MOM watches over the affairs of MOM's household and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- 28 MOM's children arise and call MOM blessed; MOM's husband also, and he praises MOM:
- 29 "Many MOM's do noble things, but you surpass them all."
- 30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a MOM who fears the Lord is to be praised.
- 31 Honor MOM for all that MOM's hands have done, and let MOM's works bring MOM praise at the city gate.