

Making Connections on Mothering Sunday

14 March, 2016

Recently we held a service on Mothering Sunday. During that worship time flowers, compliments of Elizabeth, were blessed and distributed to all those present who are mothers or who had mothers. This is a common and welcome spring time event – flowers for the women of our congregation.

During that service we also remembered our own mothers and St Mary, the mother of our Lord.

Another aspect of Mothering Sunday is to remember our Cathedral, the mother parish of our diocese. Cathedrals are unique churches. They, by definition, have the special seat, the *cathedra* of the bishop. Once a bishop has been selected for a diocese and, if required, consecrated or ordained as a bishop – that minster, man or woman, becomes a bishop. Very soon afterwards, they are enthroned in their seat, in their cathedral, and they become our bishop. The cathedral is the home church and centre of our diocese. Just as all priests and deacons are extensions of the bishop's ministry and are the bishop's curates in charge of the cure (care) of the souls in their parishes/chaplaincies, so too are all parish churches extensions of their mother church, the cathedral.

And so to mark this Mothering Sunday, at the coffee fellowship time following worship, members of the congregation present gladly signed a Mother's Day card which was posted the following day to the staff and clergy of our cathedral, the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, for the Church of England's Diocese in Europe. Our card read:



*We the congregation in attendance at
All Saints' Marseilles France
on
this occasion of Mothering Sunday
send our greetings and wishes of good will
to
our Mother Church
the Cathedral of The Holy Trinity, Gibraltar,
Parish Church and the Mother Church of the
Diocese in Europe.*