

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025, St. Michael's Church

By Cindy Spurgeon

Today is the day to cherish the beauty of Mother. Mothers of all forms, biological mothers, step-mothers, Grandmothers, adoptive mothers, God Mothers, and all the other women who were blessed to be able raise, love and guide a child .

When my son was born, I along with my partner of many years made a commitment to God. That we would bring the gift of faith in the Lord our God into his life. It was so important for us to raise him knowing that no matter what trials and tribulations life brought his way that he could always turn to God and there he could find hope, and faith and guidance.

Reflecting on today's reading (gospel) John **10:22-30** **Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.**

Each night I pray over my son and ask Jesus to keep his soul pure and his heart good. As a mother wanting to nurture, protect and love her child, the first time hearing him recite the Lord's

Prayer, or the first time he said mom “pray for me, I have a really hard test today” or in harder days of growing up him telling me “Mom I prayed so hard.” As he matured into his teenage years I was at times awestruck watching him travel through his journey into faith. At times there would be doubts and questions or as a young teen putting faith on the “back burner.” And as he entered into adulthood seeing him confident in his relationship with God; feeling it in his own heart and soul. I know that he is one of the sheep, he will hear Jesus’ voice, and he will follow him and Jesus knows this.

A story if you will...

A mother’s love knows no bounds, has no limits, there is no sacrifice big enough, a mother would give her last breath to her child.

My Italian grandmother was born in Italy surrounded by an astounding patronage to our Mother Mary. Golden statues of Mary, her arms open and welcoming, place a top the highest Duomo, Cater Dale and cathedral. As a young woman, I really didn’t understand the magnitude and meaning behind the many statues and pictures of the blessed virgin in my grandmother’s house, until one day I asked her, “Grandma why so many statues and pictures of Mary in your house? “ I thought her answer would be followed up by some recollection of her childhood or

teachings of faith from her mother. But no, she responded with “only a mother knows.” At the time I really didn’t fully understand her response.

Now in my later years, I get it! Mary is the symbol of happiness, the pain, the sorrow and joy of motherhood. Mary is the bringer of hope because she bore Jesus Christ into the world. And when we know Jesus we know God’s love for us.

She is the Mother of God and the Mother of every culture and every person in every continent.

Her unwavering faith and devotion, her role as a model of obedience, and her constant intercession on behalf of humanity, Mother Mary is the purest meaning of mother, love and sacrifice, she is a reminder for all of us to trust in God's plan.