

## DIAKONIA Prayer Letter for March

During our Lent and Holy Week journey we are given some pictures of Mothers...

Jesus approaching Jerusalem describes God's desire to protect his children like a Mother hen shielding her chicks with her wings. (Lk:13.34.)

Mid-Lent we keep Mothering Sunday giving thanks for the nurturing of Mother Church and that of our own Mothers.

In Holy Week we see Jesus' own mother living out the prophecy of Simeon, "and a sword shall pierce your own soul too" as she suffers seeing her child's pain and death. (Lk:2.35)

Having before us these three icons we pray:



For mothers everywhere shielding their children from danger, especially refugees and asylum seekers, many vulnerable and homeless on the borders of our countries.

For mothers protecting their children, made homeless after natural disasters and changing weather patterns. Many thousands of families in the UK have experienced flooding several times in the past months.

We pray and give thanks for our own local Churches and faith communities, praying for a deepening of spiritual life and vision to reach out with compassion and love.

I ask for prayers for my own church of St. Paul's, Blackpool as we retire, and the parish move forward to find a new minister to take our place.

We give thanks for our own mothers, for the life we have been given and the love that nurtured us into who we are today.

We give thanks for work of the Mothers' Union, its founder Mary Sumner and pray for its continuing work, supporting family life by prayer and action across the World.

We pray for all mothers who bear pain through their child's suffering, for the mothers with children in chronic or terminal illness; for mothers who suffer because of the child's violent action as terrorists and extremists. We pray for God's healing, wholeness and peace in their lives, as we hold and name those known to us before God.

Lord take our thoughts, and turn them to prayer

Lord take our prayer and turn it to love,

Lord take our love and turn it to Life

In Jesus Christ today.

Mary lived to experience Easter joy, may All members of DIAKONIA and all for whom we pray come to experience that same Paschal joy.

**Christ is Risen. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

