

The Soul of Mothering

As we approach Mary Sumner Day on 9th August, we may notice that Mary is one of 6 women celebrated during the that month. The others are Clare of Assisi, Florence Nightingale, Octavia Hill, Catherine Booth (Salvation Army), and Monica (mother of St Augustine). Each in their different ways contributed to the 'mothering' aspects of living – nurturing, tending, protecting, guiding, comforting, teaching, encouraging, enabling.

The following prayer seems to fit the occasion as we think of mothers and all who 'mother' us with their prayers and kindness.

God be with the mother.

As she carried her child,
 may she carry her soul.

As her child was born,
 may she give birth and life and form to her own higher truth.

As she nourished and protected her child,
 may she nourish and protect her inner life and her independence.

For her soul shall be her most painful birth,
 her most difficult child
and the dearest sister to her other children.

Amen

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