**Intercessions for Mothering Sunday – Service of the Word** *The officiant will introduce the intercessions with these words:
Let us pray to God, who loves all people as a mother loves her children.*

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the example of Mary, mother of Jesus, for her nurture, support, and devotion to her son through both good and difficult times. We pray that our spiritual mother, the Church, may follow her in humility, trust and love. Hear us as we pray for our wider church family, in this diocese, remembering especially the Retreats Ministry, for Maggie Le-Roy, the Diocesan Retreats Facilitator, and those who volunteer their time and talents to this work. We pray for their work and remember all who come for spiritual refreshment to the Katafiyio Retreat house.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, as we pray for our fractured and needy world. Soften with a mother’s gentleness the hardness of human hearts. Lead those who wage war and unrest to seek peaceful resolutions to their cause. Strengthen those who work for peace and justice remembering those organisations who particularly work with mothers, children and families. Encourage the work of the Mothers’ Union, within our Anglican communion, as their leaders work to strengthen families within a Christian framework.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

We pray for all mothers and women supporting children, especially those within our own community or family circle. We thank you for all that they do, all they give or have given, and all they are. We especially uphold those who are separated from children and grandchildren and pray that links may be nurtured in imaginative ways. Give to all mothers the unfailing love that Mary gave to Jesus and uphold them all in times of anxiety and distress.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

We bring before you children who have lost their mother through tragedy; for children who have to live away from their mothers; for children who live in homes that are unsafe and for children who live in hardship or poverty. Bring love, security and hope into the lives of children in these difficult circumstances and encourage and renew hope in all who care for children in trying situations.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Because your love is more constant than the love of any human mother, we pray, with confidence, for the repose of all who have died in the faith of Jesus Christ remembering especially mothers, grandmothers, aunts and great aunts within our own families.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves. Loving God, you have given us the right to be called children of God. Help us to show your love in our homes that they may be places of love, security and truth. Help us to uphold and strengthen our family bonds.

We enfold all our prayers in the love of God and as God’s children and heirs with Christ, we pray in the Spirit of ‘Abba’, Father saying: **Our Father ….**