



MOTHER'S DAY OR MOTHERING SUNDAY?
Some thoughts for this weekend -by Father Hugh.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

For many years when I was at school I was very puzzled by the fact that this Sunday - always three Sundays before Easter was called by one of these two names. As I grew up, not in a churchgoing family I noticed that the main theme was '**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**' as a bunch of daffodils was handed over to Mum.

But as I grew up I came to realise that the day is called one thing by one group, and the other title by another group.

SO HERE'S WHY!

MOTHER - is regarded as a real figurehead in family life. The vast majority of us will recall as we grew up, just what an important link our Mother is in our upbringing -food, clothes, learning and so on. Yes - our mother well deserves that bouquet of flowers!

In the church, the word **MOTHER** is also of great meaning - we often use the phrase **OUR HOLY MOTHER THE CHURCH** - the organisation we look up to for teaching us what learn it is to be a Christian. So yes - it is rightly known as **MOTHER'S DAY!**

So why **MOTHERING SUNDAY?** This is because those who are Christians see motherhood in its finest in the person of the mother of Jesus - the Blessed Virgin Mary. We think and give attention to what the Bible tells us about Mary - poor, humble girl called to be the greatest mother of all time (Christmas), who later in life had the harrowing experience of seeing her son die on a cross (Good Friday).

Sometimes we use this phrase in our prayers:

Holy Mother of God - pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death!

So you see folks - that is why it is for me -

MOTHER'S DAY AND MOTHERING SUNDAY!

May all who read this, in spite of all the pain and anxiety which we all feel at this time, be given a little comfort by this article!

GOD BLESS YOU ALL!