

The fourth Sunday in Lent is always special. It is called **Laetare Sunday**. This is the Latin word for **REJOICE**. This is a day of joy in the middle of Lent.

- *In Ireland and in Britain, we celebrate Mother's Day on this special Sunday in Lent.*
- *Some people call this day MOTHERING SUNDAY. We have celebrated it in Ireland for hundreds of years.*
- *Long ago in Ireland, children from poor tenant families went to work as servants in the BIG HOUSE for the rich landlords.*
- *They were allowed to return home to see their families once every year, on the fourth Sunday of Lent.*
- *They were given this day "off" to visit the church in their home village or town. After visiting the church, they went home to see their mothers.*
- *Some of these children brought a gift to their mothers. Other picked wild flowers along the roadside and brought them. Many girls baked a special cake, called a Simnel Cake and brought it home as a gift. This was a fruit cake decorated with eleven marzipan balls to represent the eleven Apostles. (Judas was not included).*
- *People were allowed break their Lenten fast to eat this cake.*



How will you celebrate your mother on this Mother's Day this year? Maybe you will write a poem, make a card, draw a picture, make a collage of all the times and ways you love your Mum, give her a hug! We remember

those families whose mum cannot be with them this year or maybe she is with God in Heaven.

Mother's Day Prayer

*Thank you, Lord, for all our mothers.
On this day, let us think of them,
Whether they are with us or gone to their heavenly home.
We think of their kindness, their compassion, their care for us
And above all, their love for us at all times.
We pray that you will watch over them
And support them in the joys and struggles of their everyday lives.
This, we ask, through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

