

6. **Hannah:** I am Hannah, the mother of Samuel. I was one of many women who had difficulty becoming a mother.  
**We remember mothers who, after many disappointments, are finally successful in being able to conceive and give birth to a child.**
7. **Mother of David:** I am the mother of David. I watched as my son grew from being a shepherd boy to become a great king.  
**We remember mothers who rejoice in the achievements of their children.**
8. **Widow of Zarephath:** I am the widow of Zarephath. When my bowl of flour and oil is gone, my child and I will die because our land is gripped by famine.  
**We remember mothers who watch their children suffer and die from malnutrition because of famine, drought, flood or war.**
9. **Mother of Bethlehem:** I am one of the mothers from Bethlehem. King Herod's soldiers murdered our children for no reason.  
**We remember mothers whose children are tortured and murdered by soldiers and militia for political reasons.**
10. **Mother of Salem:** I am a mother of Salem. I wanted to take my children to meet Jesus, but his disciples said not to bother him.  
**We remember mothers who would like their children to know Jesus but are discouraged by modern day disciples who don't like annoying kids.**
11. **Syrophoenician woman:** I am the Syrophoenician woman. Even though Jesus referred to me as a dog, I pestered him to cure my daughter who was very ill.

**We remember mothers whose children are sick or disabled and who will try anything to cure or help them.**

12. **Widow at Nain:** I am the widow at Nain. Jesus raised my son from the dead so I would not be left destitute.  
**We remember mothers who, as widows, or for other reasons, raise their children alone.**

13. **Mother of James and John:** I am the mother of James and John. I asked Jesus if they could have a special place next to him in Heaven.  
**We remember mothers who believe their children can do no wrong and deserve special treatment.**

14. **Mary:** I am Mary. I watched my child suffer and die on a cross.  
**We remember mothers who watch their children suffer and die.**

15. **A barren woman:** I am one of many nameless women. I was not able to be a mother, even though I would have liked it very much.  
**We remember women who, for various reasons, are unable to become mothers.**

16. **Lois:** I am Lois. Eunice and I taught Timothy, our son and grandson about Jesus.  
**We remember mothers who teach their children about Jesus.**

**Leader:** We remember and give thanks for the important mother-figures of long ago and in our own lives, those who have seen, not just with their eyes, but with their heart.

**A Mother's Day Litany**  
(original source unknown)

**Overview:**

16 flowers—a variety of colours-- are distributed to readers who represent the Biblical women mentioned in the litany, and are gathered into one colourful bouquet.

**Directions:**

- Print up the litany and cut each reader's section as a strip.
- Each reader receives their script (strip) and holds a flower.
- During the litany, each reader reads the line spoken by the person they represent.
- The gathered congregation responds with the sentence relating to women today (written in *bold italics*).
- Following each section, the person holding the flower places their flower in the vase., adding to the colourful bouquet.

**Leader:**

How many of you have a mother? I hope you all raised your hand! A common experience for us all – having a mother. Some of us may have never known our mother, or been estranged from our mothers. For others, our lives are closely entwined with loving, and very present, mothers.

Today on Mothering Sunday, we focus not only on biological mothers, but on all the people who have been like-mothers to us. Women and men, fathers and aunts and grandparents. And those not related by blood.

The Bible introduces us to numerous mothers – good mothers, and not-so-good mothers, loving mothers and harsh mothers, wise mothers and foolish mothers, happy mothers and suffering mothers. There is no one mold for mothers, as we all can attest to, I'm sure.

In this litany, we hear the voices of several Biblical mothers. Although these women lived long ago, they experienced the same joy and pain that mothers of today experience. As we listen to their stories, let us remember the important mother-figures in our lives, those who have seen, not just with their eyes, but with their heart.

1. **Eve:** I am Eve. My son Cain killed his brother Abel because he was jealous.  
**We remember mothers whose families are torn apart by jealousy, fighting and misunderstandings.**
2. **Sarah:** I am Sarah. I was an old woman when I gave birth to my son Isaac.  
**We remember mothers who are older, but who still bear the responsibility of raising children and grandchildren.**
3. **Rebekah:** I am Rebekah. I helped my favourite son Jacob to trick his brother Esau out of his birthright.  
**We remember mothers who mean well, but make mistakes.**
4. **Moses' mother:** I am Moses' mother. I hid my child so that he would not be taken by the government authorities.  
**We remember mothers whose children are taken or stolen from them because of commercial interests or government policy.**
5. **An Egyptian Princess:** I am Pharaoh's daughter. I found a baby in a basket and adopted him, raising him as my own child.  
**We remember mothers who have adopted children and mothers who have had their children adopted.**