

13<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Mothers

**“I wish thee all thy mother’s graces,  
Thy father’s fortunes, and his places.  
I wish thee friends, and one at Court,  
Not to build on, but support ...”**

*Richard Corbet, To his Son, Vincent Corbet*

Richard Corbet was a 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century English poet and prelate, who was Chaplain to king James I. Writing to his son, Vincent, he wishes the young man all the good in the world for his future. In this regard, he instances a good father, fortunes, places, support, friends – with at least one “at Court” – as gifts his son should value. But first of all, he emphasises his wish that his son has “all thy mother’s graces”. Richard Corbet valued what he saw in the women he knew best, perhaps his own mother, but certainly the mother of his son, a “mother’s graces” seen in the practice of motherhood in his home and among his family. So, in anticipation of Mother’s Day in the UK tomorrow, I invite you to join with me – and Richard Corbett – to offer praise and thanks for our mothers.

Some months ago, looking forward to Mother’s Day, I was invited to write some poetry and reflections for the creation of an accessible download for Wild Goose Publications, *Remembering Mothers*. (See [www.ionabooks.com/product/remembering-mothers-pdf-download/](http://www.ionabooks.com/product/remembering-mothers-pdf-download/)) My pieces are, not surprisingly, based on memories of my own mother, who, for me, was an exemplar of motherhood. Here are the first and last stanzas of *Remembering mother again* from this download. As I wrote this, and as I read it again now, I say once more, “Thank you, mum.”

*Remembering mother is always a joy,  
going all the way back to when I was a boy,  
and now, as an adult, with thoughts to enjoy ...  
I’m remembering mother again.*

*Remembering mother, and joining with you  
to offer the thanks and the praise that is due  
to everyone’s mother, on Mother’s Day too,  
and remembering mothers again.*

### **A prayer for today**

*Thank you, God, for giving me a mother who mothered me like you.  
Thank you, God, for mothering me like my mother. Amen*

*An original reflection by © Tom Gordon*

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