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Dear Mum

# Through different eyes

Celebrating the mixed emotions of Mother's Day



# SALVOS

MAGAZINE





**Has anyone told you today  
how awesome you are?**



## The Salvation Army is about giving hope where it's needed most.

### What is The Salvation Army?

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church.

### Vision Statement

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight alongside others to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

### Mission Statement

The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus by:

- Caring for people
- Creating faith pathways
- Building healthy communities
- Working for justice

# Salvos Magazine

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## Mother's Day

For a few weeks now, the shops have been full of cards, chocolates and hand creams, encouraging us to buy gifts for our mums. Advertisements are everywhere too, showing smiling and happy families celebrating the day together.

Mother's Day, though, is not a joyful day for everyone. In 'My Story', Sandra writes about the mixed emotions she and many others will feel on the day, from gratitude and happiness, to grief, sadness and a sense of loss.

In 'Faith Talk', Faye also shares her own happy memories of the day but acknowledges that for many, it's a day of pain, loneliness, longing and a reminder of broken relationships. She points out, though, that no matter what we experience on the day and in life in general, God is there to support us through it if we ask him.

In our first feature, Lucy gives us an insight into motherhood from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective, and the unique lessons we can learn from our nation's First Peoples.

We hope you find a message of help, hope and encouragement in these pages, and in other stories at [salvosmagazine.org.au](http://salvosmagazine.org.au)

Simone Worthing – **Assistant Editor**

# Let's get real

## Mother's Day mash-up

**WORDS** REBECCA MOORE

I didn't have many expectations for Mother's Day. I generally like to enjoy it, however it comes – but I did have one request: that there be no arguing among my four children.

I say this with a grin. Mother's Day can be hard on the family when mum has a day off. It means that everyone else has to do what mum normally does for a day. Thankfully for them, it only happens once a year.

Admittedly, it was going to be a busy Mother's Day this particular year, with commitments at church as well as family to pick up from the airport. So, when I was able to sleep in for the first time in months the day before, I was very pleased.

“

**It can be messy, it can be loud,  
but it can also be so much fun.**

”

Sunday morning came and initially began well – then not so well. A trigger from one child sent another one of my children off like a train, letting off steam with passion! As I slipped out of the room to find a quiet space, I noticed in the laundry that my washing machine was flashing an 'F3' error code at me. I also noticed dirty washing was already piling up in the basket and, as

you can imagine, that's not good news for a family of six.

## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

The turbulent start to the day meant we didn't get the annual family photo, something that was made even more obvious as I scrolled through social media looking at the beautiful Mother's Day photos of my friends.

My children scurried to pull together whatever was left of the day, and it did improve, but my request for no arguing had long since gone out the window.



## YOU HAD ONE JOB

While not everything in life is meant to be easy, I was hopeful that the one day of the year meant to be my day off, would be just that. It ended up, however, requiring more mothering skills and calmness from me than usual, while also fighting off the temptation to feel sorry for myself.

Though the day wasn't perfect, it was real. Families are not always picture-perfect, they are not always 'insta-worthy', and special days don't always run as planned. Families are, however, a gathering of different



personalities that often complement each other, but can also clash. It can be messy, it can be loud, but it can also be so much fun.

What's wonderful is that families are all in it together. Despite differences, whether it be a clash of wills, stubbornness or tiredness, the love doesn't have to change, it just needs to bear with each other.

My children know that in this house they are safe, they belong and are loved, even with their imperfections – especially in their imperfections, because we all have them. They know that even when we fail or make mistakes, it doesn't affect our love for each other, though a little gentle shaping may be in order.

### **WE ARE LOVED**

Often we don't measure up to our own expectations and, although we may have the best intentions, sometimes we mess up. In God's love we are safe, we belong and we are loved, but we are also shaped.

When God redirects us and gives us a nudge in the right direction, sometimes the nudge is uncomfortable, but he loves us enough

to show us. He never rejects us but, in our imperfections, he still lavishes his love on us. And he wants us to do the same to others.

“

**Though the day wasn't perfect, it was real.**

”

For all the mums out there who spent Mother's Day looking for a silver lining, I just want to say thank you for loving your family through the glory days and the not-so-glory days. And hey ... there's always next year!

*Author Rebecca Moore blogs at [rebecca-moore.life](http://rebecca-moore.life). Her book *Pizza and Choir*, and others, are available through [Koorong.com](http://Koorong.com).*



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

# Lessons from my non-Indigenous mum

Passing on important values to my own children

WORDS LUCY DAVIS

Being raised by a non-Indigenous mum has shaped me into a proud Aboriginal mum. My mum, who was faced with some of the most 'in-your-face racisms' by having five Aboriginal children, has taught me so much about what it means to be a good mum.

“

**Mum raised us to be proud First Nations people.**

”

Mum tried her hardest to protect us from the cruelty of our world and what we as 'coloured' kids would face. She bestowed on us many values, but some of those that stand out for me are:

- Education, and how education can be a form of empowerment;
- Embracing our identity, and that our identity shapes our spirituality and our connection to our Creator;
- Unconditional love.

Being a white single mum with five Aboriginal kids meant Mum faced many barriers. The statistics and the laws at the time were not

in her favour, but no matter what was thrown at Mum – whether it be poverty, racism or exclusion – when we did have a win, she would always say to us, “Never boast about your achievements, be humble.”

I used to think that Mum just had a quiet nature, but I learnt later in life that she desperately did not want to bring attention to us kids, as Aboriginal children were still being removed from their parents in the 1980s.

Mum raised us to be proud First Nations people. She raised us to be kind to people and to always show love. Even when racism or injustice occurred, she taught us to always respond in an educational or factual way.



Lucy (left), grew up with her non-Indigenous mum and four siblings.

Even though Mum was white, she was also a mum to so many of our relatives and friends. That is how she taught us unconditional love.



Lucy played an integral role in the creation of artwork for the Salvos National Reconciliation Plan and associated resources.

All our closest relatives and friends retell stories of Mum's house being full of too many people for a three-bedroom housing commission home in Logan (45km south of Brisbane), but how they were always greeted with love and humility.

It is these important values that have moulded me into the mum I am today, ensuring my 'gundoos' [children] understand the importance of education, identity and spirituality. I follow Mum's example of showing unconditional love to all of them, including the many nieces and nephews and grandchildren who also call me Mum.

One of Mum's favourite sayings to us was, "There, but for the grace of God, go I." Even though we were poor, she was unyielding on the importance of humility.

Mum would also routinely recite this line from Lord Alfred Tennyson's *Morte d'Arthur* – "The old order changeth, yeilding place to new." Mum would say that, however disconnecting, change is constant, and you have to move with it and put your worries and fears in God's hands.

I hope I make Mum proud of who I am and what I stand for. I know my mum has

witnessed many injustices against First Nations peoples and has also seen many changes. I had hoped, though, that she could've seen even more changes.

I try not to talk to Mum anymore about the injustices First Nations peoples still face as I know it upsets her. I recently told her about the 30th anniversary of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and how there are still no convictions, only five [of the 339] recommendations have been implemented and that there have been four deaths in custody in the month of March.

“

**I hope I make Mum proud of who I am and what I stand for.**

”

My mum started crying quite uncontrollably and I asked her why she was so upset. And she replied, "Because I thought that I would see the end to this ignorance in my lifetime, I thought as God's people, we would've stopped the pain and suffering that we as a society are inflicting on our First Nations peoples."

My mum will be 81 in June.

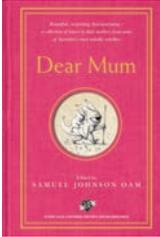
*Lucy Davis Is the National Reconciliation Action Plan Coordinator for The Salvation Army Australia.*



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

## Book Review: *Dear Mum*

Compiled by Samuel Johnson



Mother's Day can be complicated for lots of people. For those with a positive, lived experience of their biological mum, it is a time of gratitude and celebration. But for others who never met their mother, are grieving her

loss, have an estranged relationship or are from a blended family, there isn't a lot of nuance.

This anthology of letters compiled by Samuel Johnson gives us this nuance in bucketloads. Each letter is a tribute to a mother figure, penned from the hands of some of Australia's most influential actors, musicians, politicians, comedians and more, including Stephanie

Alexander, Turia Pitt, Richard Wilkins, Georgie Parker and John Howard.

From the first letter, Johnson makes it clear that this book is for everyone – and every mum. With no recollection of his mum, only that she was a poet and struggled with addiction, he shares one of her poems that was written about him. Meanwhile, other contributors explore gratitude, forgiveness and even acceptance of what was.

While sometimes crass, this is a fitting tribute to mother figures in Australia that everyone can relate to. – **Jessica Morris**

*Dear Mum is available online and at major bookstores.*

## Salvos providing cyclone support in WA

The Salvation Army has committed to releasing \$1 million of its Red Shield Appeal reserve to support West Australian communities affected by Cyclone Seroja.

A Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES) team from Perth, equipped with a catering truck and fully-stocked cool room, travelled 500km north to Geraldton to provide meals to first responders, and emergency support to those affected, soon after Cyclone Seroja crossed the Western Australia coast last month.

A mobile recovery service also travelled to isolated townships north of Geraldton to offer assistance to people there who remained without power and, in some cases, with no telephone service.



As the emergency phase moves into the recovery phase, the Salvos have committed to being there for the long haul. "We have the experience in natural disaster response to help people now and into the future, knowing each person's recovery is unique," said Major Brad Potter, who leads The Salvation Army in Western Australia. – **Lauren Martin**

## 'The Couch' relaunched for international students

The Couch – an international student lounge initiative – has recently been relaunched at the Salvos Project 614 in Melbourne, with the backing of the City of Melbourne and Newcrest Mining Limited.

The Couch gives often vulnerable young international students a safe place to drop in and belong, providing free and nutritious meals to students. Courtesy of a Project 614 staff member, funded by Newcrest Mining Limited, students will also be helped to become 'job-ready' and receive ongoing support in their employment.

Two international students spoke at the relaunch.

Kimberly, a third-year student at Southern Cross Education Institute, acknowledged that "2020 was a tough year ... emotionally, mentally and financially for many international students, and I was one of those students". She shared that her brother passed away [in the Philippines] during that time and she couldn't go home.

Kimberly said that The Couch will again provide a place where people far from home can "network, build new friendships and gain confidence".

Jayden, a second-year student at the University of Melbourne, said he is going to volunteer at The Couch, and views it as a fun way to make connections.

"I feel so welcome here," he said. "The 614 staff feel like family members."

The Couch first operated from 2011 to 2016, impacting many lives. It regularly attracted

up to 400 international students to events; however, under COVID-19 regulations, attendance at the relaunched Couch is currently capped at 80 people.



International students Hayden and Kimberly share their stories with 614's Tameka Buckley at the relaunch of The Couch.

While originally conceived and equipped as a study hub, Project 614 leader Major Brendan Nottle said his team soon found that "sharing meals, Zumba classes, yoga, and Bollywood nights" were the mainstay for The Couch attendees.

"These students are dealing with loneliness and social isolation," he added. "Some international students go without nutritious meals and face challenges with mental health, addiction and visa issues.

"Many of these kids have come from families who have sacrificed so much to send them here, so they have the chance of a better future. We want them to be safe and supported – that's what The Couch is about."

– **Barry Gittins**

# Beyond beads, bracelets and bling

One unchanging factor in the rollercoaster of life

WORDS FAYE MICHELSON



What does Mother's Day hold for you this year? The second Sunday in May brings with it expectations, doesn't it? The lunch, the lovely heartfelt message in the card, the carefully chosen present ... all part of the tradition of honouring mum.

I knew what to expect on Mother's Day when my daughters were little. From the time they were old enough to know that this was the day they gave presents to mum, they knew the perfect gift. Necklaces. And not just for

one Mother's Day. I was fortunate enough to receive necklaces for years. And years.

I've had them all – painted pasta necklaces, clay bead necklaces, paperclip necklaces, even necklaces made out of a certain colourful, sugar-encrusted breakfast cereal made with holes perfect for threading through a piece of string. Then, when the girls were old enough to go shopping to buy presents, I received plastic necklaces in every colour, bead size and length imaginable until one year, I took

my husband aside. I suggested that perhaps when he took them shopping for my Mother's Day gift, he might like to steer them clear of plastic jewellery stands. The next year, when May rolled around again, I gave him less of a suggestion and more of a directive.

I've also found that what Mother's Day means changes as the years go by. For me, now it is a deep delight to see my daughters celebrating their own Mother's Days. The cycle has continued and one of my little girls has little girls of her own. For the past few years, I've shared a secret smile with her as I've admired her beautiful Mother's Day presents, gorgeous necklaces/bangles/earrings, the bigger and bling-ier the better, of course.

“

**It's important to hold each special celebration close, because times will change.**

”

This year will be an extra-special one. Another daughter will be celebrating her first Mother's Day, so our family gathering will have three generations of mothers. That, too, is a deep delight, because we know that the years keep going by and the generations keep growing older. It's important to hold each special celebration close, because times will change.

What will Mother's Day hold for you? Will it be different from last year? For some, joyfully, it will be their first Mother's Day, but for others, it will be their first after losing their mum. For some it will be another Mother's Day, one of so many, without her, and others will grieve through a Mother's Day without



In the middle of unstoppable change, Jesus is always the same and will hold us steady in whatever we're going through.

their children around them. For some it will be a hard reminder of the pain of never knowing their mother, never becoming a mother, of a broken relationship with their mother.

Life keeps changing, we know that. In the Bible, in Ecclesiastes chapter 3, the writer reminds us that there is a time for everything – a time to be born, a time to die; a time to weep, a time to laugh; to mourn, to dance, and so it goes on. But in the middle of unstoppable change is the unchanging one, Jesus, who is “the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews chapter 13, verse 6).

Whatever Mother's Day – and indeed, every day – holds for you in this season of your life, remember that the unchanging one will hold you steady. All you have to do is ask him.



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

# Through different eyes

Celebrating the mixed emotions of Mother's Day

WORDS SANDRA PAWAR



Mother's Day has always been a mixed bag of emotions for me. As far back as I can remember, I have both celebrated and grieved Mother's Day. My mother, the one who gave me life, passed away in a car accident when I was two. I have no memories of her and only know her through photos and shared stories from others. When Mother's Day would roll around, I would celebrate the mother I was given through my dad's new marriage (and I did celebrate her and I was thankful for her), but I would also grieve for a mother I never knew, a mother I wanted and the mother I longed to know and share my life with.

As I grew older, the pain did not lessen. In fact,

I grieved her more than ever, but Mother's Day would come and go without too much fuss or fanfare as I was a teenager, more absorbed with myself than anyone else around me.

Then came the Mother's Day after my first miscarriage. There was a new pain, a deeper pain. An even bigger sense of loss, yet I was not sure I could talk about it. When I did share my story, questions were asked: Why was I grieving a baby that never was? Really, could it be that sad? You were only a few months pregnant? You are young, you can have another one! So, I stopped sharing and, instead, I celebrated the mums around me and pretended I was okay.

## BEING A MUM

A few years later, Mother's Day was again different; this time I was the mum. We had tried for so long and, after many disappointing months of negative pregnancy tests, I finally had a beautiful baby girl and I got to celebrate being a mother. I got to celebrate the miracle of life and the honour of giving birth to a living, breathing human being. Wow, this was a joyful day. Sorrows of the past were put by the wayside and I smiled my way through the day. On that day in that year, I was being celebrated and I did not have to really think of who else I needed to celebrate or who I needed to grieve. On that day I was hopeful, I was joyful, and it was a beautiful day.

“

**Mother's Day is a bag of mixed emotions for many of us out there.**

”

Fast forward 10 years and two miscarriages later, I have two little girls who I gave birth to, who call me Mum and whom I love dearly. I am also, as I write this, a mum to a three-month-old foster son. This year, Mother's Day is going to mean something different to me once again.

This Mother's Day, I will celebrate being a mum to my girls, I will thank the Lord for the stepmum he gave me all those years ago, I will grieve deeply for the mum I never knew, and I will have a heavy heart for the babies I never gave birth to. I will snuggle close with my little foster son and be grateful for our time together, while simultaneously anguishing over the day he will leave us. I will

think of his mum, a mum who doesn't get to celebrate with him on Mother's Day, a mum who doesn't get to be honoured.



Sandra (left), and her daughters will spend Mother's Day together along with other family and friends.

## A MIXED BAG

Mother's Day is a bag of mixed emotions for many of us out there. It is never a simple day. It is a day where women are celebrating being mums, grieving the loss of mums, holding on to dreams of being a mum, mourning babies lost and wondering if they will ever be a mum. It is a day where women are missing their children because of distance, death or decisions made by others. It is a day where, sometimes, one mother is all those mums rolled into one.

Be gentle to the women around you on Mother's Day; you just never know their story or what they carry.

*Captain Sandra Pawar is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in New South Wales.*



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

## Pumpkin scones



### Ingredients

**Dry mix:** 2½ cups self-raising flour, ¼ tsp nutmeg, ¼ tsp cinnamon, 1 tsp baking powder.

**Wet mix:** 1 cup cold mashed pumpkin, 1 tbs melted butter, 1 egg, ¼ cup castor sugar, Enough milk to make a soft batter.

### Method

Sift dry mix ingredients together into a bowl.

Combine wet mix ingredients into another bowl.

Pour wet mix over dry mix and combine.

Turn onto a floured board and knead lightly until smooth and approximately 2cm in height.

Cut into shapes and bake in a hot oven (220°C) for 20 minutes.

Serve with butter, or jam and cream.

## Have a laugh



"I made a card for me, because I'm the best."



"I have a lot to say. Maybe you should get some popcorn."



"I'll just take a nap, that's how you solve that one."

## Bible byte

"Love is a safe place of shelter, for it never stops believing the best for others. Love never takes failure as defeat, for it never gives up."

1 Corinthians chapter 13, verse 7

*The Passion translation*

8			9			1		
6			8	7		3		
	4					6		
		3					7	5
						4		
			2	5				
9	1	5	7				4	
				9				
	2			3			1	

## Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

## Tum-Tum

On which page of this week's *Salvos Magazine* is Tum-Tum hiding?



**Answers:** 1. Necessity 2. Sally Field  
 3. Mother Teresa 4. The Avengers  
 5. Mary  
**Tum-Tum:** is hiding under the stool on page 5.

4	2	6	5	3	8	7	1	9
3	7	8	4	9	1	6	2	5
0	1	5	7	2	0	6	4	3
7	6	4	2	5	3	8	9	1
2	5	9	1	8	2	4	3	6
1	8	3	6	4	5	0	7	2
5	6	4	7	3	1	2	0	8
0	7	5	3	1	2	0	8	6
6	3	2	9	6	4	1	5	7

## Quick quiz



1. According to the proverb, what is the 'mother of invention'?
2. Who played Forrest Gump's mother in the film *Forrest Gump*?
3. Which Catholic missionary and Nobel laureate died in 1997?
4. Which TV spy series featured a spymaster named Mother?
5. In the Bible, who was the mother of Jesus?

# Did you know?

- Fishing is the biggest participant sport in the world.
- A full moon always rises at sunset.
- Cows moo with regional accents.

