CELEBRATING THE LOVE AND COURAGE OF MOTHERS

*(Extract from Mothering Sunday sermon March 2024)*

Those of you who enjoy listening to smooth radio like Peter may have been amused to hear the Aldi advert which had the punchline ‘Your mother would go to the ends of the earth for you . You only have to go to Aldi!’

Most of you here today are no doubt deeply grateful for your mothers – all the self sacrificial love they have lavished on you. And I expect many of them are or were truly wonderful women.

I heard the story of 2 remarkable mothers this week. The first was the mother of one of the members St Michael’s whose funeral took place n this church on Tuesday. Her name was Majda and she lived 66 years in Hoole before she died a the age of 91. She was born however in what used to be Yugoslavia and is now Slovenia. Until 1939 she had a quiet and happy childhood in a small village living in a close knit community with her parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins, but as for millions of people throughout the world, her life changed when World War 2 broke out. In 1941 her peaceful life was shattered when the Italians occupied Yugoslavia. Soon after, they were followed by the German army, life then became even more difficult and dangerous under Nazi rule. Her school teachers ‘disappeared’ overnight and were replaced by German teachers. The whole region was ruled by the dreaded Gestapo. The Slovenes could no longer speak their own language in public, everyone, including children, had to speak German. All public signs were now in German and all school lessons were conducted in German.

Majda’s mother, Mila, was an active member of the Resistance Movement. Forging documents, passing on secret messages and hiding resistance fighters was now the norm for Majda. Eventually, the inevitable happened, Majda’s mother was arrested and imprisoned by the Gestapo and was likely to face execution by firing squad.

Fortunately for Majda and her mother, but not for the Partisan Movement, an uncle by marriage betrayed his own people and worked for the Germans. Majda, about 8 or 9 years old at the time, begged him to use his influence with the Germans and have her mother released. This he did and despite Mila continuing to work for the Partisans, she was not arrested again.

So 2 wonderful courageous mothers Majda who saved her mother from death at the age of 8 and her mother Mila who risked her life on a daily basis fighting for justice and freedom

Now read Exodus 2 v 1-10 about the 3 amazing women in life of Moses whose selfless love rescued Moses from death which enabled Moses to rescue God’s people from slavery in Egypt.