

Today's reflection is dedicated to all the women who play a significant role in the development of the young men of this College, to the significant women in my world and my two sons Patrick and Alexander.

Some ten years ago, I was talking with my Nan about the impending arrival of my first child, her first great grandchild. Discussion moved quickly from 'Bec, I think you're going to have a big boy' to her opinion with regards to naming the child. Trying to calm my nerves Nan then shared the single most valuable piece of advice I would receive about motherhood 'God only gives you what you can handle'.

These wise words have been the rock on which I have stood upon and shouted, 'how great is this life'. I have rested on this rock a while, with my sons and shared their triumph and pain and it is the rock I rest my weary mind in moments of doubt.

Each time I go to the rock, some days more than others, I know the Lord, is there for me and whatever it is I need. I don't always find the answers there, but the clarity and strength to keep fighting the good fight.

Being a mother of boys can be very isolating experience. We have to let the boys make the mistakes for themselves, ready with the Dettol and band aids, to heal those wounds and heartache.

When reflecting on today's Gospel message, the clarity of the mother's passion wanting the best for her children is another message which we can all relate strongly too. As mother's we all want what is best for our children, today I challenge you to want the best for everyone's children and more importantly, wanting the best for the mother.

Father Bob Maguire shared the following wisdom ... Forget about the darkness, look for the light. No one looks up at night to ignore the stars. Support each other, lean on each other when all you can see is the darkness. True friendship will help you see those stars. What is love, but the absence of competition. Pray for each other. It is beautiful when someone prays for you without you knowing. It is the highest form of respect and care.

Find your tribe. Surround yourself with people who empower you without judgement. We need to stop placing unnecessary pressure on ourselves and celebrate and support each other through the triumphs and tribulations. If it takes a village to raise a child, that same village needs to support their mother.

I implore you to be Christ-centred, place mothering on a pedestal above this modern day methodology of relentless competition. A pedestal where no comparison is warranted, one by the mere fact of doing makes each and every one of us amazing and enough in our own right.

Sons, I ask you to thank your mum often, not just on Mother's Day. Until you become parents, you will not understand the sacrifice they have made for you to live the life you are so privileged to enjoy. Refrain from comparing your mother to others. Your mum is doing what she believes is the right thing for you, she spends a significant period considering this and you should respect that. Love your mum, and make sure she knows that you do.

For our sons, let us show them how to live the Gospels by exploring the extraordinary for the greater glory of God, strong and free with pride and honour.

In closing, my nan was right, God really does only give you what you can handle and you need to have the conviction in yourself to know that you can handle everything that comes your way.