

## ROSE OHLSSON MOTHER'S DAY SATURDAY 13 MAY 2023

Good Evening everyone. My name is Rose Ohlsson. I have been asked to talk about my journey as a mum and where I find my grace to be the mum I am. I am one of 6. I have four brothers and one sister, and my mum is one of 10. I have always been around lots of family including many cousins and I always imagined myself marrying and having children of my own.

I have been truly blessed to have four beautiful children. Matthew 25, Ryan 23 and two gorgeous twin girls Grace and Dani who are 21. We were extremely busy with 4 children under the age of 4 - one at morning kindergarten, one at afternoon kindergarten and two tiny little babies at home. We got through with the support of wonderful family, friends, and our church community.

We had many wonderful holidays together. El Rancho Christian camp in Waikanae, trips to the beach and many Colgate games where the girls competed in athletics. We made their sports trips into our family holidays, travelling to many destinations around the North Island. We let the children try a variety of sports and activities ranging from ballet and jazz, swimming, harriers/athletics, netball, football, rugby, scouts, sea cadets, rowing, water polo and hockey.

Sometimes we are known for juggling three sports in one day. We have always loved watching them participate in everything they have done. To this day we often go from the netball court to football fields all over Wellington and further afield. We are very proud.

I have learnt the true meaning of love and patience. Being there when they need you, an ear to listen and sometimes to give advice. Being a mum, for me, is to be unconditional love.

One major joy of motherhood is to get to watch your children learn and grow. From their first words and first steps to the day they learn how to drive (now they can drive us around which is pretty awesome). Watching them go off to kindergarten, primary school, college and now into amazing jobs and university.

Matthew becoming a qualified builder and running his own business, in partnership with a school friend, is pretty amazing. A very proud mum moment. Attending Ryan's graduation was another proud mum moment, and we still have two more graduations to attend.

We have amazing family support, and my children really treasure family time with their aunts and uncles, cousins and their very special Nana, my mother. My Mum instilled in me the love of family, to love and nurture, to listen and to be there in the good times as well as the tough times.

I find the grace to be the mum I am from God and my faith. In times of need I ask for his advice, his prayers and for patience and understanding. I wouldn't change being a mum for anything. It really is a true joy to be mum to Matthew, Ryan, Grace, and Dani. (Pause) Thank you.