



*AMUA*

*THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*

*February—March 2024*



*AMUA Prayer and Spirituality Coordinator*

*Christine Jensen OAM*

[prayer@muaustralia.org.au](mailto:prayer@muaustralia.org.au)

## Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Women in Holy Week

'The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it' *Luke 23:55*.

As we think about the death and resurrection of Jesus, it is important that there were witnesses to the treatment of his body and those prepared to look after the body with spices and perfumes. Important because it means that the body of Jesus was not lost. Its whereabouts was known. And it was the women who were able to bear witness to this. Their witness throughout is a key part of the evidence. And it fits completely with the respect that Jesus showed for women and the importance of his encounters with them. He was bearing witness to the great truth of the gospel that the message of Christ is equally for men and women and that we are all one in him.

#### Question for thought:

What do you owe to the godly women in your life?

Almighty God, Father of all mercies we thank you for the relative stability in Zambia and pray for members in Central Zambia at this Easter time that they will know the hope of the resurrection. May they share your Word with members across the Diocese as they help prepare couples for marriage and campaign against gender-based violence. Amen.

## Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

### Faith in Action

'So faith comes from hearing, and hearing from the word of Christ' *Romans 10:17*.

Coming to know Jesus is a matter of hearing the word about him, the gospel, and turning to him in repentance and faith. We put our trust in him. As we do, we are aware that the aim of our life from then on must be to please him (see *2 Corinthians 5:9*). How do we do those? We do this by listening to his word, trusting it, and obeying it. Faith is dynamic. It actually changes things. Again and again it is the women and men of faith who sacrifice in order that others will be helped and so change the world for good. Faith in action is powerful.

#### Question for thought:

Is the reality of my faith seen by my obedience to Jesus?

Gracious Lord, we give thanks for the many women in Nigeria who are members of Mothers Union and especially pray for the Diocese of Eha - Amufu as they encourage women to reach their potential. May their outreach in hospitals, prison ministry and parenting programs bring honour and glory to you. We also pray for the Diocese of Ballarat and for Jillian Gale as President. Pray that all their activities will show your love and mercy. Amen

## Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

### Sharing God's Love

'Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another' *John 4:11*.

When we appreciate all that God has done for us in sending his Son into the world 'as an atoning sacrifice for our sins' (*1 John 4:10*), we will also love others. And just as God's love was demonstrated to the unworthy and sinful, so we also are called to love all people, and especially our family and fellow Christians. We can easily feel drawn to those who love us or from whom we think we can gain something or people we admire. But as believers we are summoned to care for the poor and dispossessed and lonely and disabled. It is a love which down through the years has transformed lives all around the world. See how much you are loved by God and be transformed so that you love others.

#### Question for thought:

Has the love of God transformed me to love others?

Heavenly Father may members in the Diocese Karnataka in North India be strengthened as they care and support the many vulnerable women and girls in their community. We pray for an end to human trafficking and an end to injustice as we are all one in Christ Jesus. Amen

## Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Women Worldwide

'But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream' *Amos 5:24*.

Justice is something we all want. We want to live in a just society and we wish to be treated with justice, especially when we are disadvantaged. In the end, we believe that justice is at the very heart of the universe, since God is just, and, as the prophet Amos reminds us, he wishes us to be righteous in our dealings with each other as well. Around the world there are many examples of women facing injustice simply because they are women. It is good to bear witness to the necessity of justice and righteousness and the fact that the Lord will judge us on the basis of our treatment of others. Let us care for those who suffer, and pray that the Lord's kingdom will come so that all may be set to rights.

#### Question for thought:

How can I support Mothers Union world wide as it brings literacy and education to women?

Gracious heavenly Father, we pray for members in Antsiranana in Madagascar as they cope with impact of floods and cyclones. We give thanks for their commitment to sharing God's love in families in their communities so that children might grow up knowing you. We also pray for Brisbane Diocese as they face challenges but continue to reach out to their communities in your name. Amen

## Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Mothering

'I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also' *2 Timothy 1:5*.

The power of a mother's (and grandmother's) faith and prayers must never be underestimated. The great scholar of the early Church, Augustine, had strayed a long way from the Christian faith of his mother, Monica. She agonised in prayer over him, even pleading with the famous Bishop of Milan, St Ambrose for help. He said to her these famous words, 'It cannot be that the child of such tears should perish.' St Augustine came to know the Lord, and is today remembered as one of the greatest thinkers and writers of all Christian history. He likened his mother to the widow of Nain in the gospel story, whose son was dead until Christ raised him to life. Such is the way that the Lord uses the prayers of the faithful, and not least mothers and grandmothers.

### Question for Thought:

Do I pray earnestly for my children and for the families around me?

Lord of all, we pray for relief from suffering and war in Aerial in South Sudan. Help members as they seek to improve the spiritual growth of women refugees. We thank you for their commitment to evangelism in the refugee camps as well as sharing practical skills for poverty eradication. Amen.

## Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

### Serving our Communities

'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven' *Matthew 5:16*

As Christians, we are committed to serve our church family, but also the wider community. It is no accident that the care for the poor and weak is so often done by our Christian organisations. But as individuals we are called to share the good news about Jesus and to look after the needs of those around us, especially the sick, homeless and the elderly and the disadvantaged. But notice what Jesus says in *Matthew 5:16*. Whatever we do individually and as members of Mothers Union it is to be done in such a way that people will give glory to God and not to us. We always need to point to Jesus.

### Question for thought:

How am I serving those around me so that they give thanks to God?

Amare – Agrupación de Mujeres Anglicanas Renovadas en el Espíritu (Anglican Women Renewed in the Spirit) is the local expression of Mothers Union in Latin America. Lord, we pray as Amare in Argentina and Uruguay cares for the needs of women they will share the hope of knowing you which gives meaning and purpose in life. Amen

## Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### Fair Trade Matters

‘The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favour with him’ *Proverbs 11:1*.

The Lord calls us to justice in all our dealings with our fellow humans, whether in the home or in the workplace or in the marketplace. Unfortunately, you may have noticed farmers and other workers are not always paid what they deserve for their labours. As we are able, we need to redress this balance and ensure that justice is done. Certainly, one of the key things we can do is pray for the disadvantaged. But it is also good to support those who are working to serve the interests of the poor by selling their goods at a fair price. We need to remember the words of the prophet Micah, ‘What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God’ *Micah 6:8*

#### Question for thought:

In what way am I walking with justice and mercy?

Merciful Lord, we pray for the political situation in Myanmar that there will be an end to injustice. We bring before you the Diocese of Mandalay and pray for members that they will continue to have courage and perseverance in spite of opposition to the Christianity. As they care for their communities may they show forth your love. Amen

## Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

### Women of Influence

‘She speaks with wisdom and faithful instruction is on her tongue’ *Proverbs 31:26*.

Some of the greatest rulers in English history have been the Queens – Elizabeth I, Victoria and in our own time Elizabeth II. The impact for good of Elizabeth II was obvious in the sorrow surrounding her passing. Each of these women was a force for good, surrounded by a Court, clothed in riches, housed in palaces. But ordinary people, and especially women, are also a force for good in the key influence that we have in the lives of others. Especially those who fear the Lord will speak with wisdom and faithful instruction and so shape the lives of many others with whom they come into contact. But the key to this success and influence is our fear of the Lord, our faithful submission to him. Then he will gift us with wise speech if we follow his ways.

#### Question for thought:

Do I ask the Lord for wisdom in my speech?

Almighty God, we bring before you members in Bujumbura, Burundi as they seek your heavenly wisdom as to how to address domestic violence and other family issues. May peace and reconciliation be at the heart of what they do and may they know the peace which passes all understanding. We pray for our members in Grafton Diocese NSW as they serve you and do the good work you’ve prepared for them to walk in. Amen.