

## OUR PRAYER LINKS

**Boga, Democratic Republic of Congo**  
**Tanga, United Republic of Tanzania**  
**Manicaland, Zimbabwe**  
**Ogoni, Nigeria**  
**Carlisle, England**  
**Melbourne, Australia**

### **Mothers' Union Prayer**

Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all.  
We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Wave of Prayer was inaugurated in the United Kingdom in 1921. Every Diocese in the worldwide organisation is prayed for during the midday prayers on 3 consecutive days each year. This unbroken chain of prayer provides the spiritual foundation for the mission and work of the Mothers' Union.

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Diocese of Melbourne



## **MOTHERS' UNION MELBOURNE**

**WAVE OF PRAYER**  
**JULY 30<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup> 2021**

**PRAYERS, READINGS & HYMNS**

**2021 THEME :**

***REBUILDING HOPE AND CONFIDENCE***

**Diocese of Melbourne Mothers' Union**  
**Established in 1895**

Service is found on page 43 of  
'A WORSHIP AND PRAYER BOOK for MU AUSTRALIA'.

**THEME FOR 2021;**  
**REBUILDING HOPE AND**  
**CONFIDENCE**

Welcome to our Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer Service.

Love never fails, even in the darkest moments, love gives hope. Love compels us to stand together in prayer with our neighbours near and far. Love compels us to give and act as one. In the present times, it is clear that our futures are bound together more tightly than ever before. As we pray in our individual homes and churches, around the nations and around the world, we are united as one family.

The Wave of Prayer reminds us we are one family in Christ. It has been hard for us over the past year but many of our link dioceses face violence, poverty, drought and other consequences of the pandemic and climate change, through no fault of their own.

We pray God's blessing for ourselves;  
may we be sustained in all we do.

We pray God's blessing on those whom we love;  
may they be upheld by the presence of Christ.

**Hymn: TIS 123 Be Still My Soul, the Lord is on Your Side**

( Perhaps prompted by the words of Ps 46:10, "*Be still and know that I am God,*" Katharine von Schlegel wrote the lyrics in Germany in 1752, they were subsequently translated in 1885 by a Scottish woman Jane Borthwick, and Sebelius' tune Finlandia, written in 1900 approx., is now its popular accompaniment. As people from three countries and three different times together contributed to this much-loved hymn, so our prayers today join us together with MU members around the world.)

**TANGA, TANZANIA**

Tanga has a population of 54 million with 915,000 MU members. Its response to Covid-19 has drawn criticism . The Diocese is implementing Transformational Savings and Credit schemes, which will allow members to implement community development and provide savings for members.

Mothers' Union members have been instrumental in the expansion of the Anglican Communion in the Diocese of Tanga, actively supporting the 2025 Mission Program through involvement with students training for ordination, prison ministry, hospital visitation, education and nursery school programs, support of widows, orphan care program, health awareness and vocational skills training.

Loving God, thank you for helping Tanga Diocesan Mothers' Union leaders and members carry out the work of your great commission. Bless Maimbo Mndolwa and the newly elected Diocesan office bearers as they gladly share the love of Christ and build your kingdom on earth.

Heavenly Father, fill them with hope, confidence and joy as they step forward with Christ in faith. **Amen.**

I can do all things through Him who gives me strength. Phil. 4:13

**Hymn: TIS 560 All my Hope on God is Founded**

**The Grace**

## **BOGA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

The Diocese of Boga is situated in the North-eastern area of the DR Congo. In a population of 83 million there are 30,000 MU members. The Diocesan Bishop's Harvest Appeal for the next three years will support the work to break the cycle of poverty, illiteracy and gender based violence.

In the DRC Mothers' Union members work closely with the survivors of domestic violence, in particular those affected by sexual violence as a result of conflict, by providing emotional support, meeting basic needs such as housing, and equipping them with skills to become economically empowered. Bible study groups help to rebuild self esteem, confidence and to break the stigma of shame.

We pray for the Dignity Project team of the Diocese of Boga MU as they continue their work to write resources to be given to schools and orphanages during the present crisis.

We pray for all MU members in Boga. May God be with them in every part of their lives and especially during this Covid-19 pandemic by encouraging them and leading them, sheltering and strengthening them so they may work to your praise and glory.  
Amen

***All this day, O Lord,  
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee:  
and every life I touch, do though by thy spirit quicken,  
whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe,  
or the life I live. In the name of Jesus. Amen.***

*Mary Sumner's personal prayer*

## **MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

Australia has a population of 23 million and has 7000 MU members serving within 23 Diocesan areas. In our urban cities of Melbourne and Geelong, we have 53 financial branches and 10 Caritas groups with 1150 members. Our Diocese President, Elaine Longford, leads faithfully and enthusiastically, especially during this time of COVID -19 induced limitations on our activities. She is ably assisted by three regional coordinators who maintain contact with the branches and keep everyone "in the loop". The Diocese continues to support the Karen Nursery school in Myanmar and is contributing to a much need rebuilding project. Preparations are also proceeding for the "Holding the Light" ecumenical service for victims of domestic violence which is held annually in November. As limits on meeting numbers and social distancing has continued during 2021, physical gatherings of members have been modified according to current restrictions but the blessings of the internet and modern communication are very evident.

Lord God, we thank you that we have access to many means of staying together in this time of isolation. We pray for Elaine, our President, and our regional coordinators. We especially pray for those severely affected by the recent wild storms which devastated parts of our Diocese and neighbouring areas. Bless the congregations providing physical and spiritual sustenance to those in need.

Father, give us the confidence to go forward into the coming months with faith and hope, knowing that your love will sustain us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

A prayer for your linked branch;

Lord God, who made the whole earth, we remember with joy that you are present everywhere in your world and guide those who put their trust in you. We pray for the members of ..... Branch with whom we are linked. Help us to grow in love and understanding of each other and of situations in which we live. Unite us in the bond of prayer and worship and the knowledge that we are all one in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

## OGONI, NIGERIA

Mothers' Union is considered the bedrock of the church, and mentors to the next generation, advocating all of society to walk as one, in Christ's love. Ameliorating the poverty condition of their people is part of God's divine plan and destiny, MU believing more than 60% of the people still live in extreme poverty. Mothers' Union is very active in creating opportunities for women and young girls to reach their potential, activities including support of widows and orphans, vocational training, parenting program, health clinics, marriage preparation, day care centres and nursery schools, hospital and prison ministry.

We thank you God, our creator, redeemer and sustainer, that walking with Christ empowers all Mothers' Union members for the life of service for which they were created; God granting them wisdom and strength **Amen.**

## MANICALAND, ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe has a population of 17 million with 21,000 MU members. Manicaland has suffered particularly badly in the pandemic which has been exacerbated by the huge financial problems in Zimbabwe.

The Diocese of Manicaland Mothers' Union and the churches are helping to support pupils in schools and at universities. Alongside this, health conditions have improved as access to healthcare services has increased.

Dear Lord, we give you thanks and praise that Mothers' Union members follow in the footsteps of Mary Sumner, listening to God and each other, journeying together and having the determination, patience and commitment to make a difference in the lives of others, through words and deed. **Amen.**

## CARLISE, ENGLAND

The branches of the Diocese are thankful that the health system has coped amazingly well with the disruptions of Covid-19 during the past months, and have reported that most members are now vaccinated and looking forward to a more normal way of life. Although a significant number of their members have been bereaved and older members are hesitant about getting out and about after lockdowns, branches are meeting again, often in garden settings, rejoicing in the opportunities to experience "life in all its fullness". Members are embracing the Summer of Hope activities to run for 3 months, including the launch of MU on the Move, to raise funds to spread hope around the world.

Here are a few numbers of people reached from the Diocese during the past year.

Muffin Bags and Contents - 664 Crosses in Pockets - 1612  
Messy Church - 282 Baptism Club - 30  
After school Bible Club - 10 Twiddle Muffs - 10

May the Diocese of Carlisle Mothers' Union make their message of God's love heard amidst the noise and fear of our present world by reaching out to individuals and communities across their Diocese, engaging all in a new conversation that's absolutely relevant to their lives, having recognized that the world is changing, therefore the way Mothers' Union delivers its message and engages people needs to change too.

Bless Janice Eadington, Diocesan President and all who hold leadership positions as they look to the future building on their heritage, and in particular, on the life and vision of their founder, Mary Sumner in this 145<sup>th</sup> year of Mothers' Union.. Amen

Loving Lord, make firm our path as we put our trust in you, following in the footsteps of those who have gone before. Amen  
(From Mothers' Union "United in Fellowship").