

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 is a continuous expression of our commitment to prayer for each other. It runs throughout the year so that the work of members and every area in which MU is active, is prayer for at some point in the year. They are included in the Midday Prayers too.

Compiled by Margaret Goode
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Diocese of Melbourne



WAVE OF PRAYER JULY 30th to August 1st 2023

PRAYERS, READINGS & HYMNS

2023 THEME :

TRANSFORMATION – NOW

**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 2023 **Transformation.....now**

Welcome to our Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer Service.

Gracious God, we put our trust in you. Give us open hearts and mindsets to discern your perfect direction for our Mothers' Union World Wide, especially for those in Boga, Tanga, Manicaland, Ogoni, Carlisle and our own Melbourne Diocese. Affirm us in your love that we may be bold to seek your face. Strengthen us with resolve to embrace new ways with confidence. Unite us in heart and mind that we may move forward with gladness. Inspire us in our faith that all things are possible with God. Transform us into peoples powered by the Spirit, overflowing with hope, and effectively serving our communities.
Amen

Hymn: TIS 105 Let all the World in every Corner Sing

As God's church in God's world, let us love one another deeply and seek each other's good, that may be living examples of the love of Christ.

Through Mary Sumner's vision of women supporting each other and strengthening their communities, we pray God's continued blessings on Mothers' Union projects that benefit communities and strengthen family life.

And so we pray together, **"Lord Jesus, give us what we need to follow your calling on our lives as your disciples so that we may reflect your grace and mercy to all, through the work of Mothers' Union around the globe.**
Amen

TANGA, TANZANIA

Tanga has a population of 54 million with 850,000 MU members. The Diocese encourages membership, and Mothers' Union has been heralded as one of the main agents in the growth of the Anglican Communion in the Diocese.

Members are working hard to alleviate poverty through seminars introducing savings and credit schemes, training women to run a small businesses and thus become contributors to family security. A recent visitor reported seeing a sewing school operating 40 treadle sewing machines, a pig raising enterprise to fund the extension of a church building now too small for a growing congregation and MU support of safe house refuge for young women fleeing Female Genital Mutilation.

Loving God, thank you for blessing Tanga Diocesan Mothers' Union executive and members as they gladly share the love of Christ and build your kingdom in a land where there are many challenges.

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

Hymn: TIS 459 In Christ there is no East or West

The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen

OGONI, NIGERIA

Mothers' Union has 60,000 members in a population of 213.4 million Nigerians, and has been an active force for over a hundred years. They work closely with the Women's Guild and are involved in hospital visiting, health clinics, support for widows and orphans, vocational training, orphan care and prison ministry. The complex humanitarian crisis and political instability has resulted in 60% of the population living below the poverty line and alarming unemployment. A growing refugee population from the Cameroon unrest adds to this dire situation.

Loving Father, we pray for the Mothers' Union workers in this troubled country. Bless their leaders and give them the strength and wisdom to guide the faithful workers In Ogoni. Fill them with love and may they be upheld by our prayers.

Amen

MANICALAND, ZIMBABWE

The population Of Manicaland is just over 2 million, the second largest Province in Zimbabwe. Mothers' Union has 20,900 members and they are regarded as the backbone of the church. In May, thousands of MU members gathered together in their colourful outfits, many in MU "uniforms", to dance, sing, play their drums and listen to speakers.

This event was televised by Anglican TV which is becoming an effective, evangelical outreach in Central Africa. Last September, MU received a grant to start projects to sustain families in need.

Dear Lord, we give you thanks and praise that Diocesan Mothers' Union office bearers and members follow in the footsteps of Mary Sumner. Bless their President, Eunice Ruwona in her mission to build schools on government granted land to foster the education of young women to live independent and fruitful lives.

Amen.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Australia has a population of 25 million and has 6244 MU members serving within 23 Diocesan areas. In Melbourne, among our 35 branches, we are continuing to explore our current theme "Transformation – NOW" under the guidance of our new Diocesan President, Karen Hayden. Karen was commissioned at St Paul's Cathedral at our Lady Day service and is eagerly visiting branches around the Diocese to meet members and share ideas. Karen sees MU as a "two tier" organisation, firstly, as prayerful and supportive fellowship and secondly, as a group actively concerned with social justice issues. This year money raised was sent to the Bendigo Diocese to buy heaters for those still living in caravans after the devastating floods last year. The Karen Nursery School in Myanmar is also a Melbourne project which is supported annually. The "It's in the Bag" appeal, where personal hygiene items are packed into handbags for distribution to the needy continues, as does the knitting of cot covers, beanies, fiddle rugs and trauma teddies for hospitals and other charities. Representatives from MU will participate in the ecumenical service, "Holding the Light", for domestic violence victims later this year.

Lord God, we thank you for all who have dedicated their time to serving you within our branches. We pray that you will bless our new President Karen as she works amongst our Diocese. May Transformation enliven our branches NOW and bring light and love in our outreach.

Father, give us the confidence to go forward into the coming months with faith and hope, knowing that your love will sustain and transform 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. Unite us in the bond of prayer and worship and the knowledge that we are all one in Christ.

BOGA DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

With a population of 96 million, Boga Mothers' Union boasts 26,904 members. The Bishop's ongoing Harvest Appeal seeks to break the ongoing cycle of poverty, illiteracy and gender based violence. Mugisa Isingoma, the MU President of Boga also stands as the Moderator of United Women for Peace and Social Promotion and is linked to the Anglican Women's Network. She works to shift perception that women are passive tools for development by providing leadership training and self awareness, courses to reduce the incidence of domestic violence and challenge the root causes of injustice . Projects to improve conditions in society are designed to improve daily life for women and children in particular.

Father God, we thank you for your continued presence with those who seek to bring justice and better living conditions amongst the people of Boga, especially the women and children. Bless the leaders and give them encouragement when faced with difficulties. May peace and love surround them. In Jesus" name. 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

CARLISE, ENGLAND

Great Britain and Northern Ireland have 38,000 Mothers' Union, members, the Diocese of Carlisle having 950 members spread amongst 51 branches. In the latest newsletter, their President, Deb Lee, highlights the power of connection in meetings and through their regular activities, which include caring for children in the play area at Haverigg prison, providing hospitals and hostels with emergency toiletry bags, and providing pastoral care services in aged care residences. MU members also assist in numerous churches in Sunday School and Messy Church programs. A new initiative this year is providing holidays for families who have been facing difficult times in a leased caravan at St Bees. Their Summer of Hope Appeal raises money for literacy programs in Africa which empower women and improve their status in the community, resulting in increased income, improved hygiene and less domestic violence. Deb will again "get on her bike and cycle to York as a fundraiser. Branches are being encouraged to try different ways to conduct their meetings with the Diocese offering two on line evening sessions.

May the Diocese of Carlisle Mothers Union be blessed as they reach out to distressed families with the offer of a caravan holiday this summer. Bless the families involved, especially the children. Be with their President Deb as she cycles to York and keep her safe. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen