



Encouraging families through faith in action

January 2026

Dear members of MU Australia

I pray you were able to celebrate Christ's birth with hope, peace, joy and love and are now ready to begin a new triennium of possibilities for God through MU. At a recent planning meeting for my local branch, I was encouraged by the opportunities that are before us this year.

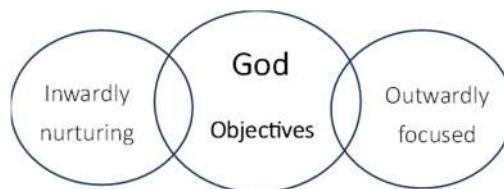
MU's participation in the United Nations **16 Days of Activism** is an important part of our program each year. I thank Christine and Susan for the reflections and prayers that guide us through the 16 days. I also thank you for all the prayer, acts of worship, events, protests, advocacy and awareness raising that you participated in towards decreasing gender and family violence in our communities.

Coming up in February, there are two occasions for which I ask your prayers. First the AMUA **Executive retreat and strategic planning** weekend 13-16 February. Your new Executive will be meeting together in person to evaluate the last triennium, reflect, pray and listen to God's voice as we plan ways to support you during the next three years.

The other occasion is the **Sydney MU Seminar** 27 February. More information can be found at: <https://www.musydney.org.au/annual-seminar-registration>

150 years of Mothers Union - 2026 is a momentous year for MU worldwide as we celebrate across the world. Praise God that Mary Sumner answered God's call to found Mothers Union in 1876. Prompted by reliving the difficulties of motherhood as she witnessed her daughter's struggles, Mary Sumner used her networks to begin an organisation to support mothers across all social classes (an important distinction at that time). When thinking about attracting new members, we could learn from Mary's use of her networks by sharing the great work of MU with our friends and others, inviting them to come to MU events.

Since Mary Sumner's time MU has grown exponentially as the importance of "winning homes for Christ" through care for women, girls and families has been recognised throughout the Anglican Church worldwide. As MU members here in Australia, I commend you for all you do in continuing to carry out that work in our parishes and local communities.



Our MU Framework with God at the centre of our lives and Jesus as our example guiding MU actions, our five objectives give us focus and direction. Listening to your diocesan Presidents as they reported on the MU work being undertaken in each diocese at Australia Council last October, I rejoiced in all that you had done and are doing for God's Kingdom through MU.

My prayer is that you all can participate in some way in a celebration of MU's 150 anniversary, giving thanks to God for the blessings you have received through MU and looking forward to our future with hope. As the prophet Jeremiah (29:11) proclaims, '*For I know the plans I have for you,*' declares the Lord, '*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*' Let these words inspire your MU branch and diocese in this exciting anniversary year.

The **150th Anniversary Worldwide Gathering in Durban 30 September to 3 October** will be a wonderful opportunity to meet, encourage and learn from other members of MU from across 84 countries. Through our Provincial Presidents' WhatsApp group and email contact I read of the many ways in which low resource countries are fundraising to enable them to attend the Worldwide gathering. Yesterday I learned about the how the members in South America are undertaking a sponsored walk and have recorded a message to encourage sponsorship through Facebook. Perhaps you too are raising money to help send someone from your branch, deanery, or diocese participate in the Worldwide Gathering. This is a once in a lifetime experience, not to be missed.

The Mary Sumner House staff member who was organising the worldwide gathering left that job late last year, so arrangements and the final figures for costs have been delayed, hopefully available soon. As more information about the Worldwide Gathering becomes available, we will share it in the hopes that a good contingent of Australian MU members will attend.

May your preparations for and participation in **Lady Day in March** enable you to reflect on Mary's consideration of the angel's request and her obedience to God's call. May it strengthen you as you live out your faith through your MU work.

The **2026 Australian Prayer** diary is out, thank you Christine Jensen. Along with the Worldwide Mothers Union Prayer Diary, I hope you can use the Australian Prayer diary on a regular basis. Please be assured of my prayers for you all.

I look forward to meeting with you and hearing your MU stories when I have occasion to visit your diocese over this next three years.

Yours in Christ

Robin

President MU Australia