

**1**



**MOTHERS' UNION  
MELBOURNE**

**WAVE OF PRAYER  
JULY 30<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup> 2026**

**PRAYERS, READINGS & HYMNS**

**“Being Inwardly Nurtured to be Outwardly Focused”**



**Diocese of Melbourne Mothers' Union**

# 2

*The Wave of Prayer service is found on page 43 of 'A Worship and Prayer Book for MU Australia'*

*2026 Theme:*

***'BEING INWARDLY NURTURED TO BE OUTWARDLY FOCUSED'***

Welcome to our Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer Service

As we gather for this year's Wave of Prayer, we are full of wonder and gratitude as we celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union. Mary Sumner's vision of women supporting and encouraging each other in their faith and families has become realised around the world, 4 million members in 84 countries.

And so we pray:

Father God, we join in and celebrate your love to us through Mothers' Union. We praise you for the past 150 years, for all who followed in the footsteps of Mary Sumner, praying and serving in your name. May we walk forward in faith, rooted in gratitude and filled with promise at what is still to come. **Amen**

**Hymn: TIS 154 Great is your Faithfulness**

*This hymn was a poem written in 1923 by Thomas O. Chisholm, an ordinary man who faced a lifetime of health and financial struggles. Based on Lamentations 3:22 - 23, it was set to music by a friend of the author, William M Ryan.*

# 3

## OGONI, NIGERIA

**Nigeria is Africa's most populous country, the Anglican Communion boasting over 25 million members divided into 176 dioceses, a signifying amazing growth. This sub-Saharan Africa now accounts for 1/4 of the world's population of Christians. (63% of Africa's population is Christian). It is worth noting that Nigeria has a population of over 220 million and the largest economy by GDP, it still faces ongoing poverty and development problems.**

**MU has been present in Nigeria going back to the 1920s. What started as a simple passion dedicated to supporting indigent women and vulnerable children has grown into a mission of hope, love and impact through the leadership of their president Chief Priscilla Vikue. This group has been recently described as a significant civic/community focused organisation. They are actively engaged in supporting the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project and the cleanup of Ongoniland. They foster collaboration, peace and unity, emphasising the role of women in community restoration.**

**Their outreach includes:**

**Prayer meetings and women's conferences**

**Support for women and infants**

**Development projects including youth and women**

**Education**

**Vocational training**

**Parenting programs**

**We pray for the many women involved in these programs, for their financial support as they care for indigent women and children and partner with organisations and community groups to create sustainable change and bring lasting impacts.**

# 4

**Amen.**

## **CARLISLE, ENGLAND**

With nearly 1000 members from its 48 branches, the Diocese of Carlisle in Cumbria is very active in its outreach to the local communities. They reported that 2000 beneficiaries were blessed in one year. The St Bees holiday caravan now in its third year of operation, allows many families under financial stress to enjoy a time of relaxation. Members help children and families through playgroups and school programs, and pray regularly for MU links with Myanmar and its Wave of Prayer branches.

Their ongoing outreach includes:

Informing, resourcing and mobilising members of the public to be involved with issues of social justice

Providing toilet bags for emergency ward patients

Supporting two refuges and DV abuse charities in Cumbria

Loving God, we pray for Ann Woodman and all with positions of leadership in their Diocese. Bless the outreach to prisoners and their families, the holiday caravan program, and the work with Women's Aid to abolish gender-based violence. May your love spread through the communities where need is greatest and bring many to know you.

**In the name of Christ, Amen**

## **MANICALAND, ZIMBABWE**

**Although Zimbabwe is classified as a lower-middle income country it faces widespread poverty, chronic economic volatility and high inflation. While rich in natural resources and a highly educated workforce, systemic issues have restricted economic growth. Rooted in the Anglican tradition and inspired by the example of Mary, the mother of Jesus, Manicaland Mothers' Union seeks to support women in their spiritual growth, empower them in their roles as mothers and care givers, and promote the values of love, faith and community.**

# 5

**Their work includes:**

**Bible study gatherings, Skills development workshops, Family enrichment programs and Outreach to the vulnerable and marginalised.**

**Father God, we give you thanks and praise that Mary Sumner's vision is being played out in so many parts of your needy world. Fill these women with your spirit to persevere when life gets difficult. May they grow and be strengthened in your love. Amen.**

## **MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

As English families migrated to the colonies in the late 19th century, Mothers' Union had already reached Australia by 1892 when the first branch was established in Cullenswood, Tasmania, under the enthusiastic leadership of Mrs. L'Oste, the Christ Church rector's wife. Branches in Melbourne were established shortly after. Today there are 29 financial branches; members of branches which have sadly closed due to falling numbers have joined the Diocesan Members branch or continued their activities in less formal friendship groups. As well as its foundational values, the recent work of our MU branches focuses on the prevention of gender-based violence, increased awareness of acute poverty in the developing world, and our global responsibilities to address those inequalities within both the developed and developing world.

Activities include

Supporting Solomon Islands adult literacy programs and setting up gender-based violence support programs

Translation projects for gender-based violence outreach

Christmas cards for women prisoners to communicate with their families

Women's hygiene products distributed through the "Share the Dignity" charity

Indigenous Women's training fund

Continued support of Karen Nursery school in Myanmar/Thai border. We pray for our President, Karen Hayden and for her

# 6

involvement in the global MU gathering in Durban in October. May your loving strength be with all who hold responsibilities in our executive and branches as they share the MU mission. **Amen**

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

DRC spans an enormous area and has suffered decades of unrest, conflict and corruption since gaining independence in 1960. Despite ongoing instability, MU members are remarkably active and play a vital role in supporting communities. Over 30,000 members in Boga provide practical pastoral care through trauma counselling, health awareness, emergency relief, literacy and vocational training, peace building, income generating projects and advocacy for women's rights and leadership.

Their activities include:

- Trauma counselling
- Savings and credit groups
- Health awareness programs
- Emergency relief programs
- Awaken Program (Church and community Mobilisation with Literacy)
- Campaigning against gender violence
- Peace and reconciliation
- Community health
- Economic development

We pray for all MU members in Boga. May God be with them in every part of their lives and in their involvement in international advocacy. Bless their faith based and community led initiatives as they bring hope and resilience to families in crisis, especially during the current Ebola pandemic.

**In Jesus name we pray, Amen**

# 7

## TANGA, TANZANIA

**Tanga is a port city in northern Tanzania, located in east Africa. Tanzania has been fortunate not having been troubled by war over the last few decades and has instead provided safe living for hundreds of thousands of refugees who have fled because of fighting.** MU membership has grown to 915,000 with members caring for those in need, with projects including:

- Savings and credit groups
- Prison ministry
- Hospital visitation
- Education and nursery school programs
- Health awareness program
- Vocational skills training
- Orphan care programs

Loving God, thank you for helping Tanga Mothers' Union members as they work hard to alleviate the poverty surrounding them. Bless the seminars they organise and their aim of promoting markets for their products. Lord God, may your love strengthen the leaders as they face so many challenges and may they know the joy of your presence. **Amen.**

**Hymn: TIS 586 Abide with Me**

# 8

Written by a British Anglican cleric, Henry Francis Lyte (1793 - 1847), this was Mary Sumner's favourite hymn, celebrating our God of the past, the present and the future.

## **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.**

## **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.

# 9

Compiled by Margaret Goode and Gillian Palliser  
Diocese of Melbourne