



*Forward into the future:
With hope and love*



*Mothers' Union
Diocese of Bunbury
Summer 2025-26
Birak-Bunuru*

*Distributed as a
supplement to the
'Mia Mia' Magazine*



*From the Editor ...*With some trepidation I put in my nomination for a further 3 years as Editor of the MT. This means that I will be 92 when the next elections are held. I pray that I will be able to keep going! Pray for me!

It is wonderful to welcome our new office bearers, including the new Diocesan President, Isobelle Shortreed. We look forward to hearing from her in this and future editions.

I have been re-reading the Psalms. I started in my Good News Bible and was struck by some of the verses in Psalm 31, particularly the references to 'constant love'.

Verse 7 *'I will be glad and rejoice because of your constant love.'*

Verse 16 *'Look on your servant with kindness; save me in your constant love.'*

(I looked up some other Bible translations. The NRSV uses the word 'steadfast', but I like 'constant' because it is in more common usage. We don't often say 'steadfast' these days!)

We need 'constant love'. God's love IS CONSTANT; it doesn't waver like our mortal love does. It is warmly comforting to be assured that God loves us constantly, even when we are in danger from ourselves and/or other people - when we have doubts, or fail to live up to some standard or reach our goals.

Psalm 33: 2 *'May your constant love be with us, Lord, as we put our hope in you.'*

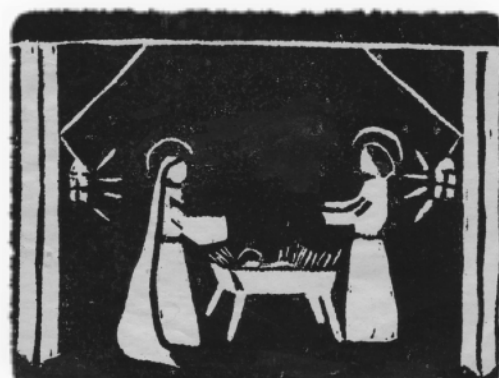
A wonderful prayer for the end of the year of

HOPE25

*May all the joy of Christmas be yours,
and may 2026 be filled with
God's constant love!*

(PS I made this lino-cut when I was about 12!)

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From the President - Summer 2025

Dear all,

As I conclude my time as your Diocesan President, I share with you my Presidential Address given at our 2025 Country Rally, amended only to give context in terms of tense and to update details of any announcements made:

Building Hope and Confidence

Rebuilding Hope and Confidence

Prayer in Action

Growing in Love for One Another

Be Salt and Light – Shine Brightly

Forward into the Future – with Hope and Love

These have been the themes for the last six years which have underpinned my leadership of Mothers Union in our diocese. We sang and heard our corresponding six theme songs during the Eucharist at Country Rally.

Only time and distance will allow me to reflect on how well I have embodied these themes in my undertakings as your Diocesan President and how much we as a Diocese have been influenced in our Mothers Union journey by them.

As I commenced my time as your Diocesan President, we were as a world coming to terms with the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic. Plans for the 2020 Lady Day and the first meeting of the new executive were suddenly disrupted by the lockdowns that were imposed for our safety and wellbeing.

Instead of being face to face, the meeting was conducted by email, with the agenda divided into four sessions. It took two weeks to work through the agenda, allowing time for members to consider each item, to share their thoughts and for a decision to be reached where one was needed.

Instead of gathering with each other in the Cathedral, Ian and I stood in an empty church in Mandurah and broadcast the service via our Parish Facebook page, using a mobile phone on a tripod to record us. The service was listed on the AMUA website, along with others around Australia. A week after the service Facebook reported that 260 people had been reached, there were 183 engagements and 256 views of the service. From the comments at the time, it is known that our service was viewed from Murray Bridge, SA and Pyramid Hill VIC. There were also views and comments from people who are not members of Mothers' Union. The booking for our lunch that day numbered 78.

At Country Rally 2025 we enjoyed the fellowship of being together for worship and we had 60 booked for lunch. While our executive met face to face the day before, our July executive meeting was conducted by Zoom and we only took one hour to complete the agenda.

Mothers Union has been a part of the fabric of our diocese since 1915. We are 110 years young. Our awards presented during the AGM on 16th October acknowledged memberships ranging from 5 to 60 years. Sitting amongst us were members who have been a part of Mothers Union for just one year, and someone who has been a member for 66 years.

I have reached the 30 year milestone. There are those in the room at our AGM who have been, or are, members of branches I have spent time in – Bridgetown, Bunbury, Busselton, Collie, Coffs Harbour and Mandurah. There were those in the room who have known me all of my life, those who have known me all of my married life, those who came to know me through my involvement with Girl Guides before I joined Mothers Union, those who met me through Cursillo. All of our members gathered have been, in one way or another, a part of my journey. Such is the fabric of our organisation.

Next year the worldwide organisation will celebrate its 150th anniversary, from a humble beginning in one parish to a movement that has spread to some 84 countries with over 4 million members. In Australia, in December last year, our numbers were just over 3650 members, with some 150 new members joining in 2024. This is a small increase overall on the previous year, with it being too soon to know if we are experiencing a resurgence of interest in, and commitment to, Mothers Union.

On a worldwide scale members are invited to attend a celebration of the foundation of Mothers Union to be held in Durban in South Africa from 30th September to 3rd October next year. Final details are still being put together by Mary Sumner House staff. For those who would like to find out more now, there is some information available on the MSH website.

On a national level, following discussions at Australian Council, dioceses are encouraged to hold their own celebrations, with a national prayer being available for reading in our parish services on 21st June.

On a state level, the leadership of our State Council will shift from our diocese to the Diocese of Perth at the beginning of 2026 and they are investigating the possibility of a state conference later in the year.

On a diocesan level, the new leadership team will have the opportunity to consider how we might mark the 150th anniversary. I highlight to you that Mary Sumner Day, the 9th August will fall on a Sunday next year, an opportunity for us all to share Mothers Union with our wider parish families. Talking early to those who lead worship in your parish, whether it be your parish priest, visiting clergy, or laity, will provide an opportunity to have a focus in worship on this Sunday on the work of Mothers Union.

In a change from the last few years, I will not be sharing details of our 2026 Diocesan theme or song, leaving our incoming Diocesan President Isobelle to share her vision with you in her own article which you will find in this edition.

I have been meeting with Isobelle to discuss plans for next year and, as a result of those discussions and conversations with others, I can share that we will again be having two Lady Day services in the Diocese. The first, in Albany, will be held on Friday 20th March. Depending on the availability of the Cathedral, the second will be held in Bunbury on Tuesday 24th March.

Our 2026 Friendship Day will be held in Donnybrook, with the date to be advised early next year.

Dunsborough Branch have accepted the invitation to host the 2026 Country Rally, which will be held on 15th October.

This year is also an election year for our national executive. A number of executive members are completing terms of office and have not renominated for any position: Marilyn Robey is completing her time as our Treasurer, Christine Brain is completing her time as editor of the MiaMia, Susan Skowronski is completing her time as our Social Issues and Action Coordinator, Rob Kennedy is completing his time as Publications Manager and Elaine Longford is completing her time as a Vice-President. Four executive members renominated for either their existing portfolios, or for new positions. Dr Robin Ray has been re-elected as Australian President and I have been elected to the role of Vice-President, with responsibility for Family and Domestic Violence, shifting away from the role of Overseas and Northern Outreach coordinator.

I will, over the next three years, be reaching out to members around Australia to provide them with information on issues surrounding family and domestic violence in our communities and how we, as members of Mothers Union, can be a part of the response that seeks to make a difference, to highlight that it is not OK to engage in any form of abuse, whether it be through coercive control, through psychological, emotional or mental, financial, technological, spiritual, sexual, or physical abuse.

I hope that our branches, along with their parishes, will once again participate in the United Nations 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence, commencing on the 25th November.

Your current diocesan executive is reaching the end of its three year term. For many of us, it marks the end of our time as a member of the diocesan leadership team. Some of us have been members for a relatively short season, and others have been there for much longer. However, Country Rally was not time for big farewells or 'thank you' s. We have each, to the best of our ability, undertaken the roles to which we were elected and a personal sense of satisfaction in our endeavours is the reward that we have. And we are not done yet – we still have several weeks of service to complete.

We will take those weeks to fulfil our commitments to you, to get our portfolios in order and to undertake handovers to those who are stepping into our roles. As of 1st January Mothers Union in the Diocese of Bunbury will have a new leadership team, with a new vision, a new way of doing things.

So let us pray:

Loving Lord, we thank you for the path laid before us and that you accompany us on our journey.

We pray for the flourishing of Mothers Union as we adapt to the needs of this present age and entrust ourselves to God to lead us forward.

Give us open ears, eyes and hearts that we may act with insight and integrity to make a difference in our world.

As we walk into the future with faith may our pace be set by our perfect guide; neither running ahead no lagging behind, but always in step with God. Amen.

Blessings, *Wendy*

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From the Incoming Diocesan President

JOINING THE DOTS – CHURCH, FAMILY, COMMUNITY

Joining the Dots – Church, Family, Community - will be our Diocesan theme for Mothers Union for 2026. The key word there is Joining – joining together, inviting to join and looking outwards to find new places to join.

At the recent Synod Hub meeting in Mandurah, our discussions indicated that the priority was communication and community, and I had a moment of pride because I think that these are things that MU does well. Lady Day, Country Rally and Friendship Day bring us together from all corners of the diocese and are deeply valuable occasions. Our regular meetings can be times of learning, support and friendship.

A concern, as I look towards beginning my term as Diocesan President, is for those who are isolated by distance or by the inability to attend meetings, and of course our lone members too. These are my first 'dots'!

Where are your 'dots'? Where are the areas of communication and community in your MU life? Are they joined up with your members? I look forward to hearing about that when I travel to catch up in person with branches.

Our song for the year is 'The Lord is my Shepherd and I want to follow' (Together in Song 659) The words of this hymn speak strongly of the work of MU. Jesus will lead us where we need to go and strengthens us for the journey. Wherever we go Jesus is both accompanying us and waiting for us.

With love and blessings - *Isobelle Shortreed*



President Wendy Mabey with Margaret Broad who had just received her 60 year membership award!

Service Awards for 2025

The following members have achieved membership milestones this year (2025):

| | | |
|----------|---|--|
| 5 Years | Susan Davies Dianne Cable Dorothy Boxall | Mandurah Mandurah Mandurah |
| 10 Years | Sandra Keelty Connie Freeman | Mandurah Busselton |
| 15 Years | Pearl Draper | Katanning |
| 20 Years | Jan Ritson | Boyup Brook |
| 30 Years | Jeanette (Jenny) Moran Sally Bone Wendy Mabey Margaret Hester Elizabeth (Betty) Knapp | Albany Mandurah Mandurah Boyup Brook Boyup Brook |
| 60 Years | Margaret Broad | Pinjarra |

We congratulate these members. Unfortunately Betty Knapp passed to her eternal rest a few days after Country Rally and had not been presented with her certificate.

*May the Lord Jesus Christ in his love and compassion, grant us the joy and power to fulfil the promises we have made as members of Mothers Union.
Amen*

(A Worship and Prayer Book for MU Australia p 57)

From the Branches: Bunbury Branch has been busy ...

September

Our September meeting started with a Eucharist in the chapel on Thursday 4 September with Dean Darryl officiating, and Barbara on organ. We had 10 members for the Eucharist, and 4 staff members from the Office plus Dean Darryl attending for the guest speaker segment.

There were 4 apologies.

Kristin Brodison (Barbara's (our Vice President) daughter-in-law) was our guest speaker. Members will remember Kristin from last year – and her talk on apples and pears – different varieties, what it takes to produce them, harvest, store, and get them on the shelves. Kristin again spoke on apples – the Bravo – which we export in large quantities to United Arab Emirates. She explained the huge nutritional value of the dark skin apple and its high water content and that it is very good for blood flow etc (within minutes of eating a Bravo apple research shows an increased blood flow). Kristin also explained that the Sheiks in the Emirates are desperate to get the Bravo apple trees so they can produce themselves, but they are protected by patents for Western Australia – a very valuable commodity. The other apple she spoke on was a new variety – the yellow pink lady (it won't be called that when it eventually hits the shelves) and we were lucky to sample this new variety of apple. It originated from the Pink Lady trees but was an oddity (only one or two appearing on a tree) which they have propagated to make a new variety. It takes several years to get new varieties to the shelf, but they are well on their way with this new apple variety (it reminded me of a Delicious apple). Dean Darryl was most upset Kristin didn't bring pears this year – with a promise that she will again next year!! She also spoke on "superfoods", mainly broccoli and zucchini, and Barbara made a beautiful zucchini slice (chock full of other vegies too) for us to sample.

October AGM meeting

Rev Cathie, our MU Chaplain celebrated our Eucharist with 13 members attending and 3 apologies. This was followed by morning tea, and our AGM, with Rev Cathy in the Chair.

The following positions were filled:

President : Val Duff; **Secretary/Treasurer**: Diane Hill with assistance from Lynn Markham and Tricia Daniels (financial); **Vice President** : Barbara Brodison; Committee positions : Lynne Markham and Beth Wootton .

November

Our morning commenced with Eucharist in the Cathedral with Rev Marion officiating. Many thanks to her for filling in for the morning in place of Dean Darryl. 11 members present. One apology.

Following the Eucharist we hosted, as we do yearly, Bunbury Primary School Junior Choir. It was, as always, an absolute treat and something I and all members look forward to every year. The choir, under the tutorage of their teacher Sarah-Jane on keyboard, sang 7 songs. The beautiful voices, the enthusiasm and sheer delight these young people brought was beautiful to see. It brought a smile to many a face. We thanked Sarah-Jane for once again bringing the children (with a number of staff and parents supervising) and asked the children, parents and grand parents who had come for the performance to join us for morning tea.

A beautiful spread was provided by our members, and many parents and children commented on how wonderful it was. Thank you to all who helped make this another wonderful, memorable morning.

December

We will hold our annual Christmas lunch, catered by our wonderful member Lynne Markham. The details and photos of this will follow in the next edition of The Mustard Tree.

We at Bunbury, wish all our special Mothers Union members and friends in our wonderful Diocese, a safe, healthy, happy and blessed Christmas.

With blessings

Diane Hill - President (Outgoing)



Bunbury Branch hosting the Bunbury Primary School Junior Choir. It looks as if the students were well rewarded for their performance.

Perhaps this is an idea that other branches could take up!



Mary Sumner

2026 is the 150th anniversary of the founding of MU.



The words below were produced as part of Mothers' Union resources for 2025 Mary Sumner Day.

It all started when Mary, married to George, Rector of the Parish of Old Alresford, was passionate about transforming the home-lives of Parish families, by helping the women to support one another in raising their children.

Her husband was very supportive: "just share your heart – God will do the rest."

She was so nervous at the first meeting of the parish women, that she refused to speak, and asked George to take her place. In those days, it was very unusual for a woman to be a public speaker. However, George encouraged her to speak from the heart, and it went so well that she found the courage to speak at future meetings. Her talks were inspired by her faith – it was practical and down to earth – "Remember, Ladies, to be yourselves what you would have your children be."

After groups with women became well established, she was asked to speak to the men of the Parish. Again, she was apprehensive, but agreed, and helped them to be more aware of what their wives did for them, to show more respect and love.

The meetings grew, and included women - old and young, rich, and poor. Others heard about her work and started groups in their own areas.

In 1876, she founded "the Union of Mothers" – with a membership card and promise: "to be given up, body and soul, to Jesus Christ in Holy Baptism, and that your duty is to train your children for his service".

In 1885, at a time when it was still unheard of for women to speak to large audiences, Mary Sumner was invited by the Presiding Bishop to speak to a packed church congress session for women in Portsmouth. He anointed her with the authority to speak - he felt that he had no authority to speak to a group of women whose prime concern was to get enough food on the table so that the children would not starve. She overcame her nerves again. "Together, by the Grace of God... we can calm each other when we are afraid; strengthen one another when we are weak; and work together to raise our children to the glory of God. Unity is strength."

The movement grew further, increasingly with the support of bishops, internationally as well as in England. Some key principles were developed, including:

That the prosperity of a nation springs from the family life in its homes

That family life is the greatest institution in the world for the formation of the character of children.
That faith is the foundation of family life.

That the tone of family life depends upon the married life of the parents – and ultimately, that example is stronger than precept. As the movement continued to grow, Mary Sumner asked herself what its purpose really was, and what it should strive for. She reflected: "A true home should be a light-house, shedding its quiet beams far and wide" – her dream was for every home to be filled with the light and love of Jesus, and for the movement to unite many hearts in many lands, nurturing healthy environments for little children.

And she was a living example of what she preached. From 1900 onwards, she and the members started to advocate on issues of key importance to families and children – she campaigned to stop children collecting alcohol from public houses for their families, and for the age of marriage

for girls to be raised from 12 to 16. She was not afraid to speak up on difficult issues, despite resistance from members of the establishment.

She was also not afraid to act outside the social norms, to do what she believed to be right. At a time when unmarried girls with children were condemned and cast out, she cared for and protected her niece and her illegitimate son.

When she died in August 1921, 4,000 women attended her funeral, which was a service of Thanksgiving. The last memory was one of her, on her feet in the sunlight, praising God.

She could not have conceived how the seeds which she planted would grow into a movement 4 million strong today, of members in 84 countries putting their faith into action to nurture healthy relationships in families and communities and to fight for social justice.

Social Issues and Action Report

I have to repeat this point, but the encouraging reports we continue to receive re groups from all over the world helps us all to realise the impact MU has on the lives of so many men and women around our globe. When you consider all the negative and concerning things we hear about, it helps us to view the world from a better perspective. Many Branches over the years have done much to help others in many ways. When I lived in the Perth Diocese I remember how MU members served Morning Tea to those waiting to go into the court.

It is pleasing to see that to some extent the cease fire between Hamas and Israel is holding out and that the live hostages and the bodies of the dead have been returned to their relatives in Israel. We hope it continues and that an international force can control the situation there to stop the dreadful war. We continue to pray for those people from Gaza still living in a dire situation with no homes to return to. We also pray for the folks in the Sudan and in Ukraine.

We give thanks for members in our Branches who continue to support others through knitting beanies and other things for agencies such as Mission to Seafarers. The Christian Churches in our country do much to provide practical help to others through Anglicare, Boniface Care, Mission Australia, Caritas etc. For some unfortunate folks this is where they go to receive help.

This will be my last Report for Social Issues and Action for the Mustard Tree and I hope my reports have given you all some encouragement.

We lift our prayers to God in thankfulness and hope for the future. Our MU Theme song for 2025 for our Diocese is: "God Gives us a Future"; may we take the words of this beautiful hymn to heart.

God Bless. *Sylvia Spicer*

Social Issues and Action Coordinator

From Boyanup Branch - Vale Margaret Smythe.



Margaret was a loved and respected member of Boyanup MU for 28 years. She was also a Parish Assistant at St. John's Church, Capel. Margaret was born in Collie and, until retiring to Peppermint Beach, had lived in many towns. She was a State hockey player and enjoyed playing lawn bowls in Capel. Wherever she lived Margaret was an enthusiastic volunteer for a multitude of organisations. She had travelled extensively visiting 66 countries.

Margaret was a keen gardener and spent many happy hours tending her plants

Rest in Peace Margaret. We miss you.

From the Branches .. Albany is already planning for 2026

Our August meeting was a celebration of Mary Sumner Day when Rev. Canon Karen Cave conducted the service. We adjourned to the Dorothy Wood hall where Colleen Brooks continued the history of Mary Sumner and told us some of her own early worship life.

September was our Quiet 'Day'. Amanda Greenhow led the group in contemplative prayer, which is a new concept for most of us. This was followed by activities within the church, arranged by Rev. Karen, again focussing on prayer. Jane Sattler supplied the materials we needed.

October was our AGM. Jane presented her annual report, as did Dimity Macartney-Snape, our treasurer. Rev. Karen reviewed the year and then conducted the election of office bearers. Jane remains as President and Wendy as Secretary, but we welcomed Amanda as our new Vice-president and Adrienne Chambers as Treasurer.

Following this there was some discussion about the 150 year anniversary of MU, suggestions for guest speakers for 2026, and Rev. Karen spoke about the networks in Albany to assist local homeless people. We adjourned to a nearby coffee shop for afternoon tea.

Our November meeting will be in the form of a luncheon at one of the local hotels.

Wendy Minchin - Secretary

Busselton has been very active ...

September On Monday 8th, members of MU together with several members of the parish, 18 in all, attended the second presentation of "Scams & Scones" at GMAS. The students presenting the afternoon were all very well informed and first-class ambassadors for their school.

On Thursday 18th we celebrated our 109th birthday with lunch at Hippo Lakes. We were very pleased to have our Diocesan President, Wendy Mabey and Diocesan Chaplain, Rev'd Cathie Broome join us. We were delighted to welcome to another part of Busselton, the charming folk from Queensland who were house-sitting the Rectory. They didn't know anything about Mothers' Union or who Mary Sumner was; be assured when they left to head back to town – they were well informed!

October On Thursday 16th, 10 from Busselton, and 6 from Dunsborough departed St Mary's at 6.30am to head for Mandurah church to enjoy the annual celebration of Country Rally. We picked up 3 more members in Bunbury and 2 in Australind. Mandurah MU served us all a delightful morning tea on arrival and this was followed by service led by Fr Ian Mabey. Bishop Ian preached the sermon, and everyone sang joyfully. Following the service, the AGM for the Bunbury Diocese of Mothers' Union was held. From there, it was back on the bus and off to lunch, with much laughter and chatter. Our guest speaker was Mrs Tracey Gray, Principal, Frederick Irwin Anglican School. Tracey held everyone "in her hand"; her presentation was absolutely amazing, such an inspiration, Tracey spoke on "her school, and her students, her fellow teachers, her dreams and aspirations".

We arrived back in Busselton at about 5.30. For us, but even more the Dunsborough members, it was a very long day. Thank you to our trusty bus driver, John Lewin.

We have been delighted to attend several baptisms this past year. MU have donated to the Children's Church 6 copies of the book, God's Dream by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams. This is the book that is given to each child by MU when they are baptised here at St Mary's.

Red Bench - We are in the "process of rejuvenating" the old garden bench which is in the garden near the Pioneer Graves. When the Faculty has been completed and we have permission it is planned to paint the bench red, it will then qualify to be a "Red Bench" and will be part of "Domestic Violence – Change the Ending". A plaque will be attached to the bench with the relevant details. We will be holding a Prayer Vigil during the 16 Days in early December.

November We completed the year with a Eucharist and delicious Christmas lunch at Nova Village on November 20th.

Eleanor Lewin - President

Pictured are Vice-President, Priscilla, and President, Eleanor enjoying the lunch and celebration.



And from Mandurah



Making the butterfly boxes for the Rally lunch

Greetings from Mandurah Branch. A lot has happened in our neck of the woods since my last edition.. I need to keep it brief this time due to having so much news across the region.

As I mentioned in my last report I am new to Mother's Union and feel as if this is an Apprenticeship. The last months have flown by with so much happening. As we hosted Country Rally this year, Isobel our hard working and all round fun filled President gathered the troops to organise this event. Then there was the AGM as well as the day-to-day activities of MU. I am pleased to report that all positions were filled for the next 3 years at the AGM. A relief for the retiring members. So watch this space to follow our journey through uncharted waters. I accepted the role of President and Robyn Chalk is Vice President .

We have been busy getting started on the Planner for 2026 activities. Fortunately, we have a lot of support from members who have the long term experience for which we are most grateful. Stay tuned for further updates on our exciting plans for 2026.

After a busy year we enjoyed a day out for lunch in Mandurah to celebrate 2025 and look forward to another year of Mother's Union activities.

Wishing all our Mother's Union members across the region, all the blessings of Christmas and look forward to sharing events together in 2026.

Maggie Goss - President-elect

Dunsborough - Cuppa on the Verandah

Dunsborough branch has been hosting a monthly morning tea on the church verandah for quite a while now. The brainchild of member Corinne Casey, the idea is to host a space where anyone come, particularly the isolated and lonely. People are asked to come along and 'bring a friend or neighbour'.

Our MU members bake up treats – sandwiches, slices and scones are required items each month. The morning tea is normally on the third Wednesday of the month, except during the winter. This also means that people visiting the Op Shop are able to be invited to join us. This ministry blesses many in our community.



Some of the Dunsborough hosts

From our Chaplain - Rev'd Cathie Broome

Greetings to you all, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Christmas is almost upon us and as our branches meet for their final meetings and end of year celebrations it got me thinking about family.

If you are a disciple of Jesus, you have two families. The first one, the family of origin, is the one you were born into and this is fixed and cannot be changed. However, when you are born again through Jesus Christ, you inherit a new family – the family of God.

The early Church met together in the temple courts, but also met together in homes where they were devoted to deep abiding relationships. They became spiritual family. In **Acts 2:42** and the following verses we see them exhibiting many of the characteristics of a family. They ate together, shared their possessions, and even sold their possessions if needed to take care of each other. They focussed on the Word of God and the teachings of the Apostles.

As we know from the scriptures, God's Church is a group of people in relationship who do life together. Just like Mothers Union! Mothers' Union members are considered a supportive family through their shared vision of creating a worldwide fellowship for prayer, worship, and service. They are not limited to being mothers, but include people of all ages and backgrounds who are united in their support of stable family life, marriage, and community well-being through local projects and global initiatives.

Relationships are a fundamental part of God's family because the Gospel gets lived out within those relationships. Real life can be lived out when we are abiding in relationships with each other. This is where we learn to use, and put into practice, the Fruits of the Spirit that God has placed within us.

These actions not only depict the attitudes and actions of a family, but this is also the kind of bond and relationships that develop in a small group such as Mothers Union. Our Mothers Union groups / branches are places where people can be relationally disciple, loved and nurtured as part of a spiritual family. So this Christmas season I send my MU family big hugs, lots of love and prayers for a Joyous and Merry Christmas.

With God's grace and blessings - *Cathie*

Anglican Diocese of Bunbury Mothers Union Banner – 2025

The Noongar Seasons:

Christ's Robe

Birak (Red): December – January

Flower: Agonis Flexuosa

Christ's Halo

Bunuru (Dark Orange): February – March

Flower: Eucalyptus Caesia

Mary's Dress

Djeran (Pale Orange): April – May

Flower: Corymbia Ficilfolia

Mary's Cloak

Makuru (Blue): June – July

Flower: Scarlet Banksia

Mary's Headdress

Djilba (Green): August – September

Flower: Wattle

Mary's Halo

Kambarang (Yellow): October – November

Flower: Kangaroo Paw

