



*“Encouraging
Families through
Faith In Action”*

MU Newsletter December 2025

Dear MU Members,

Christmas is upon us! I always feel, every year, the lighting of the Advent Candles at Church each week and the singing of another verse of the song heralding the coming of our Lord, centres and focuses me amongst all the busyness of the month. I hope you can also, take time out of your tasks, your commitments, to rest a moment to reflect on this coming Christmastide.

Dates for our two Melbourne Council meetings for next year have been booked with St Paul's Cathedral:

Thursday 23rd April 2026 Barbara Darling Room St Pauls Cathedral **11am to 1.30pm**

Thursday 22nd October 2026 Barbara Darling Room St Pauls Cathedral **11am to 1.30pm**

I will send notification of all meeting dates for Melbourne Executive in the New Year. We have reverted back to a weekday meeting, partially through listening to members, and also in view of the fact that guest speakers, particularly if we are looking for Diocesan participation, are not available on weekends - our guest presenter Kerryn Lewis, Prevention of Violence Against Women, graciously gave up her Saturday to speak with us at our AGM in October.

Our MU Aust. President Robin Ray received these words from our Worldwide President Kathlene and wished to share them with us:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I cannot let this season pass without wishing each of you a blessed and holy Advent and Christmas on behalf of the Board of Trustees and our staff at the central charity headquarters at Mary Sumner House. It has been a busy year for all of us; we have served well in our walk with Christ and on behalf of Mothers' Union. At this time of year, we are filled with anticipation and hope. May we find a quiet and sacred space in our busy lives to commune with Him who is the One.

May we begin again to hear with the ears of prophets,

See with the eyes of saints,

And understand with the heart of sages.

And know that He is with us.

“O come, O come into the quiet,

The stillness that engulfs our souls.

O come let us dwell with awe and wonder...

O come let us behold...Be still my soul and sing...

B Holmes

As we move through the Advent and Christmas seasons, may we feel His peace which passes all understanding. May we choose joy, have hearts of gratitude, and continue to be His hands and His feet. In Jesus' Name. Amen

You would have noticed our Theme for 2026 at the top of the newsletter (an interim format until we are advised of the “official” one to use). After considerable discussion among the Australian DPs (Diocesan Presidents) this was the chosen theme based on majority of votes.

Martin and I attended the Installation of our new Archbishop on Sunday 30th November. It was a wonderful moving service and the Cathedral was packed! I am looking forward to meeting with Abp Ric in the new year to promote MU, what we are doing, and what our future aspirations are. Some photos, as with the other events I attended are at the end of this newsletter

Holding the Light Service held on Wednesday 3rd December, remembering Victims and Survivors of Family Violence, was well attended. The bell tolled 74 times, for each woman murdered, and there was a very moving acknowledgement, naming and showing a picture of each victim. Thank you to the MU members who provided the refreshments after the Service and for showing a visible presence of our commitment.

The **RESPECT Walk Against Family Violence** was held on Friday 28th November. Rosemary Hicks and I “flew the MU banner” (figuratively), joining other Walkers from the Diocese, the weather being much kinder to us this year.

I received correspondence from Sydney MU inviting us to register for their **annual Parenting Seminar**. As I mentioned in previous newsletters, the Cathedral’s Precentor Tim Watson is keen to work with me in developing our own Parenting Events in 2026/27, which I will follow up with him in the new year.

Please let me know if you would like further information on anything mentioned, or have any questions,

Peace and God’s Blessings,

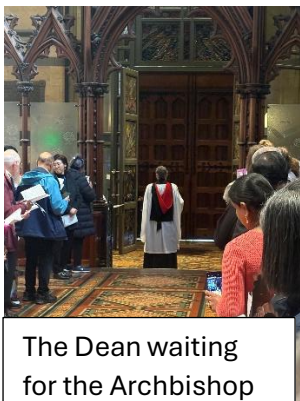
Karen

Dates of MU Happenings around Melbourne:

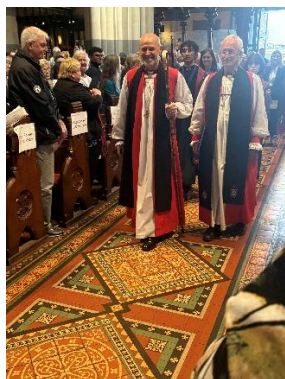
2026 Melbourne Executive, and Council Meetings dates to be circulated in the New Year

2026 office bearers list to be circulated in the New Year

Should you need more information, have any questions, please contact the Leader/President or the Secretary/Contact Person in your Branch or call me directly.



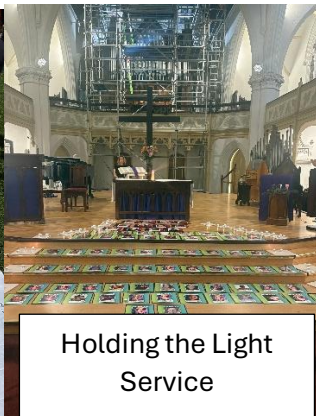
The Dean waiting
for the Archbishop
Elect to enter



Holding the Light
Service



RESPECT Walk



Diocesan Members
Christmas Breakup