



*“Encouraging  
Families  
through Faith  
In Action”*

## MU Newsletter March 2026

Dear MU Members,

Here we are at the end of March! World Day of Prayer and Mothering Sunday are behind us, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Day are ahead. May this Easter give you hope as we think of the death of Jesus for us, and his resurrection.

Lady Day “*The Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*” is on this Wednesday 25th. I hope to see some of you at **St Paul’s Cathedral Melbourne** for the 5.10pm Evensong service. It will be live streamed. St Paul’s Ringwood Mullum Mullum will be holding their Lady Day Service at **10.30am** on the 25th, as will St Matthew’s Cheltenham at **10am**. I hope you are able to honour the day, or closest day, in your Church in some way.

Last month I attended the Aust Executive Strategic Retreat as Promotions and Communications Co-ordinator. At the end of our workshop, Robin Ray (Aust President) asked us to ascertain 4 goals for this triennium. These are the goals we identified:

1. Increase membership by 10%.
2. Strengthen visibility with ministry units.
3. Integrate MU work more fully into Parish ministry - how can MU help/how can we support Clergy.
4. Ensure parenting programs are active in at least 4 dioceses.

To achieve any of these goals, we at first need to make MU fully known, in our Dioceses, our Churches, and our Community. To become a household name as other well-known organisations are. What makes us more/different, is that we are a movement, within the Anglican Church and beyond, bound by our faith, and faithful in what we do. How we go about making us known more fully is challenging. The first step is raising awareness in any way we can.

We need to “lift the face” of MU, break down the preconceptions and be Visible, Articulate (what we do/how we do it) and Relevant (what we do is of value in our society).

MU 150-year Celebrations are underway around Australia and the world. A video with a message from our Australian President Robin Ray has been produced and can be accessed on our Melbourne and Australian Websites. Look for ways to show it in your Church, at events, in whichever way we can promote MU and who we are.

Christine Jensen our Australian Prayer and Spirituality Co-ordinator has sent us these Easter prayers and Diocesan prayers Thought for the Week for April to June, available through your branches, or contact me.

Last month Martin and I attended the Archbishop Roadshow, as did many Clergy and Parishioners, held at East Malvern. We did this with our MU “hats” on. These ‘roadshows’ were designed to introduce Ric and his wife Louie to the Diocese.

Ric also started a Diocesan conversation “Listening in Lent” to start our thought process in listening and looking at where we see ourselves in the next 10 years. There was quite a parallel to what we are looking at, and listening to, for MU.

Elaine (Longford) and I attended “A Faithful Approach to PVAW”, and the outcomes of an evaluation conducted by Melbourne University. It was also, significantly, International Womens day.

Of most impact to me was a panel, representing different Churches, sharing about how they implemented/are implementing PVAW programs They were Reverend Sheela Pandhare, Reverend Farag Hanna, Louisa Ramadu from St Thomas Werribee and Solmaz Yavari who delivered the training in Farsi language for the PVAW program. They all provided invaluable insights into the implementation of the program, the highlights and challenges.

**A Reminder that Fees/Subscriptions \$45.00 are due now. Thank you to those who have paid. Please see your branch treasurers if you are still yet to pay or contact me or Rosemary Simpson.**

### Dates of MU Happenings around Melbourne:

#### **Wednesday**

**25<sup>th</sup> March at 10am** St Matthews Cheltenham Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**25<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am** St Paul’s Ringwood (Mullum Mullum) Lady Day Service 40 Warrandyte Road Ringwood 3134.

**25<sup>th</sup> March 5.10pm** St Paul’s Cathedral Melbourne Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary Evensong.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April Melbourne MU Council 11am Barbara Darling Room St Paul’s Cathedral – details to be advised in due course.

Please let me know if you have an even coming up. Placing it in the newsletter is not just notifying those who might like to attend, but lets us all know what’s happening around the MU Melbourne Diocese.

*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.*

*Love and Peace,*

*Karen*



Karen, AB Ric and Martin

PVAW Panel

The team working and praying at St Teresa Spirituality Centre Ormiston Queensland