

Dates for your Diary 2026

March	6	World Day of Prayer
	25	Lady Day Festival 11.30am @ Church of the Resurrection Swanbourne
April	9-11	Wave of Prayer

MU Supplies

For all MU Supplies; stationary, cards, towels and other supplies.
Please contact Karen Severin Publications Convener
details in report book

Karen is also happy to attend Branches and Diocesan events whenever possible.

Please send your articles and pictures to Denise Elvish
contact details in report book

Deadline for next issue 8 June 2026

My Wish For You

Happiness always
Is what you're wished
A garden bed of roses
Pot's and plants to relish

A multi-task of action
It's what you're wished today
Today and every day
Will never go astray

Joy never ending
Love, hope and peace
My wish for your happiness
That love will never cease

Erica Gliddon



Grapevine

Theme for 2026
'Look up—with Faith in your future'

Official publication Perth Council of MU Australia Inc.
Part of the Worldwide Mothers Union

March 2026

News from the President

I hope that you have all had a restful and enjoyable break over the Summer holidays and been able to catch up with family and friends. Easter is nearly upon us. Many of us I expect have joined study groups for Lent, as a time of reflection, meditation and in some cases reconciliation.

The Bible Study group that I belong to have been studying Mathew – being discipled by Jesus. It has been most interesting to learn more about how Jesus in his life and throughout his ministry showed us how to disciple to others .

The Australian Theme for the next three years is: “Encouraging Families through Faith in Action”. Our theme here in Perth Diocese of MU is: Look Up- With Faith in the Future. Both theme's work well with each other. This year our vision is for MU to be more visible in our Parishes and speak to others, to work more closely with our Clergy and look to our community for projects.

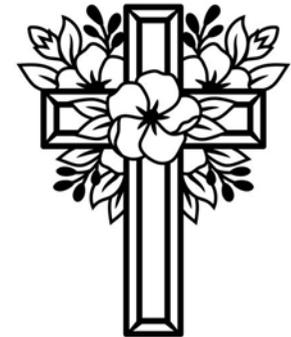
Can we be a disciple and challenge ourselves to make our vision real?

“Therefore go and make Disciples of all Nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” Matt 28:19

Happy Easter to you all

Love and Prayers

Jan



Social Issues and Action

Dear MU Friends

Welcome to 2026! I pray that the year has begun well and that you are looking forward to all things MU in the year ahead.

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40: 31

To begin this year I would like to focus our prayers and action on Homelessness. On any given night, over 9000 West Australians are homeless. Those experiencing homelessness are people of all ages, including families with children.

The main causes of homelessness are family and domestic violence and the lack of affordable housing.

Anglicare WA supports individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness to help them find safe and secure housing. This can often be difficult, as we are very aware that there is a severe lack of affordable housing, not only in our city, but in many parts of our state. Anglicare is currently supporting a number of families who are living in their cars until appropriate housing can be found.

This year Homelessness Week runs from August 4th – 10th and in raising awareness of the issue of homelessness, aims to mobilize community support and aims to shed light on the complexities of homelessness. I know that many branches are already doing great work in this area, but I would like to encourage you all to use the next couple of months to perhaps take up a collection of the following items, required by Anglicare in the Rockingham region: soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste & toothbrush, socks and beanies. All items donated must be brand new. Please contact me if you are able to help.

The Annual Anglicare Sleep Out which happens at Optus Stadium is expected to take place on Friday 14th August. You may like to assist with the registration and ushering of those that participate, between 4:30- 9:00pm. You are not required to participate in the Sleep Out though!

Thank you to you all who were able to join us at St Columba's in Scarborough in December, last year for our third Diocesan MU Service during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender- Based Violence. It was a very moving service, with many members and branches participating.

This year the service during the 16 Days of Activism will be held at Holy Trinity Church in Malaga **on Saturday 5th December** at 10am. Please put the date in your diaries now as I know life becomes busier at that time of the year.

As you journey through the season of Lent with its focus on prayer, reconciliation, fasting and acts of mercy, May God continue to bless you,

Love and prayers,
Helen Krynen



Prayers are asked for.....

all those caring for a loved one who is ill, and for those who are sick, or lonely that they be comforted. We send our love and prayers to all those mourning the death of a loved one.



VALE – Lynn Carruthers

Sadly on Tuesday 3rd February 2026 we lost a beloved friend Lynn and God gained another Saint. We will miss her but have wonderful memories of her time with us. Lynn was born on November 1929 in Randfontein, South Africa, middle child of 3 daughters. After High School, she became a radiographer and was offer a job in a mine hospital in Northern Rhodesia. The policeman who came to check her papers, in time married her. He joined the mines and after he worked his way up, she became the mine managers wife. They had a son and two daughters. People from the mining community would come to her with problems and she became fully immersed in that community. A Primary School was named after her in Swakopmund, Namibia!



Lynn moved with her husband and family to Zambia, Rhodesia, and then Perth. Lynn became a Christian as a teenager and her morning ritual was to wake up asking "Lord, who do you want me to help today?" She woke early each day to pray for all her family and friends. She was always involved with the church, Joining MU in 1968, running MU in various places, being a Lay Minister at St Anselm, forever baking cakes, scones, and biscuits for many, many church cake stalls. She would take elderly friends out, or visit them. Lynn joined St Nicolas MU in 2003, where she presented the World Prayers at each meeting, being able to pronounce all the African towns' names.

Lynn moved into Meath village with her new husband Ken, and still lived there after Ken's death. When she could no longer care for herself, she moved into Meath's frail care, still keeping up with all her family and friends. Her son Dennis visited her regularly from the USA; Daughters Jan & Val always visiting and taking her out each Sunday for lunch, as well as making her room comfy with an endless loop of family photos on a screen, and photos all over her walls. She was always fully involved with all her family members. You were well loved and will be missed, but remembered fondly as long as we live. RIP dear lady. Lorraine Keatch

Introducing Revd Rob Healy newly appointed Diocesan Prayer & Spirituality Convener

Rob is the new Prayer and Spirituality Convener of the Perth MU Executive. He has been married to Kaye, a former Perth Diocesan President and Australian Vice President, for over 40 years. They have 3 adult children and 5 grandchildren. They met as schoolteachers in country WA. Rob was a high school teacher and Kaye taught primary school. They see God's hand at work in bringing them together and in giving them experiences that enhanced their ministry over the years. Rob began to hear God's call to ministry in North West Australia before going to Moore College in Sydney. After graduation he was Deaconed, and then Priested, in the Diocese of North West Australia.

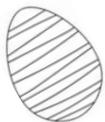
He has also served in the Diocese of Perth, and with the Bush Church Aid Society. Whilst in Perth, while serving in the Parish of Balcatta/Hamersley Rob and Kaye also ministered to Sudanese Refugees, and were MU Australia's Parenting Programme Co-ordinators. Rob has recently celebrated 25 years as a Priest. He has retired from Parish Ministry due to low vision, caused by his Type 2 diabetes.



AROUND THE DIOCESE



I travelled to Busselton to visit a former MU Member Irene Cunane who now lives in the Aegis Ellenvale in Broadwater Busselton. I took cards, letters, flowers and greetings from branch members at Holy Trinity and we shared prayers from the MU prayer book. I also visited St Mary's Anglican church I introduced myself as an MU member to the Priest and attended Morning prayer. On travelling back to Perth I stopped of to visit Joyce Wilkinson another former member living in Armana village in Mandurah.
Rachel Toomath East Victoria Park Branch



St Lawrence's Mothers Union

On Thursday 11th December, 2025, Christmas meeting was very informal, our assistant trainee clergyman, Scott Thompson and Judith Nichols led the morning prayers in our hall, which was followed by morning tea and fellowship, reflection and the making of Christmas cards and gift jars.



On Thursday 12th February 2026 our rector Peter Smith, conducted our Holy Communion Service in the Church, and then during morning tea and fellowship he gave this amazing talk about inspiring us to carry Mary Sumners and the Mothers Union legacy forward. He emphasised how important the power of prayer is. He picked up the MU 2026 diary, and the inspirational prayers of each week, our prayer diaries and our Mothers Union service book for us to use as a reference.



Peter reiterated THE MOTHERS UNION - PURPOSE, AIM AND OBJECTIVES gave a history of Mothers' Union from it's humble beginnings. A standout feature of MU is the strong emphasis on prayer. MU's 'Wave of Prayer' events were started informally during World War 1 and became an official MU activity in England in 1921. Every diocese represented in the Mothers' Union is prayed for on 3 consecutive days each year. MU Australia's Prayer and Spirituality department

produces regular prayer diaries and leaflets. Prayer groups are also maintained at the parish level.

MU raises awareness of issues of concern to women in Australia, and lobbies the relevant government departments. They have addressed problems as diverse as gambling, abortion, trafficking of women and children, alcohol and drugs, the Iraq War, breast cancer awareness, mental health, and domestic violence.

St Lawrence's Mothers Union

1. We are Christ centered and prayer focused.
2. We seek to share the gospel and support all families at their point of need.
3. We meet monthly for worship, fellowship and prayer.
4. We offer: Christian Seminars & Parenting Courses that are uniquely Australian and practical in daily parenting and life.

Christian talks that promote Christian marriage and family life

We support Australian and World-wide Mothers Union projects.

What can I do to see the MU Vision and Mission Realised?

Attend the monthly MU meeting.

Invite a friend to attend the monthly MU meeting.

Pray for your own children, grandchildren using the MU Prayer.

Pray for the members and families of St Lawrence's using the Church Prayer Diary

A Lenten Reflection

Introduction: At thirst is my soul for the living God. When shall I go and behold the face of God?

Reflection: The people gathered with anticipation, aware of the growing rumors that he might be the Messiah. Yet because he was “one of them,” they struggled to see beyond the familiar. They measured him by what they thought they already knew.

How often do we do the same?

We live in a culture that subtly trains us to evaluate others by productivity, appearance, independence, or social ease. Those living with disabilities or mental illness often bear this burden most heavily. They may be reduced to diagnoses, limitations, or stereotypes rather than embraced as whole persons—beloved, gifted, and created in the image of God.

But Jesus never stops at the surface. Throughout the Gospels, he consistently sees the person before him—not a category, not a condition, not a reputation. He looks upon the heart. He restores dignity. He calls people by name. And in doing so, he reveals the heart of God.

During Lent, we are invited into deeper self-examination. When Jesus speaks of removing the “beam” from our own eye (Gospel of Matthew 7:3–5), perhaps one beam for us is indifference—the quiet distancing we practice when vulnerability makes us uncomfortable. Perhaps it is fear of what we do not understand, or the unconscious belief that worth is tied to ability.

When we allow God to soften our hearts, something changes. Mercy begins to grow where judgment once lived. Patience replaces discomfort. Curiosity replaces avoidance. And community becomes less about sameness and more about belonging. Mercy builds communities where every person—especially those who struggle silently or visibly—knows they are not a problem to be solved but a gift to be received.

May we be generous in love, abundant in understanding, and fearless in building a culture of belonging—reflecting the One who always sees beyond what is visible and draws every heart closer to himself.

Prayer: May we notice where we measure instead of love, choose presence over avoidance. Help me to listen before labeling, and see Christ in those the world overlooks.

Lisa Averion is the Associate Director for the Office for Persons with Disabilities theCatholic Telegraph.com/lenten-reflections-2026



Life Membership

Last year I was asked how to apply for a Life Membership. There are two ways for a member to receive a Life Membership. **Diocesan Life Membership** or **Life Membership to their Branch.**

The Diocesan Life Membership is for service at the Diocesan and Australian level.

At this level it is a very special honour and it should be in the form of a letter to the Diocesan President and must be kept in confidence due to any misunderstandings.

At the present time we have already two living life members. In our constitution it states that we can have four.

Branch Life Membership -Members of a branch may award a member of their branch a Life Membership. The member may have given outstanding service to the branch.

The Branch should undertake to pay the full membership fee of their Life Member.

The Life Membership does not extend beyond that branch and should the Life Member leave, transfer or the branch close the Life Membership is cancelled.

With Blessings

Jan



In this Lenten season, Loving God, you call us to a time of reflection and contemplation.

A time to ponder where our wandering steps have separated us from you.

A time to consider who we are and where you want us to be.

A time to confess our sins and establish a proper relationship with you.

O Lord, we so want to be upright in heart.

May your comforting spirit allow us to unburden our souls

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Draw Us Forth

Draw us forth, God of all creation.

Draw us forward and away from limited certainty  
into the immense world of your love.

Give us the capacity to even for a moment  
taste the richness of the feast you give us.

Give us the peace to live with uncertainty,  
with questions,  
with doubts.

Help us to experience the resurrection anew  
with open wonder and an increasing ability  
to see you in the people of Easter.

- Author Unknown