



*“Encouraging
Families
through Faith
In Action”*

MU News May 2026

Dear Members,

Thank you to all who were able to attend our MU Council meeting in April. It was good to catch up, and good to see members on zoom too. Minutes of the meeting are available, please contact your branch leader.

Cluster Branches and liaison/contacts were announced.

Mia Mia magazines have been received. Anne Kennedy is in the process of sending them around to branches/clusters for disbursement. If you haven't received yours, please be patient.

150 years celebration plans were discussed. There will be an Afternoon Tea prior to a Service being held at ***St Peter's Eastern Hill***. Details to be firmed up and advised in due course. Save this date - ***Mary Sumner Day Sunday 9th August 2026***. Members are also encouraged to join together in celebrations with their branches and clusters if they are unable to travel into the city.

Chirstine Jensen, our Prayer and Spirituality coordinator for Australia has provided intercession prayers for Worldwide Mothers Union. I encourage branches/members to ask their Priest to include these MU Intercessions on Sunday 21st June to Celebrate our 150 Years within our Churches.

MU President Robin Ray's 150th address is available to promote this momentous year. Please let me know if you are able to use it and I can send the link to the appropriate person.

Rosemary Simpson, our Treasurer has forwarded a letter asking support for the Travel fund in relation to 150th Celebration Worldwide Gathering.

Our guest speaker, Olivia Ephraim was unable to attend due to ill health and sent her sincere apologies. Kerryn Lewis attended in her stead, speaking of Olivia's role as the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse officer, and the Prevention of Violence Against Women program.

We were able to provide an update of our joint project '*Translating and Implementing training into Karen language*'. Progress has been slow, and initial timelines have been extended. Olivia and I were able to attend an MU gathering at St Stephen's Werribee where we introduced the project, Olivia, and initiated a conversation about the project. MU members from Corio and Lara were able to join us.

It was a wonderful afternoon. Olivia will be attending their "Competition Day" on the 30th May. A Gathering with Hymns, Bible readings and plenty of food and laughter will be shared.

Love and Peace,

Karen

A Reminder that it's not too late to pay Fees/Subscriptions \$45.00. 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:

Thursday 4th June – St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne. Art Exhibition by Christians affected by Family Violence

Sunday 21st June - Observance of MU 150th Celebrations Worldwide - Please include MU prayers for the worldwide movement in Sunday Church Intercessions.

Sunday 9th August - Mary Sumner Day 150 year celebration. Afternoon celebration tea (time and city venue to be advised) MU celebration Service will be held within St Peter's Eastern Hill Evensong Service 5.30pm - Members are welcome to attend the afternoon tea only, or stay on for the Service.

Please let me know if you have an event 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.



Our Shared Meal



Karen and Olivia presented with their gifts



MU Gathering at St Stephen's Werribee

Prayers for 150 Anniversary of Mothers Union

Today we ask you to join with Mother Union Worldwide in celebrating 150 years of ministry in 84 countries.

Faithful and loving God, who called Mary Sumner to strive for the renewal of family life and for her vision for a fellowship of women committed to prayer and service, supporting each other and their communities. Give us the gift of your Holy Spirit, that through your word, prayer and action your family may be strengthened and your people served.

For your love and goodness

We give you thanks, O God

We pray for MU members and leaders worldwide that they may work towards making a meaningful difference in the lives of millions through unique, faith-based and community-led approaches to tackling poverty, injustice and violence. We pray for all who engage in advocacy against gender and family violence especially through the 16 Days of Activism. Give members and us all, courage to boldly speak out about issues in society that destabilise family life.

For your love and goodness

We give you thanks, O God

Lord, we ask your blessing on all families who are experiencing war, trauma, displacement, poverty, hunger or distress. We pray for efforts to advocate for human rights, to reduce marginalization and oppression and promote gender equity; especially projects that offer educational opportunities, build resilience and empowerment skills especially for women and girls. May the Good News of love of Jesus and his saving grace be shared and lived in all faith communities and beyond.

For your love and goodness

We give you thanks, O God

We pray for the members of the Mothers' Union in this Diocese of Melbourne as they seek your guidance into the future. We pray for Bishop Paul Barker, our diocesan clergy and people, for the MU Melbourne Diocesan President Karen Hayden, all branch leaders, the trustees and all our members, that they may remain resilient and focused on the support of family life within the church and the communities in which we live.

For your love and goodness

We give you thanks, O God

Loving Lord, we pray for your healing hand on all who are physically and or emotionally unwell, those without hope, the unemployed, and those living on the fringes of society. We pray for survivors of domestic abuse who have found in us a place of safety and new hope; for people in prison, who we visit and do not forget, in whom we seek and find your face. We give you thanks for all who bring hope, comfort and healing.

We commend to you all those included on our Prayer list (if you have one) and others that are on our own hearts

For your love and goodness
We give you thanks, O God

Jesus the risen Christ, we give thanks and pray for those who have died recently including (name/s) and pray for their family and friends.

Lord, we give you thanks today for the life and witness of Mary Sumner and her vision in creating Mothers Union.

We live in the hope of the resurrection when we will share with all your saints in your eternal presence.

For your love and goodness
We give you thanks, O God

Happy 150th Anniversary, Global Mothers Union!

There will be a special celebration in Durban, South Africa, for members to celebrate this amazing milestone. Our Melbourne Diocesan President, Karen Hayden, will be attending as a representative of our Diocese.

This is an amazing opportunity for Kären to showcase Melbourne MU, to learn about MU Worldwide, and to bring back experiences to share with us in our groups.

Can your group help boost our MU Travel Fund, so that we can support our DP's travel costs?

We don't want to take funds away from our main projects, so perhaps you could have a one-off fundraiser within your branch. Maybe raise money through a "No-Bake Cake Stall", or donate the cost of a cup of coffee; perhaps a raffle, or a bring-and-buy stall. You may want to extend this one-off fundraiser to your parish after a regular service.

Whether your group can raise \$15.00 or \$150.00 or even \$1,500 it will help show Karen how much we support all the work she is doing to promote MU in this Diocese.

The MU 150th Gathering in Durban is in October, so any funds raised for the Travel Fund would need to be sent into the Treasurer by the end of August.

Bank Details:-

BSB - 703 122 Account Number - 05000419 Account Name - Mothers Union Travel Fund

When you pay the funds into the account, please note "MU WW Gathering".

Rosemary Simpson

MU Melbourne Treasurer