



Joining the dots
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*Mothers' Union
Diocese of Bunbury
Winter 2026
Makuru*

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



From the Diocesan President -

Greetings to Branches and Members as we appear to be almost half way through the year.. time has certainly flown! I hope you all escaped damage during the recent heavy storms – it certainly was windy!

Branches worldwide continue to celebrate the anniversary of 150 years of Mothers Union and I recommend to you the main MU page on Facebook which is located in London. It has a lot of interesting posts regarding what people are up to all over the world! Please let me know what your branch is going to do to celebrate this wonderful anniversary.

I wonder if Mary Sumner ever gave a thought to the longevity of her special programme for mothers and families. I'm sure she would be amazed at the extent and numbers of MU members all over the world! There is a saying – I can't remember its origin now, that goes "think globally, act locally" and this is what we are charged to do as members of MU: to ponder and pray over issues that are relevant to our own communities and congregations whilst being aware of happenings far away from us.

Some of our members are preparing to travel to Durban in South Africa for the World Wide Gathering – if this is you, I wonder if you might be able to write something or speak to a branch about your experience. I think it is probably a once in a lifetime happening for most people so those of us who are not attending have the privilege of keeping our travellers safe in our prayers. You can keep up with the development of the programme details on the web page for Mary Sumner House.

Are you a member of our Mu Prayer Circle? Robyn Chalk, as Spirituality and Prayer Co-Ordinator calls for prayer needs each month, which are then sent round to the members of the circle. There are currently 24 people taking part in the prayers and if you would like to join them please contact Robyn or myself.

Friendship Day is approaching and we are working on the programme and I hope you have received the flier to pass on to members and friends. My thanks to the Bunbury branch who are able to host us. We will visit Donnybrook next year.

It's a great opportunity for us to catch up as our Diocese is large and travel is not so easy these days. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there and until then, I keep you all in my prayers.

Isobelle



What on earth ... am I going to write about?

Sometimes an idea comes to me early, but for this edition I have been devoid of any such useful thoughts until ... this morning!

I am no longer nimble on my feet and the idea of doing anything in the garden fills me with a sort of dread; a fear of falling over! But this morning I thought that I could no longer put off planting some Iceland poppy seeds. So I grabbed the container and a hand-rake, changed my shoes and went out into the winter sunshine.

Then it came back to me -

‘The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth’ *

I remember it vividly because, in my grandparents' garden in North Wales, there was little stone plaque with the verse inscribed on it. The garden was on a steep hillside with a winding path going between rockeries and flower beds. The first thing to do on holidays when we children had unpacked was to go out into the garden and find the tortoises, and then the little plaque which was moved between visits.

Subsequently my son gave me a bird-bath as a Christmas present with the same verse carved into it.

What is it about a garden that brings us close to the heart of God?

It can be so many things -

- peace
- beauty
- the fragrance of plants and soil
- growth
- hope
- the cycle of the seasons- birth, life, death and rebirth
- happiness and, often, joy
- forgiveness - ‘the warmth and light of the sun represent nature's forgiveness. When you are outside in the elements, the sun feels loving and cleansing, washing away worries, guilt, or the stresses of everyday life.’ (From the Internet)



And you will undoubtedly think of others. And some of them may not be so beautiful. An arid, dry garden; wilting plants; plants destroyed by pests ... But overriding all of these is the ever-present hope of new life. Sometimes it may just come in pots!

* *God's Garden* by English poet Dorothy Frances Gurney (1858–1932).

Enjoy your gardening, indoors or out! You will be near God's loving heart!

Priscilla

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Correction from last issue - It was Jeanette Moran who received the 30 year award at the Lady Day service in Albany. Our apologies, Jeanette.

News from Albany

On 20th March the Albany branch members of the Mothers' Union celebrated Lady Day at St John's church. We welcomed Bishop Ian and our MU Diocesan president, Isobelle Shortreed, as well as members from Denmark and Katanning. Isobelle was guest speaker and told us something of her earlier life. She then showed us the new MU Bunbury Diocesan banner, explaining the significance of the various elements of the design. We enjoyed morning tea and lunch with the chance to chat to our many guests.

Also In March our members made simnel cake and sprigs of rosemary and these were given to attendees at both the morning services on Mothering Sunday.

At our April meeting we shared our earliest memories of involvement with the church. As our members come from several places around the world it was interesting to hear of various childhood memories. The common threads seemed to be Sunday Schools, with stickers and annual book awards, and Religious Instruction in schools.

Our May meeting focused on the St John's Op Shop. Our guest speaker was the current manager of the shop, Ann Robinson. She spoke of the history of the shop and some of the people who have worked there. We welcomed some of the Op Shop staff as well. Being well sited in lower York St, the shop is very popular with visitors from cruise ships and tourist buses. The income from the shop is a major contributor to parish funds. We each wore items that had been purchased in an Op Shop and added a hat.

We have all been saddened by the recent death of one of our youngest members, Cathryne Brooks, and are still adjusting to the loss of such an energetic and enthusiastic member.

Wendy Minchin

From the Editor - if your branch is wondering what to do next there are a couple of really good ideas for meetings in this report.

Eleanor Lewin (Busselton President) visits Mary Sumner's grave ...



This photo taken in the graveyard of Winchester Cathedral at the graveside of Mary Sumner.

It was taken on Monday 22nd December, on a very, very cold day. However, it was a pilgrimage I made on behalf of us all.

There was a Christmas Fair happening in the background, it was huge and literally thousands of people there.

The graveyard is now fenced off (it didn't used to be), however, John followed the fencing along to where it met the portable loos and then there was a temporary fence, he pulled it open and pushed me through and I made my way to the grave!!! Then I calmly walked back again and wriggled through the temporary fence and off we went like, "This is what we always do!!"

I am sure Mary Sumner would have approved!
Eleanor

SOCIAL MEDIA BAN ON TEENS

In December 2025 the Australian Federal Government's law to regulate under-16 year old children's access to the Internet came into being. Below are a few points from a published survey by The Conversation published on May 16th 2026. This survey looked at the impact the ban had upon teens ability to access news; an interesting fall-out from the media ban. Below are a couple of paragraphs from The Conversation news article.

To go to the webpage for the full article, copy and paste the link into your browser: <https://theconversation.com/australian-teens-impacted-by-the-social-media-ban-are-getting-less-news-new-research-281988>

'In the months leading up to the implementation of Australia's social media ban in December 2025, there was much discussion about the possible negative consequences. Among these were concerns that teenagers would consume less news. As most young adults use social media for news and many rely on it, this was a real risk. So months on, has this come to pass? In our newly-published research, we found the more young people are impacted by the ban, the more likely they are to report they are getting less news and having less opportunity to discuss news and the issues that matter to them.

Our research: (The Conversation) In February we surveyed 1,027 young people aged 10 to 17, just two months after the legislation took effect. As part of a longitudinal survey that has examined young Australians' news engagement since 2017, we asked young people questions about the ban's impact on their social media use and their news engagement. First, we investigated if the ban had affected young people's social media use by asking them if their engagement with each banned platform had changed at all, and if so, whether the change was a complete stop or if they just used it less. We found 61% of under-16s who had previously been using banned platforms reported little or no change in their social media use. For the majority of young people surveyed, the ban was ineffectual. In fact, only one in four (26%) reported their social media use had been affected.

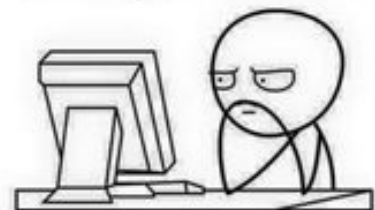
Social news or no news? It's unlikely that being cut off from news on social media will lead young people back to traditional news sources. Most young Australians say they don't feel represented or heard by traditional news organisations. They also feel the news mainstream outlets create isn't accessible to young people and doesn't focus on the issues that matter most to them. In our survey, 75% said news organisations have no idea what their lives are actually like, and 71% said they find it difficult to find news relevant to people their age.

A large body of research also shows news interest and engagement is closely associated with civic engagement. The more engaged people are with news, the more likely they are to become involved in community and social issues. I know from a previous Friendship Day, access by our children and grandchildren to age-inappropriate internet sites is a big concern for our MU members. The Government is looking to make more changes including fines to make the owners of technology more responsible. Also a couple of European countries are looking to implement the same changes in their countries.'

Thank you to the journalist at The Conversation who produced this very interesting article.

Ann Busch Social Issues & Actions Coordinator
MU Bunbury Diocesan

Never let your computer
know that you are in a hurry.



Computers can smell fear.
They slow down if they know that
you are running out
of time.

Dunsborough has been on holidays ...

Some readers may have been following on Facebook Rev'd Justine's trip to Japan, and President Judy has been cruising, but she got home in time to report. Thank you, Judy! Ed.

Five of our members attended the Lady Day Service at the Cathedral on the 24th March.

Following a busy March hosting the World Day of Prayer Service, working for our Parish Fete, hosting our "Cuppa on the Verandah", joining Busselton Branch at the Anglican Campsite for an afternoon of fellowship and Lady Day in Bunbury it was decided to cancel our April meeting. The meeting was due a few days after Easter and some members were away. Instead we encouraged those not away to support the "Cuppa on the Verandah" morning held the following week.

Our May meeting was an informal lunch together, with a review of upcoming events, and travel updates from the members who had been away.

Judy Lundie - President

Bunbury is busy again ...

As predicted March was a busy month! We enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at the Anglican Campsite with members from Busselton and Dunsborough and give warm thanks to the Busselton Branch for their generous hospitality. We were able to look at the "new" MU caravan which is really lovely, and as there had been a cancellation, one of our members and her family were able to take up the vacated time and spend a week there. She said it was wonderful.

Lady Day was a beautiful celebration and get-together. Our President Isobelle presented our new Diocesan Banner to Dean Darryl, and spoke at the end of the service. The guest speaker at lunch was the very inspiring Tracey Gray* from Frederick Irwin Anglican School in Mandurah. The delicious lunch was once again prepared by our very talented Lynne. We thanked CWA Eaton for their help on the day. It was a time of great fellowship.

On Mother's Day we were able to gift gorgeous bookmarks to the ladies in the Cathedral congregation and they were much appreciated. Many thanks to Diane for organising this.

We generally don't have an April meeting as it follows closely on the heels of Lady Day but in May we were able to celebrate Rev. Marion's 80th birthday and again we had an amazing cake made by Lynne! *See picture on the right.*

As the weather cools we are looking forward to a soup & sandwich lunch, a bring and buy stall and a talk from the Manager of Doors Wide Open, so hopefully our June meeting will be an interesting one.

Val Duff - President



* We are delighted that Ms Tracey Gray was ordained Deacon in February 2026. Ed.

From a recovering MU Chaplain - Reverend Cathie Broome

Greetings my sisters and brothers in Christ,

My sincere thanks for your ongoing love and support. I have felt so incredibly blessed and honoured by so many of you writing to me, sending me cards, texts and so on. It was so very special to know that you were praying for me, and humbling to know how much you care.

Please know that you have been in my thoughts and prayers and that I return from leave inspired by your dedication and love of God, one another and your neighbours.

During my recovery from major surgery I have had time to pray, be still and reflect. One of the things I reflected upon was the mission of Mothers Union; to actively support, through prayer and practical assistance, people, families and children who are sick, grieving, or experiencing adversity. Many of us are doers, we like to actively help. Others, due to age or illness, spend time in prayer or helping behind the scenes. Both are so very important, so please be encouraged.

So how have I spent this time away from ministry? Well initially it was a struggle, I am sure that I am not alone in not wanting to stop what I love, or spend time resting instead of helping. It's a good learning opportunity for us all as Christians, in finding peace during time away from your usual routine, such as work, volunteering or church commitments.

A couple of points to consider or reflect upon if you find yourself like I did recently unwell and needing time to recover -

Honouring the Body as a Temple: The Bible teaches that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Taking time away when we are unwell honours the physical limits God has set for humanity and prevents the sin of self-neglect.

Embracing the Theology of Rest: The concept of the Sabbath reveals that rest is a fundamental, innate right woven into the fabric of creation. God values rest so much He modelled it Himself on the seventh day of creation (Genesis 2:2) and commanded it for His people. Having a break while unwell is an extension of this holy rhythm of rest and recovery.

Practicing Humility and Dependence: Illness and ageing have a way of knocking us off our own pedestals, reminding us that the world does not entirely depend on our performance, or us being present. Being forced to step away and ask for help allows you to flex the "humility muscle" and teaches you to rely more deeply on God's strength rather than your own.

So what did I learn? Well it's back to the basics. Instead of viewing time off as wasted time, reframe it as a dedicated season to connect with God. Use quiet moments to reflect, pray for your community, church, family and entrust your health, burdens, and fatigue to Him.

So I leave you with these 3 encouraging scriptures to ponder that comforted me during my season of rest and recovery.

Psalm 46:10: "He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God...'"

Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Galatians 6:2: "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ."

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Friendship Day, or connecting with you via the weekly reflection.

May God continue to bless you my friends,

Love, Cathie

News from Busselton ...

Nine members travelled to Bunbury for the Lady Day service and lunch. It was most enjoyable and always good to socialise with members from other Branches.

Our Red Bench project is underway and making progress. The bench seat in St Mary's precinct garden is currently having an overdue makeover in line with the requirements of the Red Bench movement.



We are now having more activities following the 'business' part of our monthly meetings. In April Priscilla Broadbent organised a discussion about our favourite hymns - and what we would like to sing at Pentecost. 'Breathe on me , breath of God' was very popular, but there was a good mixture of the old and the new(ish).

In May our Treasurer, Marilyn Royer, led the worship, and prepared a session about the Wave of Prayer (Bunbury May 21-23) and Pentecost. She provided us with coloured paper scissors, printed white doves etc and we created small Pentecost 'banners'. These activities allowed members to enjoy fellowship while being active in a meaningful way. We then posted our mini-banners on the Family Centre notice board.

Above members fully engrossed in cutting out white doves for their cards.

... and from Boyup Brook

MU members were involved in leading the DV Sunday morning prayer service at St. Saviour's recently. The display, using a globe, signified that DV was a world-wide problem with the four candles showing Christ's love to all corners of the world.

The service was led by a MU member, another member led the intercessions using MU prayers supplied by Wendy, and the candles were lit by our four members. Parish members placed DV themed prayers on our prayer tree - an olive tree in the grounds of St. Saviours.

The news from Boyup Brook reminds us that it is probably never too soon to start preparing for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence .

This year it runs from globally from Wednesday November 25th to Thursday December 10th.



Mandurah is warming us up!

A big warm hello from Mandurah. We are almost half way through 2026 and life has been busy for Mandurah Branch. I commented in the Summer Edition that we had managed to fill all positions at the AGM. Sadly, we are still looking for a Secretary due to ill health. We managed to complete the program for 2026 with a variety of activities and some new ideas which have been a well received.

Our meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month and 3 times during 2026 there are 5 in the month so we decided to have a Cafe Afternoon on these extra Wednesdays. We had our first one in April which was well attended. A table at a local cafe was booked for 2pm and we were politely told they were about to close at 3.30pm. Lots of chatter and fun was had in true Mother's Union style. Not only are we supporting the local cafes, but also the chatter and laughter was good for the soul.

At our May meeting we had a Guest Speaker, Geoff Kingsford from the Prison Fellowship. Mandurah Mother's Union have assisted with The Angel Tree project which is part of the Prison Fellowship. Members purchase specific Christmas gifts for the children of prisoners and their carers to ensure Santa comes down their chimney. It is such a heart-warming activity and so important. Geoff is a wonderful speaker and passionate about his work. We were all inspired listening to his presentation.

We continue to participate in the Homemade Cards for Seniors Project. Members and people from our church spend an afternoon making Christmas, Birthday and Easter greeting cards. This is very popular and lots of fun. The cards are distributed to residents in Nursing Homes and recipients of Meals on Wheels. These cards are for people who may not get any love around these special events. It is such a joyful activity and the demand is growing weekly. Through the year we have made over 1000 cards.

We recently held our Autumn Fete at Christ's Church. Mother's Union provide Devonshire Teas for the public as well as ensure our hardworking volunteers on the stalls had something to eat and a hot cuppa. \$864.30 was raised from selling morning tea. Great effort!

During my first year as President I set a few goals for myself. My first was to encourage more members to join our group. Like most volunteer roles these days many have time, but also grey hair and declining health! But I am happy to report our numbers have increased to 21.

The first year of leading our Mother's Union Branch has had many challenges and I continue to learn. I have had great support from members and our parish and I can honestly say I love being part of Mother's Union and all it represents.

I just want to finish on something I learned this last month. When I assisted making up Joy Bags earlier in the year I thought it was a nice thing to do, wrapping gifts, prayers and pretty ribbons...until I received a Joy Bag after my son was faced with some devastating health challenges. I read every word of every prayer every day. I opened the gifts so reverently. It was such a consuming feeling of love and support. God Bless every member of Mandurah Mother's Union.

Maggie Goss - President

Prayer and Spirituality

It is wonderful to report that 3 people for whom we have been praying over the past months are all on the path to recovery.

Thank you, Robyn Chalk, Prayer and Spirituality Coordinator, for keeping us up to date on the Circle of Prayer and other P&S matters.

100 year celebration for Katanning member

On 23rd March 2026 our beloved MU member Mary Wilson reached her 100th birthday. Tom and I, Cynthia and Pearl and others were invited to attend a special celebration held at Rosewood Care Home on the 21st.

Unfortunately, as it happened Tom had a medical appointment at Albany on the 19th, and as we all went down to Albany for MU Lady Day Celebration at St John's on the 20th none of us was able to attend Mary's very special celebration.



Mary spent more than 70 years in Katanning and was deeply connected to the community. In the early 90's Mary moved from the family farm into Katanning and became a stalwart of St Andrews church. Mary is a mother of six, a grandmother of 13 and a great grandmother of six soon to be eight.

She was a member of MU Katanning for many years and much loved by all of us who knew her.

Sylvia Spicer - Secretary

JOIN US- JOIN IN



This is an outline for a talk featured on the UK Mothers Union website. It is part of the '150 Years' resources and is designed to be used to encourage people to understand and become part of the Mothers Union community.

'Let us pray: All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen.'

I wonder if you've heard that prayer before? Mary Sumner, the founder of Mothers' Union, wrote it in 1876, the year that she started what has become a women-led, international Christian movement with over 4 million members in 84 countries. Her prayer, her vision, her faith and her call for action are still so relevant today. Mary's vision was a practical approach to support the women in her parish, many of whom were primarily concerned about getting enough food on the table so their children would not starve. She believed that women could all support one another in motherhood regardless of class, age and status. She also recognised that the work of many women in the home was not fully acknowledged and so she also reached out to men – helping them to be aware of what women did and to recognise the need to show respect and love.

Although not a naturally confident woman, Mary was a woman of great faith. It was through her faith that she overcame her nervousness to speak out to inspire others. She was also firm in her belief that through faith and sharing what was in her heart, God would do the rest. The principles on which her work focused included the recognition that faith is the foundation of family life. Faith and prayer continue to be at the heart of everything that Mothers' Union members do, whether they live in Britain and Ireland, or in one of our many global countries. Did you know that every day at 12 noon, Mothers' Union members pray, either together or alone, creating a wave of prayer around the world across all the time zones?

For anyone with access to Facebook, we also pray together each day (except Saturdays) at 12 noon (UK time) on the MU Facebook page led by a team of MU members – it's amazing to join across time zones!

This year we celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union. And what inspired Mary Sumner to create Mothers' Union? Her role as a mother helped to shape her views on the importance of parenting and the challenges that parents faced. But it was as a grandmother that she was first inspired to create a union of mothers in her own parish and then beyond. Above all else, Mary Sumner wanted to create an organisation for women that brought together women from all backgrounds to build a network that would support all mothers as they brought up their children in the Christian faith.

From its earlier origins, Mothers' Union has been an advocate for change. Examples of campaigning over the years includes:

- Stopping children collecting alcohol from public houses for their families
- Raising the minimum age of marriage for girls from 12 year to 16 years
- Together with lobbying efforts from others, the Family Allowances Act was passed in 1945 with payments made directly to mothers as opposed to men
- Increasing the widow's allowance earnings limit
- Gained consultative status at the United Nations on poverty, gender equality, and HIV/Aids
- Advising on the age appropriateness of video games – remains today
- Joined the Make Poverty History campaign and the Jubilee debt campaign advocating for debt relief in the world's poorest countries
- Led a long-standing campaign for the right to request flexible working arrangements for all parents – this led to the Work and Families Act 2006
- Launch of Bye Buy Childhood, calling on government and marketers to value and protect children from exploitative marketing – this led to the Children and Families Act 2014

The fundamental focus of Mothers' Union has remained steady over the last 150 years – demonstrating faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of the family in its many forms, working with people of all faiths and none. What has changed is how inclusive Mothers' Union has become – originally open to married mothers only, now anyone who is baptised can become a member – women and men, regardless of whether they are parents.

What do you know about the Mothers' Union programmes in Britain and Ireland and around the world? In Britain & Ireland, we work supporting the vulnerable in our local communities through projects and national programmes; from hospitals and food banks, to raising awareness on domestic abuse and modern slavery.

Our four flagship national programmes in Britain & Ireland include:

Domestic Abuse – this programme builds on our RISE UP campaign and accreditation scheme for members. The letters of RISE UP stand for Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite and Pray. Members work closely with local domestic violence refuges, providing essentials such as toiletries, food and clothing for women and children who have been forced to flee their home due to violence. Some churches have also joined this programme.

Away From It All (AFIA) – running for 60 years, this scheme supports families through the provision of holidays and trips, offering much needed respite to people unable to afford or access a break due to difficult circumstances. Some families may be facing adversity, health problems, economic hardship, bereavement, health issues or other life-changing circumstances.

Prisons Work - Research also shows that maintaining contact between people in prison and their families and friends is essential not just for the well-being of prisoners, their resettlement and reduced rates of reoffending following the sentence, but also for the development, wellbeing

and social inclusion of children. So much of our work centres on supporting the continued connection between people in prison and their families. Our members assist in prison visitors' centres, run support groups, family days and prison creches to help families with a loved one in prison in supporting and communicating with children and preparing for prison visits. In some prisons, courses and parenting groups are also available, with members supporting the prison chaplaincy and upholding all the prisons in prayer. HM Prison Low Newton is proud to have its own MU branch.

Modern Slavery – working in partnership with the Clewer Initiative, this new programme will raise awareness about Modern Slavery in our local communities and provide access to relevant agencies that help. Modern Slavery is more widespread than anyone imagines, and where we see it, we aim to help. Mothers' Union works within local communities, to support people who are vulnerable; reflecting the needs of today's society and targeting help where it is most needed.

Our global programmes include:

Savings Groups and Financial Education - This specifically focuses on building knowledge and skills in business development through a community savings group formation for members. As a result, women are now gaining financial independence, having more autonomy to manage their lives, and are participating in household decision-making, as well as community politics and leadership. The skills learnt and businesses formed stay within the communities and are passed on to family and other community members. Savings groups meet on a regular basis and save small amounts of money per person into a larger account which can be borrowed as a loan with interest to establish businesses or to develop the community further, such as building a tap to access clean water more easily.

Literacy Education - The programme uses participatory methods to enable communities to acquire basic literacy and numeracy skills whilst discussing and planning action on their daily issues and challenges. Our literacy circles are open to everyone, crossing the boundaries of religion, age, gender, or tribe, enabling community unity. The programme has been especially effective in reaching the most marginalised in society, including groups previously discriminated against and displaced communities. "...In Burundi & South Sudan, MU members have brought literacy learning to over 250,000 women and men in just over a decade."

Parenting Programme – The programme originated in Britain and sees local facilitators deliver an 8–12-week course with community groups to discuss different topics and share parenting experiences. Locally relevant resources guide groups through sessions that cover the highs and lows of parenting, the parent-child relationship and sensitive issues such as sex education. The programme empowers individuals and brings together communities from varying ethnicities and backgrounds to overcome common parenting challenges collectively. "...I learned how to speak to my children instead of beating them."

Gender Based Violence Prevention and Awareness Globally - Mothers' Union practically meets the needs of those affected by gender-based violence in many ways across the world:

- In the DRC, MU members work closely with survivors, particularly women and girls affected by sexual violence as a result of conflict, by providing emotional support, meeting basic needs such as housing, and equipping women to become economically empowered.
- The funding of counselling for survivors of domestic violence and rape in war-torn countries such as Sudan.
- The running of Bible study sessions, looking at what the Bible says about physical and sexual violence, encouraging women to understand that they are made in the

- image of God, rebuilding self-esteem, worth and confidence, and breaking stigma and shame.
- Advocating with key leaders, decision-makers and governments to bring about necessary change, including changes to local and national law and policies.
- Campaigning for legislation which prevents gender-based violence by tackling root causes including gender inequality and harmful norms and attitudes about gender, as well as calling for all forms of violence against women and girls to be outlawed everywhere.

As you can see, there is so much that Mothers' Union members are doing in their communities around the world, demonstrating their faith in action. We are a unique member-based organisation celebrating 150 years and looking forward to the future. Jesus says, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14) This is a call to let our witness be visible, not just for our own benefit, but to draw others into the light. Our Mothers' Union theme is 'Join Us, Join In!' and is an invitation to people to step into that light and become part of a community that is actively living out Christ's call to justice, peace, and love. It is an acknowledgment that the work of Mothers' Union is not just about individual transformation or isolated acts of charity, it is about creating a movement of people, united in faith and mission, working together to bring about tangible change.

Diocese of Bunbury 2026 Events and Dates of Importance

June	22nd	Executive member reports to all executive
July		<i>Public School holidays July 3rd -19th</i>
	1st	Executive meeting by Zoom
	2nd	Friendship Day Bunbury
August	9th	Mary Sumner Day
	13th	Notice of AGM and request for agenda items to branches
	19th	Mustard Tree contributions to Editor
September	21st	Branch annual reports to Diocesan Secretary
	21st	Executive annual reports to Diocesan Secretary
	25th	Agenda items for AGM to Diocesan Secretary
		<i>Public School holidays September 25th - October 12th</i>
		<i>Synod October 2nd -3rd</i>
October		Branch annual meetings to be held this month
	5th	Annual report book to be distributed (electronic copy)
	12th	AGM agenda to all branches and executive
	14th	Executive meeting Dunsborough
	15th	Country Rally Dunsborough
	19th	Mustard Tree contributions to Editor
November	25th -Dec 10th	16 Days of Activism (Prayer Diary p 95)
	30th	Branch annual returns to Diocesan Secretary
December		<i>Public School holidays commence December 18th</i>
	25th	Christmas Day (Friday)
	31st	Financial year ends for branches