

HOPE

Definition:

- Feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen.
- Feeling of trust.
- A person or thing that may help or save someone.
- Grounds for believing that something good may happen.

Quotes to ponder:

“God’s proven faithfulness is our sure hope.”

Vanessa Bennett, Assistant Bishop, Canberra and Goulburn. Hope 25 Lent Study

“We as God’s people look back to the sure salvation that was won for us by Jesus and look forward to the hope we have in resurrection.”

Chris Jones, Assistant Bishop, Tasmania. Hope 25 Lent Study

“The prayer over the ashes on Ash Wednesday is an acknowledgement that we owe our lives to God, who created us to serve God and each other. We turn to and seek refuge in the one we declare ‘my refuge and my fortress: my God in whom I trust’ (Psalm 91:2) Hope is not found by trusting in the things of the world, Hope is found by entrusting our lives into God’s hands.”

Rev Justine Richmond, sermon, First Sunday in Lent, 9th March, 2025

“For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease.”

Job 14:7

“May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

Psalms 33:22

“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

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:13

“A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they will never sit in.”

Greek Proverb

“What differentiates hope from a wish? Think about the lottery. Does one hope to win, or wish to win? How about a promotion, a pregnancy, or a proposal? Both hoping and wishing contain desire, but for wishing, that is where it ends. Hope goes deeper. The strong desire for something good to happen is coupled with a reason to believe that it will.

We see then how vital hope is, and why it's such a beautiful gift. Desire without hope is empty, but together they bring joy, expectancy, and peace. When we put our hope in Christ, he becomes our reason to believe good things will happen. He is our hope."
From 'A little God time for women': a daily devotional book, 24th January.

Reflection:

"May we bloom where we are planted."

As we take a moment to think of the impact that we have around the world as Mothers' Union, may we remember the lives that are touched daily, at all hours of the day when we pray for one another.

God has planted each of us where we need to be.

God has placed us here in God's time and in God's way. As we are scattered like seeds in our communities, we are part of the new growth springing to life. God brings us new growth through the resurrection power of Christ and through the strength of the Holy Spirit.

We are a people of hope.

Let's reflect this unshakable hope together as Mothers' Union.



Prayer:

"Gracious Lord, today we lift up mothers (families) everywhere,
especially those who may not know you.
Surround them with your love and grace,
providing strength and encouragement in their challenges.
May they find hope and support in their journey.
Let them experience your presence and the comfort of community."

Mothers' Union Prayer Diary, 11th March.

Hope 25 Collect:

God of Hope
you call on us to be your witnesses in this uncertain world:
by your Spirit awaken in us a true vision of your kingdom,
a greater certainty of our salvation,
and a deeper dedication to your service;

That through our words and actions the same Spirit
may bring many who are lost to be found,
and for them to celebrate the hope
that we can only have in Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray.
Amen