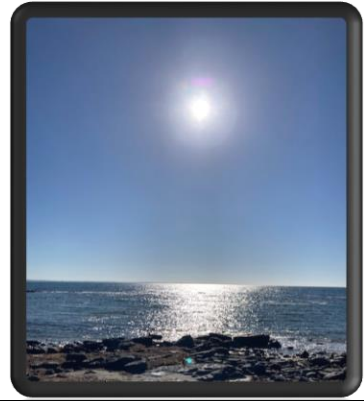




Wendy's Writings January 2024



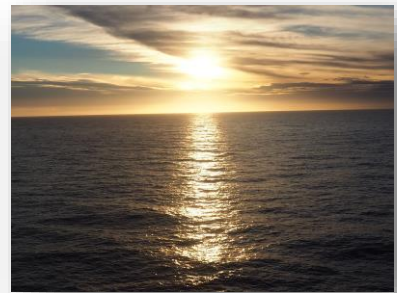
**'Be salt and light:
Shine Brightly'**

You are a seasoning agent - you can bring the distinctive flavour of God's values to all of life.

Dear members and friends,

I hope and pray that you have had a peaceful and restful Christmas season and are ready for all that the New Year will bring.

When I commenced writing my newsletter on the first Friday in 2024, I selected the photo to the right, of the sun setting over the ocean on the east coast of Argentina (taken almost exactly 6 years ago), as my image which speaks to our 2024 theme for Mothers Union in our diocese.



Early on this Epiphany morning Ian and I parked our motor home overlooking Flinders Bay in Augusta, from where we broadcast morning prayer for today on our parish Facebook page.

As we parked the image at the top of the page, of the sun rising over the water, presented itself to me in what I would describe as a 'God moment' - the sun shining brightly in our diocese as a new day dawned.

I share with you once again my thoughts on how we should begin to approach our theme this year:

In late October I attended the opening of the inaugural art exhibition at Frederick Irwin Anglican School. In the program for the event, the Head of Practical and Creative Arts, Mr Rod Silvey, asked that we not walk past each piece of art but rather that we take time to look, take time to appreciate the time and effort of the piece, take time to connect, and take the time to let the message and story enter our inner self.

I would encourage us all to use this reflective approach as a first step in exploring our 2024 theme. By taking time to sit with the idea of being salt and light, to not rush in with our responses, but rather to look, to connect, to absorb, we will be much better placed to 'be salt and light; to shine brightly'.

As previously announced, our theme song will be 'This Little Light of Mine', written in the 1920's. While there are many different lyrics available, here are the three verses that we will use:

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!
 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!
 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine!
 Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine!
 Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine!
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

The 2024 Prayer Diaries have arrived and we have begun distribution by hand delivery where possible for giving out to members. If yours had not yet been received please be assured that we will get them to you as soon as possible. If you have someone from your branch or parish visiting Bunbury who could collect them, please let myself or Beth Wootton know.

Bishop Ian has just sent his January newsletter to parishes for distribution. I hope you will have an opportunity to read the report from Mama Selline about Mothers Union in the Diocese of Kapsabet. Please continue to uphold Liz Byleveld in your prayers as she finalises arrangements for her journey to Kapsabet in just over a week's time to undertake mission work with Mothers' Union there.

Can I ask that you take photos, where appropriate, of any activities that you undertake during the coming year, whether it be a branch based activity or members involved in parish and community happenings. As well as sharing these photos throughout the year, I may also use some of them in May for our diocesan display at our state gathering with our world president and in our annual report which will be published in October.

I remind you that our Australian President, Dr. Robin Ray will be visiting us in March and an itinerary has been prepared to provide an opportunity for as many members as possible to meet with Robin. The opportunities for you to meet Robin are as follows:

March	Activity
16	Albany: Lady Day Service, BYO lunch, AMUA Conversation led by Robin.
18	Bunbury: Diocesan Executive meeting
19	Bunbury: Lady Day Service and Lunch at St Boniface Cathedral AMUA Conversation led by Robin
18	Mandurah: AMUA Prayer book service, BYO lunch, AMUA Conversation led by Robin.

Every blessing

Wendy Mabey
Bunbury Diocesan President,
Anglican Mothers' Union of Australia



Praying globally – serving locally
Supporting family life
Advocating for social justice