

Wendy's Writings

April 2023



*Growing in love
for one another*

Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Luke 1.38a

Dear members and friends,

The above sentence comes from our Lady Day Gospel reading. As members of Mothers' Union we are called to be servants of the Lord. One of the ways we do this is to commit ourselves to prayer. Mary Sumner House has invited members from Zone C to submit prayers for the 2024 Prayer Diary:

From our Australian President Robin:

We have been invited to write the short prayers for the Worldwide Prayer Diary for 2024. I would be really great if we could contribute to the diary that we all use regularly knowing that we are prayerfully connecting with members worldwide. Please note the theme: Serving our communities

From Jeanette at MSH:

We are starting to gather prayers for the annual Prayer diary for 2024 and are asking Zone C if you would feel able to write prayers on the theme of Serving our Communities.

The timeline for this is for MSH to receive the prayers back by the end of May.

Attached to my newsletter are the guidelines for writing prayers. Contributions need to be sent to me by mid-May so that I can forward our diocesan response as a collective to Jeanette.

Lady Day was celebrated at the Cathedral in Bunbury on Friday 24th March. Some 65 members and friends were booked to attend, with a few being unable to join us on the day. I thank Bishop Ian for being with us to lead our service and for celebrating the Eucharist with us. Unfortunately, Rev'd Justine Richmond was unable to be with us as our guest speaker due to Covid. Instead I stepped into my national executive role and gave a presentation on Overseas and Northern Outreach at an Australian level.

Photos of our Banner Parade and lunch were included in Bishop Ian's April edition of his newsletter 'To the People'. If you have any photos of the day I would appreciate receiving an electronic copy.

We were only able to present three awards in acknowledgement of years of service during our Lady Day lunch. These were to members of our Bunbury Branch: Iris English (10 yrs); June Francis (15 yrs); Margaret Henderson (25 yrs). Over coming months arrangements will be made for myself and other members of executive to present awards to those who were unable to be present during our Lady Day lunch to receive their certificate. I will present 25 year awards to two members of Mandurah during this coming month, and to a Collie member at our Friendship Day at the end of June. I will acknowledge these members in my newsletters when their awards are presented. At our March meeting the executive discussed how and when we might best present future awards. I look forward to discussing our thoughts with members at our Friendship Day.

Our 2023 Mothers' Union Diocese of Bunbury Friendship Day will be held in Collie on Friday 30th June. Please mark this date in your diary. We hope as many as our members as possible will be able to make the journey to Collie where we will be hosted by the Parish and by our Lone members from Collie. More details on the program and timing for the day will be available in May.

Our executive is still seeking an editor for our quarterly magazine, The Mustard Tree. Under the current AMUA Guidelines it is a requirement that each diocese produces a magazine for members. It isn't a requirement that the editor of our magazine be a member of our executive and we would be more than happy to receive an offer from someone willing to edit our magazine who does not feel able to accept a position on executive. They do not even have to be a Mothers' Union member.

In past years diocesan presidents have been asked on an annual basis to fill in an online survey of activities undertaken in the previous twelve months that have contributed to the betterment of the lives of members of the community. This was quite cumbersome and did not allow the provision of meaningful input or provide timely and meaningful access to the reported data. Thanks to the efforts of a member, Mothers' Union worldwide now has an online platform 'MU Live' which diocesan presidents can sign into and provide reports on activities of the diocese and branches on an ongoing basis. So far I have submitted a report on our caravan at the Anglican Campsite at Busselton and the sponsored holidays provided by branches and the diocesan executive and I plan to shortly submit a report on the verandah morning tea offered by members of Dunsborough Branch to members of the community. I would be delighted to be able to submit reports from all our branches on their community outreach activities. Please share your stories with me.

At present I can access the reports submitted from Australia. Over time it will be possible to access reports from dioceses around the world. It is hoped that in sharing in this way we can learn from each other's experiences through communicating and celebrating the differences that we make through our activities.

Every blessing,

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



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