

Mothers' Union newsletter ... Lady Day Edition, March 2020

Dear MU members and friends,

With this newsletter, I send you greetings for Lady Day ...The Feast of the Annunciation March 25th. This is probably one of the most important days in the Christian calendar, for without the Blessed Virgin Mary's agreement to God's amazing challenge, nothing much would have happened. No Christmas, No Good Friday, No Easter and No Pentecost! Because of Mary's courage, we can celebrate the Incarnation of God in the human form of Jesus of Nazareth.

Lady Day has always been important to Mothers' Union, and has become our annual day of prayer, intercession and thanksgiving for our families and our motherhood. I think we were all looking forward to our celebration in St. Paul's Cathedral, with its stirring parade of MU banners and a sermon from Rev Anne Kennedy, the National President of MU Australia. Still there will be other days to celebrate the Annunciation, made all the more precious by what we have lost this year.

However, there is a chance for you to share in a Lady Day service, coming from St. John's Cathedral Brisbane, via live streaming on the Anglican Mothers' Union Australia website.

Live -Streaming of Lady Day Services on AMUA website

You are invited to watch the Live-streaming of Lady Day Services

on <https://www.muaustralia.org.au/>

Wednesday 25th March

St John's Cathedral Brisbane

10.00am Queensland (Australian
Eastern Standard Time)

11.00am NSW, ACT, Victoria, Tasmania

10.30am South Australia, Northern
Territory

8.00am Western Australia

<https://www.muaustralia.org.au/>

To watch this service at 11am, click on the link in red above.

This will take you to the AMUA home page. Scroll down to News & Events, then click on Lady Day Services Live-streamed-Wednesday 25th. Do this a few minutes before the service starts. The best part is that is like TV without commercials and you will already know the story! Let's try to use technology to overcome the isolation we feel due to the social distancing aspects of the current pandemic. And you can sit as close to the computer screen as you like and sing along to the hymns. Do give this a try. Love and peace, Irene

A prayer for the Annunciation

*Give thanks to the Lord of Lords:
His love endures forever.*

*Teach us obedience, Lord
In every part of our lives
Ears to hear your word
Hands to do your work
Feet to walk your path
A heart for all your people
A mouth to shout your praise
A child like faith
Humility
Confidence
That says
To the possible
And to the impossible*

*I am the Lord's Servant
May it be to me as you have said. Amen*

Mothers' Union Sunday

This was last Sunday March 22nd. Due to the stress of a final service under difficult circumstances we were not able to distribute the Simnel cake made by Phoebe & Elizabeth. We thank them for their generosity.

MU is an organisation which cares...

Knitting for others

If you are someone who knits or have friends who do MU in the Melbourne Diocese is supporting the following local projects:

Beanies and mittens for the *Mission to Seafarers*. Adult sizes and colours welcome;

Knitting or crocheting quilts for bassinets and cots at the *Monash Medical Centre*. Please do not use pure wool as this will felt when washed;

Washable quilts in fabric are also welcome, same sizes and bright colours.

Corry Leaver has a good pattern for knitted quilts which she can send to you. Contact her via the MU contacts list attached to the email.

Joan West will coordinate collection of these knitted items & quilts.

Toilet Roll Bank

To help those who have had trouble buying toilet rolls in the selfish shopping rush to hoard this item, the Parish Office has a small number of donated rolls for those in need. Each roll will sell for 50c.

If you or your family could spare one roll, please feel free to donate this at the office.

Alms Baskets

While formal church services have been temporally suspended, please remember those people we have supported through the alms baskets over the years... families suffering economic stress, women feeling violent relationships, migrants & refugees seeking a safe place to settle and other very needy people in our community.

If you could shop for one more item to donate, this would continue our ministry to those in need. Please leave items near Parish Office.

MU is an organisation which prays ...

Whilst we cannot meet as a Mothers' Union group during the current corona virus crisis, we can join together in prayer. I have already sent email copies of the excellent prayer from MU UK which I invite you to pray at midday each day that you can, or at another time that is convenient.

There are specific members of our group who need to be supported by prayer. Many of our older members are very anxious and afraid. Many of us are totally overwhelmed by the cloud of information about this disease and the terrifying statistics on infection and death rates. **Please pray for those who live in fear, and for their protection and safety.**

Many of our members have compromised immune systems, forcing them to self-isolate and thus losing contact with other people. This loneliness can cause depression. **Please pray for those who live alone, those with limited mobility and those with limited communications skills.**

We have been specifically asked to pray for some people...

Margaret Noblett whose surgery has been delayed and for Bill in respite care;
Margaret Tingate awaiting confirmation of her surgery;

Pat Crossley who is recovering from a long period of ill health;

Glenda Biddle with serious health issues;
Nora and Robert Ashe with ongoing health problems;

For those suffering from dementia and mental health problems and their families & medical staff who care for them.



*Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name you are mine...
You are precious in my sight... and I love you
ISA 42:1...4*