

Let us not turn from the world, but be engaged within it. Where there is injustice may we find ways to eradicate it; where peoples' human rights are so exploited that they have no life to call their own – let us fight for equality and dignity. May our politics be based upon Gospel values, our motives be to serve our God alone, and through our God, to transform this world.

AMEN

Romans 8 verse 28 “ We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”

Birmingham President: Jackie Brocklebank and C.D.C. Sandra Golding
We light a candle for ourselves and our work and witness here.

We give thanks for our Street Party outside the Cathedral to celebrate 140 years of Mothers' Union and the Queen's 90th birthday. An opportunity to tell others about the work of Mother's Union in Birmingham. We pray for Jackie in her leadership role and for Sandra as she works with branches to support projects within in their communities e.g. lunch clubs, job club. We pray too for the new items included in the knitting project particularly for people with dementia.

Christ has no body now on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours. Ours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to earth. Ours are the feet by which He is to go about doing good and ours are the hands by which He is to bless us now. AMEN

John 15 verse 13 “Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends “

We may sing a hymn: Go forth and tell O Church of God awake

Final Prayer: We go from this place rejoicing to share the love of our faithful God with the world He came to save. Amen.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Birmingham

Wave of Prayer 15th -17th January 2017 Faith in Action

Birmingham Mothers' Union has links with these dioceses:-

Seychelles in the Indian Ocean,
Bukedi in Uganda
Enugu in Nigeria
Marathwada in India



We also remember our diocesan links with the church in Malawi and our link with Peterborough.

Leader 1 Samuel 7 verse 12 “Thus far the Lord has helped us.”
We now look to the future trusting that God will continue to help us as we share His love in the world through our Christian care for families and communities. We do this by actively putting our faith into action to serve God and His world. 2017 is a year for us to highlight the ways in which we already live out our faith through action; it is also an opportunity for us to consider new ways in which to do so, being aware of the changing needs of society and always looking to God for His guidance and provision.

Loving Lord, we thank You for Your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share Your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by Your Spirit may we be united in prayer and worship and in love and service reach out as Your hands across the world.

In Jesus name. Amen

We may sing a hymn: Praise my soul the King of Heaven

Seychelles (Indian Ocean) President: Mrs Helene Prosper

A candle may be lit as we pray for the work in Seychelles

Membership in the Seychelle has been in flux with elderly members dying but there have been several new members. Mothers' Union members run community and individual projects e.g. adopting a family that was facing difficulties and helping them "get on their feet again". They also help with baptism and marriage preparation. We pray for Helene as she looks forward to someone else taking over as diocesan president and that the present Mothers' Union members would be more committed.

**God, help me to cherish the last time I used my hands to touch someone with love,
To hold someone with comfort, to reach out to someone with compassion to make something constructive to place power into another's hands
So that I may always touch, hold, reach out, make and place ; and let my hands lead me in a life of action where my words may follow. AMEN**

Isaiah 40 verse 31 "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."

Bukedi (Uganda) President: Betty Nyende C.D.C. Constance Adeka.

A candle may be lit as we pray for Bukedi diocese.

Constance is running an Eagle process (almost the same as C.C.M.P) which deals with mind-set change among the churches and is working with 16 groups in 8 churches. The group members have come up with Church projects e.g. church house construction, buying chairs and using available resources and individual projects e.g. piggery, poultry and vegetable growing. This is enabling them to have better family livelihoods. We pray for Constance and for her health as Bukedi Diocese hosts a regional conference (consisting of 9 dioceses) with 1,500 members in December.

Living God, we come to you with great gifts to offer because we are ordinary people. What we have we bring with the hope of making others feel satisfied, and worthy, and loved. We offer our time and our talents we offer our hands and our hearts. And we make our offerings with expectation, with the faith, and the hope that the fruit of good works may grow. AMEN

John 15 verse 16 "You did not choose me, I chose you and gave you this work; to go and produce fruits that will last. Then the Father will give you anything you ask in my name."

Enugu (Nigeria) President: Joyce Chukwuma

A candle may be lit for Enugu diocese as we pray for them

With a large and diverse membership Mothers' Union in Nigeria tackles many issues from fair trade to peace and reconciliation. Some of these issues are drug use and trafficking, violence between ethnic groups and the plight of the widows and orphans. We pray for Joyce and other members as they focus on income generating activities and opportunities for people to move forward and improving the rights of women and children.

Thank you Lord for showing us that love has no boundaries or end but listens, has patience, compassion, grace, and gives without counting cost. Thank you for granting us a heart for those you love, and a willingness to step out in faith and service. Thank you Lord for showing us true love can be ours to know and give. AMEN

Hebrews 10 verse 22 "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with a full assurance of faith".

Marathwada (North India)

President: Mrs Kalindi of the Women's Fellowship (which is affiliated to Mothers' Union)

A candle may be lit for members and their work

Speaking out against gender violence and encouraging a new generation of empowered women are among the key goals of Women's Fellowship for Christian Service in India. Members are involved in income generating activities to support vulnerable communities. We pray for Neeja Prasaad the Provincial President as she coordinates the work and is involved in leadership training and working hard to bring in younger members.