



**WAVE OF PRAYER SERVICE 2023**  
**29TH JUNE - 1ST JULY**

We start our service with **Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer:**

**All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen.**

Lord, we bring before you praise, fellowship and joy for our link Dioceses across the world. EASTERN ZAMBIA – MOMBASA – EKITI WEST – GWADWALADA – TEMOTU and our own Diocese of LEICESTER. Bind us together in mutual love and support as we uphold one another in prayer.

God your name is known everywhere, all over the earth people praise you. Your right hand is full of goodness. (Psalm 48:10)

Lord of all the earth, we come to worship with thankful hearts.

**Let us praise his name together. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN - Let all the world in every corner sing.

[https://youtu.be/q2l6qCh9Y\\_U](https://youtu.be/q2l6qCh9Y_U)

READING - Ephesians 3: 14-21

In this wave of prayer, we pray for all our sisters and brothers overseas. Lord, we pray that you bless them, and the work of the Mothers' Union, as they strive to pass on skills so that others may gain knowledge to better their lives and environment. Surround them with your love and give them strength in times which may be difficult and as they overcome new daily challenges. Amen.

## **EASTERN ZAMBIA**

We pray for all members and their families in EASTERN ZAMBIA

We pray for the interim committee running Mothers' Union in the diocese of Eastern Zambia. We pray too for the new Mothers' Union diocesan chaplain, Fr Cornelius Chalve. He is both the parish priest of Katete and also chaplain of the joint Anglican-RC St Francis hospital in his parish. Our correspondent in Leicester diocese is Jeannie Brightwell who hears news from Georgina Banda, the former Mothers' Union diocesan president of Eastern Zambia. Georgina lives in Mfuwe parish, which is the gateway to South Luangwa National Park. This is one of the greatest parks in Africa, known for the density and variety of its game and for the beauty of its landscape.

Zambia is predominantly a Christian country, with Anglicans making up around 2% of the population. The diocese of Eastern Zambia is one of the five Anglican dioceses in Zambia within the church of the Province of Central Africa. It includes Chipata, the provincial capital near the Malawi border. On Eastern Zambia's Southern border is Mozambique. Many Mothers' Union branches in Eastern Zambia meet weekly, members' ages varying from around 35 to 86 years. At the moment, they are holding classes in "Domestic Skills".

### **LET US PRAY**

Loving Lord, we thank you for the privilege of being linked with the diocese of Eastern Zambia. We give thanks that we are making some progress towards keeping in touch with Mothers' Union there.

We pray for the election of the new Mothers' Union diocesan president held at this time, that the results may be fair and free, and that the whole committee may be enabled to settle down and continue faithfully in their work.

We pray for the branch meetings held throughout Eastern Zambia. We pray for the current classes in Domestic Skills, that the skills learned may enable Mothers' Union members to realise their full potential.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

### **SILENCE FOR REFLECTION**

READING - Mark 12:28-31

## **MOMBASA**

We pray for all members and their families in MOMBASA.

We pray for Rev. Martha Mwero, the Mothers' Union Diocesan President and Phoebe Maine, the Diocesan Links Co-ordinator, corresponding with Margaret Watts of the Leicester Diocese.

Mombasa is located on the Indian Ocean, known as the white and blue city.

It is classed as a historical trading centre, a very important port for trade across the Indian Ocean.

Prior to becoming of such importance, the area was once the site of settlements engaged in farming, fishing, and local trading. Mombasa is situated on a coral line island in a bay of the Indian Ocean. The island is linked to the mainland municipal territory of 100 sq. miles by causeway, bridge and ferry. It serves as the market for the region's agricultural products (sisal, cotton, sugar, kapok, coconuts, fruits and vegetables) and exports many of these. Industries include ship building and repair, metal and cement works, sugar processing, fertilisers, plant and oil refinery. The old city is strongly middle eastern with narrow streets and high houses, with carved ornamental balconies.

There is a magnificent Cathedral situated in Mombasa, known as the Anglican Church of Kenya, there are also many other places of worship in the city, serving the diverse communities, many of which are Christian denominations.

### **LET US PRAY**

Loving Lord, we thank you for the privilege of being linked with the Diocese of Mombasa. We give thanks that we are able to correspond in friendship and fellowship, sharing with our sisters our ideals and cultures. Bless the members of Mombasa Mothers' Union in their daily lives and work in their communities, caring for the sick, helping those less fortunate and giving encouragement for the challenges which lie ahead. Enable the key workers Martha and Phoebe to reach out to the many Mothers' Union members, supporting, enabling and praying for the service they give in God's name.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

### **SILENCE FOR REFLECTION**

READING - Philippians 4:4-7

## **GWADWALADA and EKITI WEST in NIGERIA.**

We pray for all members and their families in GWADWALADA and EKITI WEST.

The church of the Province of Nigeria is an autonomous church in the Anglican Communion. It separated itself from the rest of the Anglican Communion and, at the present time, there is still no communication between central Mothers' Union and Nigeria. However, we are linked with the dioceses of Gwagwalada and Ekiti West and we pray for Mothers' Union members in these two dioceses.

Nigeria is situated in Western Africa and is the seventh most populous country in the world. There are currently over 220 million inhabitants. The population has increased rapidly over the last five decades due to very high birth rates and child mortality dropping rapidly. Nigeria is a country one tenth the size of the United States.

In January of this year, in Gwagwalada diocese, the bishop, Rt Rev'd Moses Tabwaye, held 21 days of fasting, prayers and revival culminating in an anointing service in Holy Trinity cathedral, Gwagwalada. Mothers' Union played a significant part in this event.

### LET US PRAY

Loving Lord, we thank you for the privilege of being linked with the dioceses of Gwagwalada and Ekiti West. Bless their members of Mothers' Union who are very active in creating opportunities for women and young girls to reach their full potential, working alongside the Women's Guild. We acknowledge the rift between Nigeria and the rest of the Anglican Communion and pray that Mothers' Union may be able to help towards reconciliation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

### SILENCE FOR REFLECTION.

READING - 1 John 4:7-12

HYMN - Brother sister let me serve you

<https://youtu.be/OJahFRDrSCs>

## **DIOCESE OF TEMOTU, in the Solomon Islands.**

We pray for all members and their families in TEMOTU and all the SOLOMONS.

Although keeping in touch with such a remote area of the South Pacific is very difficult, we receive information bi-monthly from the Melanesian Mission Agency which provides support to the Anglican Church of Melanesia through, prayer, people and giving. The Anglican province of Melanesia covers the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia.

Temotu is the Easternmost province of the Solomon Islands and it has the lowest population of all their provinces. It consists of two chains of islands which run parallel to each other from the North West to the South East. There is a tropical rainforest climate. As recently as this March cyclones Judy and Kevin struck the province, resulting in significant damage to breadfruit trees and other sources of livelihood, as well as damage to shelter and water sources. The outlying islands of Temotu are some of the worst affected by storm surges and sea level rise.

### **LET US PRAY**

Loving Lord, we thank you for the privilege of being linked with the diocese of Temotu, and we pray for the Mothers' Union members there. We bring before you our concerns for the population of Temotu province as they face the effects of climate change. We pray for all those who are struggling with supplies of fresh, clean drinking water due to unpredictable weather patterns, saltwater inundation, flooding and coastal erosion. We pray for these communities, in their efforts to raise funds for water tanks and coastal defences.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

### **SILENCE FOR REFLECTION**

READING - Matthew 9:35-38

## **LEICESTER in the Province of Canterbury, UK.**

We pray for ourselves in Leicester Diocese, and give thanks for the fellowship, prayer and support that we have through our links.

We are a very diverse county with many different cultures and faiths. It is mainly agricultural with small pockets of industry. Members meet together in branch, deanery and diocesan

events. We meet at quiet days, and services. We have an Emergency/email Prayer Chain supporting those who have met with sudden adversity or illness.

Our members raise money to send families away on a caravan holiday to Mablethorpe and also to give a food parcel for each family. Members of MU Leicester support vulnerable and homeless women by knitting hats, gloves and scarves and by collecting underwear and toiletries, and helping to make them feel cared for.

In our 'Re-imagining Mothers' Union' discussions, our trustees made two resolutions: to update our diocesan constitution to be more effective, and to raise the profile of Mothers' Union. As a result, we held the first, more informal, 'Member's Forum' (formerly known as Council) in March, and it was positively received.

#### LET US PRAY

Loving Lord we pray for the work of Mothers' Union in Leicester Diocese, for everyone who holds any kind of office, and, in particular, for our Board of Trustees working closely together as a team.

Bless our branches, our indoor members, our diocesan members and those who are now members of our Fellowship Groups. We pray for our Faith Adviser, Cynthia, and we thank you for the essential work of our Office Administrator Kate and our Treasurer Sue.

We pray for all those at Mary Sumner House and ask for your blessing upon our worldwide president, Sheran Harper. May your Holy Spirit guide and inspire us as, post-Covid, we implement 'Re-imagining Mothers' Union'.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

#### SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

Loving Lord, we bring to you our praise for the fellowship and prayer support that we have through our links with Eastern Zambia, Mombasa, Gwagwalada, Ekiti West and Temotu.

We thank you for the times when we have built relationships through letters, and we thank you for the times when lack of news has driven us to pray and intercede.

We give thanks for the blessing of being united in prayer with our link dioceses. We pledge to continue to remember our sisters and brothers in prayer.

**Loving Lord, help us to appreciate the blessings of being united together in your family. Let us ever be ready to intercede for each other, for your assistance and protection. Lord, encourage us in heart and unite us in love. Amen.**

### **Mothers' Union Prayer**

**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**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done;**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power and the glory,**

**for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

**We pray for all Mothers' Union members. Lord, be with us in every part of our lives, encouraging us and leading us, sheltering and strengthening us, so we may work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

As we share God's peace together, we also reach out in peace to those with whom we are linked across the world. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also, with you.**

Lord, as we have celebrated your goodness together, may our unity deepen and grow. We are your family. Your love draws us to yourself and out to one another.

**We reach out as your hands across the world. Amen.**

Let us share together **The Grace**.

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.**

FINAL HYMN - One more step along the world I go

<https://youtu.be/5jhAzbdKq6U>

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**