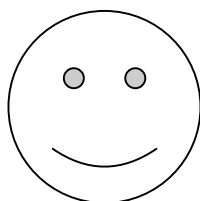




This booklet has been produced by Leicester
Faith and Policy Unit with help from all our members
and official Mothers' Union resources.



The 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.

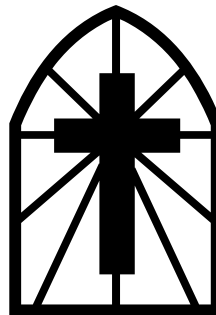
In Jesus' name.

Amen

Personal Prayer of Mary Sumner

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



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

Eternal and loving Father, we thank you for your great love: for all your mercies and your hope and confidence in us. We thank you for calling us to be members of your family, church and the Mothers' Union. We thank you for our fellowship together in Christ and our friendship with each other.

Amen

Eileen Smith

Lord, we bring before you the work of the Mothers' Union and the needs of the leaders and members and ask you to continue to inspire our hearts, enlighten our minds and give us the strength to persevere in work for you. We dedicate ourselves to serve you faithfully and as we follow in the steps of Christ we will face the future together.

Amen

Eileen Smith

From Mother Teresa's office in India

A Poem or a prayer

A little more praising

A little less jeering

A little more trusting

A little less fearing

A little more patience in trouble or pain

A little less willing at times to complain

A little more kindness worked into strife are all that is needed

To glorify life

A little more honour

A little less greed

A little more courage when pathways are rough

A little more action

A little less bluff

A little more kindness by you and me

And oh! What a wonderful world this would be.

O Lord our God, listening to us here, you accept the prayers of our sisters and brothers in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, the Americas and central Europe.

We are all one in prayer, so that we, as one, rightly carry out your commission to witness and to love in the church and throughout the world.

In Jesus' name.

Amen

**Fire of God, ignite us. Wind of God, invigorate us. Word of God, inspire us.
God of Ascension and Pentecost, be our blessing here today. Amen**

Mothers' Union prayers

Watch over your church

Almighty God watch over your church, we pray in your unfailing love. Without you, Lord, human nature cannot stand, but will fall. Be ready to rescue your church, Lord, and guide us to salvation. Amen

Agnes Faith Mkoko, Malawi

Steadfast in our service

Gracious God, as we read your word daily and share it with one another, encouraging each other in your perfect and pleasing will for us, we pray that we remain steadfast in our service to you. We pray that our lives can be enlightened with the love we share. Help us to be ambassadors for Christ in your sight as we spread your word, expecting changed hearts and lives, knowing that you are always working with us. May you continue to bless us with a thirst to read and inwardly digest your word. Bless us with the courage to put all that you teach us in your Holy Scriptures and through your Holy Spirit into practice in our lives. In Jesus' name.

Amen

Ornetta, Guyana

A Prayer for family life

God our Father, we thank you for your creation. Look mercifully upon us your servants, that we may preserve your creation for the future generations by obeying your laws, and in so doing, love, honour and cherish each other and live together in faithfulness, patience, wisdom and true godliness, that our social and family relationships can be strengthened.

Bless the families in our society and all those who are involved in social and community service, that they may use their skills to assist others in enhancing their social and family relationships.

Amen

Lena Edmondson, Guyana



Father in heaven, we pray for the homes and family life of all who are here today. Help us to care for each other and to take the trouble both to talk and listen to each other. Help us not only to forgive and forget, but also to be willing to apologise and to receive forgiveness.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

Amen

Lord God, may you give us direction as we are trying to find ways and means of achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Inspire church leaders with your Holy Spirit. Lead them as they meet and deliberate on the important issues of strengthening your church, Lord.

Amen

Agnes Faith Mkoko, Malawi

The next three prayers were taken from *Be With Me* a book of prayers and reflections published by Birmingham Mothers' Union.

Unconditional love

Lord God, you love us unconditionally. Help us to love one another in the same way.

When things are not easy, when things go wrong, help us to see both sides of the question. Help us to love and support each other without attaching blame. And be with us as we seek to forgive and be forgiven.

Amen

Grow in the Spirit

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the way all living things grow. From seeds grow roots and flowers; from acorns the mighty oak; babies grow into children and adults. We thank you for the continuing wonder of creation and ask that we may also grow in the Spirit, so that we come daily to be more like Christ. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

Remember God loves you

When sickness is on you and health takes a blow, when joys all desert you and energy is low, remember, God loves you.

When pain comes at night, and sleep disappears, when nothing feels right and you are riddled with fears, remember, God loves you.

When life feels all empty and weighed down with care, when tears come in plenty with no one to share, remember, God loves you.

A prayer from William and Catherine for their wedding

God our Father, we thank you for our families; for the love we share and for the joy of marriage. In the business of each day keep our eyes fixed on what is important in life and help us to be generous with our time and energy.

Strengthened by our union, help us to secure and comfort those who suffer. We ask this in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Amen

An Advent Meditation: Let us come to the Lord in prayer

There in the distance, a blue light glows - a sign that is waiting to show us the pathway to tread;

an understanding of what is to come.

In Bethlehem town two lights are burning,
showing that in David's line a child is to be born
to break the bonds of tyranny and injustice.

One has become three and now pink is the light shining
like the rose that is waiting to bloom to give joy to the eye of
those that are willing to see.

Brighter is the light now

angels gather to announce with song the good news to all,
that soon we will see what we have been waiting for.

Shining white is the star now over the stable
for the child that is born:

the greatest present to all.

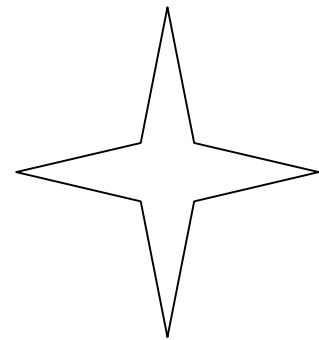
He is the evergreen of holly.

He is the rose of love.

So we will exchange the present of an open heart
to receive his love for all mankind.

Amen

Linda Snutch



A prayer for Mothering Sunday

Loving God on this special day we thank you for mothers, our own mothers and mothers everywhere.

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they care for their children.

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have wept in sorrow and joy for their children.

We praise you, our God, for Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love, and for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love.

Grant your wisdom, guidance and support to all with the responsibility of motherhood.

Lord of all love, hear our prayer in the name of Christ.

Amen

A short prayer for a long day

Encourage and strengthen us, O Father, for the days which lie ahead. Teach us to be humble, forgiving one another, even as Christ secured our forgiveness. Teach us to bear one another's burdens to fulfil his will. Teach us to learn from the devotion of those who have gone before how to spend and be spent in thy service. Day by day, may we grow in thy grace and in the knowledge of each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Midday Prayers

Gift of the Spirit

**Come Holy Spirit. Fill us with your power, enfold us in your love, inspire us with your truth.
Come Holy Spirit.**

Gift giving Holy Spirit:

Work your power in us, and show yourself amongst us through the gifts we share.

Give us the gift of love:

The love of eternal God, seen in Jesus, crucified for us; and seen again, in his resurrection glory.

Make us your peacemakers:

Breaking down division; pointing, by our lives, to reconciliation and unity.

Send us out to speak your life-giving words:

To serve in ways that soothe and heal; so that we may minister your gifts and the world may see and praise the greatness of our God.

Amen

Wave of Prayer for Mothers' Union

Lord empower the work of the Mothers' Union worldwide. And so today we pray for the people and work of:

**A moment of silence is kept as we bring before God our prayers
for the world and ourselves**



Prayers for opening and closing meetings.

Taken from *Into the Hand of God* published by the Mothers' Union

Opening

Lord, as we meet together, help us to listen, to understand and to remember. Help us to be aware that we are meeting not simply with each other, but with you; make your presence real to each one of us. As we listen help us to concentrate, so we hear what is intended and what is your will.

Give us courage to say what needs to be said
and humility to respect opinions with which we do not agree.

Amen

Closing

We thank you, Father, for this time together.

As we think on these things, please continue to guide and inspire us.

As we grow in relationship with each other, please fill us with your love.

As we leave this space, please assure us of your presence with us.

Amen

Lord, teach me to rest in you. Teach me to see the sky and to think of nothing else but the joy in it.

Teach me to look at field and flower and be soothed by colours and seasons.

Teach me to close my eyes and to rest in the love that has supported me all my days.

Teach me Lord to rest in you.

Amen



Enrolment service for new members and existing members to affirm and reaffirm their commitment to the Mothers' Union

Leader: Will the members of the Mothers' Union please stand.

The Purpose, Aim and Objects of Mothers' Union are read out:

The Purpose of the Mothers' Union is to be specially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life.

The Aim of the Society is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life. In order to carry out its Aim, its **Objects** are:

- To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and promote its wide understanding.
- To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the church.
- To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.
- To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.
- To help those whose family life has met with adversity.

Leader: Membership of the worldwide Mothers' Union is open to all who have been baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and who declare support for the Aim and Objects of the Mothers' Union. I ask both new and present members to join in affirming their commitment to the Mothers' Union. Do you reaffirm your baptism promises?

All: **I do, with God's help.**

Leader: Will you try to uphold and support the Aim and Objects of the Mothers' Union?

All: **I will, with God's help.**

Leader: Will you continue to plan your life to include prayer and Bible reading and worship in church?

All: **I will, by the grace of God.**

Leader: (name/s)
I admit you to membership of the Mothers' Union, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

If members have moved from another branch/diocese include the following:

Leader: We welcome (name/s)
from

Leader: Members of the Mothers' Union, will you welcome, support and pray for each other?

All: **We will, in the power of the Spirit.**

Leader: We commit ourselves to the work of Jesus Christ through our membership, saying together the 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**

A Prayer for a branch

Heavenly Father, as members of this branch we commit its life to you, we seek your blessing in all we do; your presence in our fellowship; your inspiration in our activities; your

strength in our service to the church and to the community;
help us to be faithful in prayer and worship and outgoing
in our witness to the gospel, that we may advance
your kingdom, and glorify your name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Branch Service

Leader: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

All: Let the whole earth stand in awe of Him.

Leader: God is a spirit.

All: They that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

Leader: Praise the Lord for he is good.

All: His steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: The Lord is a great God.

All: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving.

The Lord's Prayer

Bible reading

Prayers

Leader: Let us pray for our parish and our clergy and for all who hold office in our churches, contributing to our fellowship in Christ. Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: For the community we live in and for all the people we meet in our everyday life, our neighbours and friends and those we do not know. Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

(At this point the leader could mention people in need, those who are sick etc.)

Leader: Heavenly Father, we pray for all mentioned in our prayer chain and we ask a special blessing for the sick. We ask for your help in healing, and for the bereaved we ask for your comfort and peace. For the lonely, the unloved and those in any kind of need, we ask for your care and compassion and for your love and compassion in all situations. Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: O God our Heavenly Father, we ask you to bless the work of the Mothers' Union throughout the world and especially in each diocese for which we pray today..... *(Use Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer)*.
Bless our members in their lives and in their homes, that they, being strengthened in love to you and to each other, may serve your faithfully to your glory as we join together and say the 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 Grace

