



Thursday Prayer 2021

"Rebuilding Hope and Confidence"

Thursday Prayer is held in one of the chapels at Ely Cathedral (usually St Dunstan's) monthly, on the third Thursday unless otherwise stated.

Also at Little St Mary's Church, Trumpington St, Cambridge on 4th Thursday of each month, Both from 10.30-11.00am.

They are also held at All Saint's Church, St Ives on 4th Thursday at 2.30-3pm.

See dates opposite.

Friends and family members are very welcome to attend as well.

Each month we use a common theme and pray for a special concern. We also reflect upon our own membership of the Mothers' Union. If you are unable to attend please use these prayers in your own group or home.

Thursday Prayer is now available on Zoom. Please see monthly MU Newsletter for details.

Dates for Thursday Prayer 2021

	Ely	Lt St Mary's & St Ives
January	21	28
February	18	25
March	18	25
April	15	22
May	20	27
June	17	24
July	15	22
August	19	26
September	16	23
October	21	28
November	*25	25
December	16	*16 (3 rd Thurs)

- ***Please note this Cathedral date is not 3rd Thurs**

Suggested Guide for Thursday Prayer

Introductory prayers

- *opening prayer;*
- *prayers for members and events in the Diocese;*
- *prayers for the theme and focus of the month;*

Bible reading and meditation

- *Bible reading;*
- *Meditation spoken upon the theme/focus or Bible reading either using own words or a chosen passage;*

Further prayer

- *an opportunity to offer personal concerns to God, either aloud or in silence;*
- *the Lord's Prayer;*
- *the Mothers' Union Prayer;*
- *the Thursday Prayer;*
- *the Grace;*

Hymn

- *a hymn or piece of music of the leader's choice may be used where it is considered appropriate. The Cathedral hymn book is the New English Hymnal.*

Our intercessions

In our intercessions we are asked to pray for:

- The worldwide work of the Mothers' Union;
- Sheran Harper (from Guyana) our Worldwide President;
- The Chief Executive, Beverley Jullien;
- The Task Group Leaders in Faith in Action, Praying our Faith, Finance & Administration and Communications;
- All who work in Mary Sumner House;
- Our province of Canterbury and Kathryn Anderson, our Provincial President.
- Our Worldwide Links:
Lusaka in Zambia
Shyogwe in Rwanda
Sokoto & Ikka in Nigeria
Karimnager in India
Plus Diocese to Diocese with Kigali & Vellore.

The monthly prayers included in this booklet are mostly taken from the new MU books of prayers, "Dear God", "Praying in Every Season", and the Pocket Prayers series – "Faith in Action", "United in Fellowship" and "Vision and Mission".



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 Thursday Prayer

Heavenly Father, you have called us apart to share in a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer. Take our prayers we humbly ask, fill them with your love and power, and use them in the cause of your glorious kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

January: Looking Forward with Hope & Confidence**Reading: Psalm 100:1-5**

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we bow down before you and we recognise your power, your reign over everything that has existed and all that will be in the future. We, as women glorify you today because you are the essence of life, you are our understanding, our strength, love and our salvation. We ask that you will pour upon us your richest blessings, and do not let us fall into temptation. Teach us to walk in your way.

In the name of our Lord and Saviour, we ask this. Amen.

February: Lent**Reading: Matthew 4:1, 3&4, 8-11**

Prayer: In penitence and sorrow we bring our empty lives to be filled by our merciful Saviour. Lord you drank deeply from the cup of suffering: you tasted death that we may be free of life. So we will partake of the cup of thanksgiving; drink deeply of your provision and be refreshed by your water of life; united as one in the body of Christ. Forgiven and restored we will offer the cup of the water of life; let all taste and see that you are good. Amen.

March: Blessings**Reading: Matthew 5:1-12**

Prayer: May the calming peace of Jesus gently wash your fears away.

May the power of God's Spirit fill your life with love.

And God's healing grace pour over you with blessings from above.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Lord give us wisdom, knowledge and understanding to hear your voice and walk in your goodness and blessings all the days of our lives.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

April: The Joy of Easter

Reading: Luke 24:13-16, 30-32

Prayer: Christ is risen. Alleluia!

Lord Jesus Christ, in dying you conquered death and rose again in glory. Through your great love and abiding grace, we will one day be with you in your heavenly kingdom. Lord, we pray that we may make each day of our earthly life worthy of your great sacrifice on the cross. Thank you that we can find sanctuary in your love because you have chosen to love us just as we are, with all our faults and failings and that, if we truly repent, you will forgive our sins. Amen.

May: Joining with our Link Dioceses

Reading: Acts 11:19-24

Prayer: We join with our family throughout the world with one voice, to glorify God's name.

Though we may never meet, we are united in prayer.

We share our sorrows and joys and together praise our God.

As the family of God we are united in love.

We glorify our Father with thankful hearts. Amen.

June: Our faith in action in Ely Diocese

Reading: Luke 15:20b-24

Prayer: Lord, we hear your word; let us be doers of your will. Christ our Lord, you saved the world you love through acts of mercy as well as words of life. Your practical deeds of kindness are ours to emulate. Your loving model of servanthood is ours to follow. Heavenly Father, help us to follow your ways to enable our work to flourish. May the love of God be seen in us as we love out our faith through actions. Amen.

July: Praying Our Faith Today

Reading: Philippians 4:6-7

Prayer: O gracious and Holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus. Amen.

August: Celebrating the life of Mary Sumner

Reading: Luke 1:46-48

Prayer: Lord of all we give you thanks for the far-reaching vision of our founder, Mary Sumner. We look back with praise and gratitude for her witness and the way she has inspired so many people. Our members worldwide have been beacons of hope for their communities, both with prayer and practical help, bringing joy and reflecting the love of our Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray that we will be able to continue her vision, ensuring that the role of Mothers' Union will flourish and grow as we unite to be helping hands across the world. Amen.

September: The Gift of Harvest**Reading: Genesis 1:24-27****Prayer:**

Lord of the harvest we celebrate your goodness. We bless your holy name Gracious God. The signs of your kingdom are growing but the workers to gather are few. Send us out to do your will in the harvest fields of life. May those who sow and those who reap rejoice in an abundant harvest of goodness and grace. Give us strength to carry on throughout the changing seasons, knowing that we will reap blessings both now and for eternity. Lord of the harvest, we celebrate your goodness. We bless your holy name. Amen.

October: Praying for World Peace**Reading: Romans 12:16-18****Prayer:**

God of peace and God of reconciliation, we ask for your peace and reconciliation to start with us today, so we may reach out to others with love and compassion. Help the leaders of nations to seek peace and reconciliation with each other, and unite us as one family of God to your glory. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

November: Whitworth House**Reading: Matthew 7:24-27****Prayer:**

May we serve with the love of Christ and bring comfort that comes from God. May we share burdens through the power of Christ and bring strength that comes from God. May we view others through the eyes of Christ and show compassion that comes from God. May we respond with the forbearance of Christ and show grace that comes from God.
Amen.

December: Advent**Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7****Prayer:**

Lord Jesus Christ, as we prepare for your coming, we read the words of the prophets written long before your birth, giving us hope and encouragement that all people will be united and the land will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord. Help us, Lord, to open our hearts and minds to these truths and to gladly receive you, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

We pray that through the power of Christ and in love and unity with each other we may be enabled to:

- support, promote and strengthen marriage;
- help families to explore and enjoy faith together;
- build a Christian community that is grounded in faith and love;
- support all forms of family life;
- help those facing adversity.

“How lavish is our God! We celebrate his generosity to us with thankful hearts”.

The Thursday Prayer is prepared and published by the Praying our Faith Team of Ely Diocese Mothers’ Union. Please feel free to photocopy as many booklets as you need for your branch/ group’s use.



Mothers' UNION
 Christian care for families
 Diocese of Ely

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