

Thursday Prayer May 20th 2021 - Joining with our Link Dioceses

Welcome

Opening 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 we praise our God. As the family of God we are united in love.

We glorify our Father with thankful hearts.

Lord of love

In your mercy hear us.

We ask your blessing on Sharon Harper our Worldwide President, on Beverly Jullien our Chief Executive Officer, on Kathryn Anderson our Provincial President and all who work in Mary Sumner House. In our own diocese of Ely we pray for Hazel our President, the trustees and task group leaders, for the Wisbech Project and all those who take part in it. We lift all these members to you and ask for your guidance and encouragement in all their planning. Help us to back them up as loyal members of their teams.

Lord of love

In your mercy hear us.

Reading : Acts 11: 19 -24

Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews.

Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus.

The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

*By AD 52 The Apostle Thomas, of doubting Thomas fame arrived on the coast of Kerala, the southern tip of **India** bringing the gospel with him. Our link Diocese Karimnagar is situated about halfway down India.*

Rev Priscilla Reuben leads the group, the full title being *The Women's Fellowship for Christian Service.*

The news from India has been heart wrenching. Karimnagar itself adopted a very firm test and trace system right from the start of the epidemic and it seems to have paid dividends. Priscilla sent this email in April just as the bad news was breaking.

"Greetings to you in the most precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We are fine by the grace of God. Needs your prayers because of the situation here.

We do have regular worship service but a little bit restricted on gatherings. Praying for God's protection strength and grace

Love and prayers

Priscilla"



Prayers for India

Father God our hearts go out to India in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low. Comfort those who mourn. Give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick. We lift before you our Diocesan link hospital in Vellore. Equip all nursing staff with the skills necessary to satisfy the needs of their patients. Strengthen them with your Spirit, so that through their work many will be restored to health; We ask that much needed supplies of oxygen, respirators and vaccines will be available to all hospitals.

Lord of love
In your mercy hear us.

Compassionate God

You created all people in your image, making them equal in your sight
We pray for the people who are vulnerable, marginalised and excluded in India
May they know the high position that you give to the lowly and oppressed.

Lord of love
In your mercy hear us.

Loving Lord we ask your protection, strength, and grace on Priscilla and the Women's Fellowship. Help them as they minister to the people around them. May the light of your love shine through all they do. Unite us as family in mutual love and support through the challenges and joys of carrying out your mission on earth.

Lord of love
In your mercy hear us. Amen

Two of our links diocese are in Nigeria

Nigeria comprises more than 250 ethnic groups and over 500 additional indigenous languages. Since the covid lock down there has been a string of deadly attacks on vulnerable people in both towns and villages in the northern areas getting very near Sokoto.. Both male and female students had been kidnapped from their dormitories and a member of staff was killed. The right to freedom of religion or belief continues to be violated regularly amid a general deterioration of security that is impacting the whole of the country. The levels of lawlessness continue to rise also in the central states. Kidnappings and attacks on civilians are commonplace with Christian farming communities becoming increasingly vulnerable, Ika being one.

*In our link diocese of **Sokoto, Felicia Omole** is not only the Diocesan President but also the Principle of the Royal Comprehensive College.*

The Mothers' Union works together with the Womens' Guild and the Girls Guild. They work among families to raise the status of women and improve the lives of the children. Their aim is to prevent the girls being sold off for early marriage.



The Diocese of Ika has been hard hit by the Fulani tribesmen who ran roughshod through the area last year.

Evelynne Expenisi is the diocesan President who is supported by the "Praying our Faith" officer Awoke Ejedimu. As part of Mother's Union activities the diocese runs a hostel for girls.

As recently as 21st April the diocese held a confirmation service with members from the Girls Guild, the Mothers Union women's guild, fathers union and youths induction service. It was a huge success. They said "Thanks to God Almighty Our Victory is sure."

You can see the happy faces of the candidates in the photo.



Prayers for Nigeria,

Loving Heavenly Father we feel overwhelmed by the seemingly endless violence in Nigeria. We cry out to you for the people today. Comfort all those who mourn, protect all in danger, strengthen those who live in fear. Fill the land with your justice and bring about a Nigeria that is secure under a just government, where everyone lives in peace and terror does not come near.

Lord of love

In your mercy hear us.

We rejoice that you have put Felicia in such a great position of authority. We pray that with the help of your Holy Spirit Felicia will be able to take maximum advantage in sharing the good news of your love among the young people of Sokoto. Please keep her safe.

Bless the families to whom the Mothers Union minister so that the young girls will be saved from early marriage.

Lord of love

In your mercy hear us.

Despite covid and the Fulani tribesmen your work has continued in Ika. Bless Evelynne and Awoke as they organise the day to day activities of the Mothers' Union. May the girls' hostel that they run be beacon of safety and hope. We thank you that the mission of the church has continued during these difficult times. We pray for the confirmation candidates that they will grow in faith love and praise.

Lord of love

In your mercy hear us.

We give you thanks for the Nigerian women whose lives shine as a beacon of hope in the communities in which they serve. Unite us in worship; build us in service as together we seek to share your love.

Amen

Lusaka Diocese Zambia

Mildred Hakamangwe was re-elected in November for her second term of office as Diocesan President. Lusaka had a peak of covid about the same time as we did in January and February.

Towards the end on 27th February Ruth Sichizya wrote " Nothing is closed down per say now but we face mask, sanitize and have temperature taken before we enter banks, shopping malls and public places. The Anglican Bishops have advised all of us above 50yrs to stop going to church as a protective measure! Most congregations in Lusaka city allow under 60s to teenagers to go to services with face masks, social distancing a metre apart, sanitizing, no Eucharist, no handshake and 1hr 30mins service only We in the countryside are also just having services via Facebook.



The MU in my parish meet in small groups in townships in homes for 1hr with social distancing every Thursday, basically it's just prayers and bible study. Am alone here as the other friends with farms near me haven't yet moved completely.

The rains have been good and we have a good crop of maize and soya beans. The maize has grown so high its interfering with the wifi. Emails don't always arrive on time. We have bought 6 goats (5females+1male)

Prayers for Lusaka

Father God we thank you for shared vision in a world where your love is shown through flourishing relationships. We lift Mildred Hakamangwe to you as she carries out the responsible task of leading the Mothers Union in Lusaka. Give her the skills that she needs for the task. Fill her daily with your Holy Spirit.

Lord of love
In your mercy hear us.

We thank you for the successful harvest in Lusaka so that people will have enough food. We thank you for Ruth and the work she does to place orphan children into loving adoptive homes. Bless all the children. We pray that it won't be long before Mothers Union members will be able to carry out their normal social work among the families of Lusaka.

Lord of love
In your mercy hear us.

As we are united in prayer may God encourage us in heart and unite us in love .Amen.

Claudine Mukawera DP of Shyogwe wrote

Thank you so much for your greeting, here in Rwanda SHYOGWE Diocese we are happy to receive your greetings. Also we are still living the life with pandemic, where the pandemic was very raised in the period of Christmas. After Christmas day from January until today we stay at District, no one can go to another district. But in Kigali our capital of Rwanda living in total lockdown, because there are many people who are contaminated. Also our churches from January until today are closed. We pray in families only. For us internet is a problem but we are hoping that next week the rules will change because the number of infections has decreased. For us the pandemic has caused a rise in early pregnancy for teenagers, where we see in one parish around 30 or 40 girls were pregnant in this time of Covid 19 so for us, it is a big issue, Please pray for us for this. The initial vaccine roll out started on 5th March, to front line health workers, people with disabilities, chronic health conditions and over 65s. The supply was exhausted on 8th April. We await the next assignment, but we thank GOD how continue to protect us in this time. Greet all M.U members in Ely Diocese and wish you all the best from M.U Members Shyogwe Diocese. Thank you and God BLESS YOU. Claudine



We also get news from a branch in a country parish.

Diane Uwizeye is a nurse and branch leader. Both Diane and her husband have had their first vaccine. The branch prepared meals over Christmas and Easter for the patients in hospital.

Diane thanked us for our prayers and wrote "May God bless you, greetings from my family and the Mothers' Union members.



Prayer for Shyogwe

Lord we bring to you our gratitude for the fellowship and prayer support through being linked to the diocese of Shyogwe. We ask your blessing and guidance on Rev. Claudine, Diane and our friends in Kigali as they lead the Mothers' Union forward.

Lord of love

In your mercy hear us.

God of compassion be close to those teenage girls who are pregnant, afraid or in isolation. In their anxiety, be their hope. We pray that their families won't reject them and will have the means to provide for them. We ask that the MU members will have the skills and resources to nurture the families well into the future.

Lord of love

In your mercy hear us.

Lord, would you also greatly bless and protect the vaccination roll out programmes happening across Rwanda. May you multiply their effectiveness in protecting and saving lives? We pray against vaccine inequality and ask that countries would collaborate and serve each other, working together to fight the virus. Lord, help all of us to understand what it means to love our global neighbour as ourselves.

In Jesus name, Amen.

Hymn

1 All praise to our redeeming Lord,
who joins us by his grace,
and bids us, each to each restored,
together seek his face.

2 He bids us build each other up;
and gathered into one,
to our high calling's glorious hope,
we hand in hand go on.

3 The gift which he on one bestows
we all delight to prove;
the grace through every vessel flows,
in purest streams of love.

4 Even now we think and speak the same,
and cordially agree;
concentred all, through Jesus' name
In perfect harmony.

5 We all partake the joy of one,
the common peace we feel
a peace to sensual minds unknown,
a joy unspeakable.

6 And if our fellowship below
in Jesus be so sweet,
what height of rapture shall we know
when round his throne we meet

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