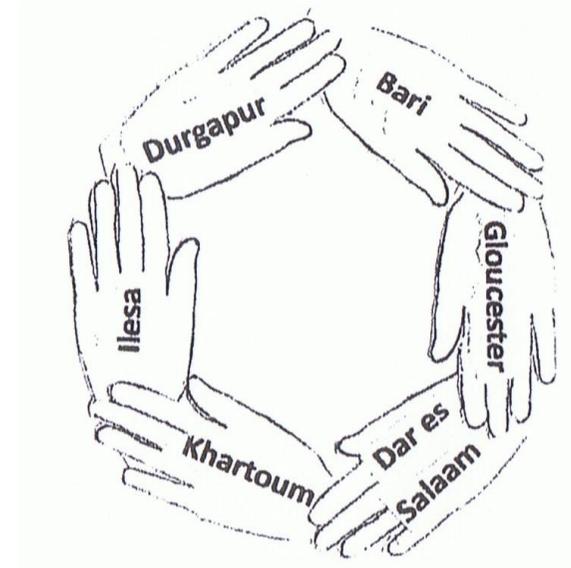


Wave of Prayer

3rd – 5th September 2019 - 2021



Diocese of **Bari**, Province of Nigeria
Diocese of **Dar es Salaam**, Province of
Tanzania

Diocese of **Durgapur**, Church of North India
Diocese of **Gloucester**, Province of Canterbury
Diocese of **Ilesa**, Province of Nigeria
Diocese of **Khartoum**, Province of Sudan and
South Sudan

All seated, if possible, in a circle facing a central table on which there are six candles around the MU symbol.

**All: God of welcome,
Plant in us your seed of compassion;
Take our mustard seed of faith,
Nourish it with your Holy Spirit,
that confidence will grow within us to speak
your words of invitation in order that vision
will grow and commitment will flourish.
Amen**

Reader 1: We are joined in prayer with the **Diocese of Bari** in the Province of Nigeria, whose members support families, including vocational training, marriage counselling and parenting skills. Activities in Niger West include Bible study; prayer and fellowship meetings; evangelism; income generating activities, skills development and outreach to the vulnerable and needy. Mothers' Union members also work very closely with the Women's Guild and Girls' Guild.

*As we light a candle, we give thanks for the Christian witness of Mothers' Union members in the **Diocese of Bari** in the Province of Nigeria. (Allow for a few moments of silence).*

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Reader 2: We are joined in prayer with the **Diocese of Dar es Salaam** in the Province of Tanzania. This Diocese covers a large area also encompassing the Coastal region and parts of the Tanga, Morogoro and Lindi regions and includes Mafia Island. Dar es Salaam city is the hub of the country's economy and attracts people from other parts of Tanzania and abroad. This brings a wealth of different cultures, traditions, languages and income to the area.

Acknowledgements:

The Mothers' Union Worship Book, published by MU Enterprises Ltd., edited by Sarah James. 1995.

Mothers' Union activities include:

Hospital visits offering food and toiletries; Visits to orphans and widows to offer food, clothes, toiletries and mosquito nets; Nursery schools with food and stationery supplies; Workshops on topics including: Gender equality; Entrepreneurship to enable women to start small businesses; Bible study; leadership and HIV/AIDs education.

They have contributed to the building and furnishing of new Churches; inaugurated Savings and Credit Unions; dug wells; supported rights for children; and work with the youth in the Church and wider community and MULO has helped them to address issues of severe poverty.

*As we light a candle, we give thanks for the Christian witness of Mothers' Union members in the **Diocese of Dar es Salaam** in the Province of Tanzania. (Allow for a few moments of silence.)*

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Reader 3: We are joined in prayer with the Diocese of **Durgapur** in the Church of North India which unites the Anglican, Methodist, Congregational, Presbyterian and Reformed Churches. The Women's Fellowship for Christian Service in the Church of North India is affiliated to the global Mothers' Union. They run projects to help address the particular needs in their community, including supporting those who traditionally have been neglected or marginalised, particularly ministering to children from slum areas who face neglect and abuse. Their ministry also extends to helping the sick; supporting broken families and the elderly, as well as Christian teaching. They have helped raise funds for new schools as well as providing training to help women earn an income to support their family as well as working to address gender inequality.

*As we light a candle, we give thanks for the Christian witness of the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service in the **Diocese of Durgapur**, in the Church of North India.*

(Allow for a few moments of silence).

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Reader 4: We are joined in prayer with the Diocese of **Gloucester** in the Province of Canterbury where members follow the MULOA initiative; provide practical support to their local community, offering a Parenting Programme for new and expectant parents, sharing the joys and challenges of parenting, helping to develop mutually supportive networks.

Members also make visits to the mother and baby unit of the Women's Prison; offer Away from it all Holidays (AFIA) and days out for needy families; provide sanitary provision for women held in Police cells; provide toiletries for the Family Haven in Gloucester, a support facility for families in temporary accommodation; knit blankets and other items for premature and still-born babies; take Open the Book (Bible stories) into primary schools as well as supporting the work of Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (GARAS) and making the lunches for a local charity, the Churn Project, providing parent and toddler support (Families Matter).

*As we light a candle, we give thanks for the Mothers' Union in the **Diocese of Gloucester**, in the Province of Canterbury.*

(Allow for a few moments of silence).

For our concentration on our own family, so we forget the wider one, our lack of concern for other families, and our hasty judgements and intolerance of other ways of life.

All: Forgive us, Lord.

May God, our heavenly Father, who has promised to forgive all those who sincerely turn to him, have mercy on each one of us, deliver us from our sins, and strengthen us for his service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER

All: 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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Father, we dedicate ourselves to serve you faithfully and to follow Christ, to face the future with him, seeking his special purpose for our lives. Send us out now to work and witness freely, gratefully and full of hope, in the power of the Holy Spirit and to the honour and glory of your name. Amen

All: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

THE THIRD OBJECT

Leader: The Mothers' Union is a worldwide fellowship united in prayer, worship and service. We remind ourselves of the diversity of God's creation, and the very different needs of everyone within the world. Let us pray that God will help us to be faithful in prayer, worship and service: Holy Spirit of unity and power, we thank you for our fellowship with one another as members of the Mothers' Union in one Church across the world. Teach us how to pray and serve you, and how to encourage one another. Lead us to see the opportunities which you have prepared for us to serve each other. **Amen.**

THE PERSONAL PRAYER OF MARY SUMNER.

All: 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 FOURTH & FIFTH OBJECTS

Leader: The Mothers' Union is specifically concerned for stable family life and the protection of children.

We celebrate family life, but we also need to confess to God those things in our lives that are against his will. As we confess our sins, we especially bring to God those people whose lives have met with adversity and been spoiled by the sin of others.

For our unwillingness to give of ourselves, our bitterness, pride and desire for cheap revenge.

All: Forgive us, Lord.

For our failure to see our children as your children, and our desire to make them what we will, not what you will.

All: Forgive us, Lord.

Reader 5: We are joined in prayer with the Diocese of **Ilesa**, in the Province of Nigeria where members are very active helping to promote family life and education; assisting widows and the less privileged; organising workshops and empowerment programmes and income generating activities; prayer and fellowship; community health education with close links to the Women's Guild and the young.

Celebration is a key part of their activities.

*As we light a candle, we give thanks for the Mothers' Union in the **Diocese of Ilesa**, in the Province of Nigeria.
(Allow for a few moments of silence).*

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Reader 6: We are joined in prayer with the Diocese of **Khartoum** in the Province of Sudan and South Sudan, where members have taken part in a MULO A workshop, which has identified that Khartoum members wish to concentrate on and support the Freedom of women;

helping to alleviate financial struggles; making hospital visits; supporting and visiting prisoners. They are also focussing on gender-based violence; women's rights and women's leadership; as well as parenting issues.

Following the independence of South Sudan from Sudan in 2011, the Episcopal Church of Sudan decided in 2013 to remain as one Church despite the split into two separate countries. As Sudan has a predominantly Muslim population, the Mothers' Union faces a challenging situation, but with prayer, is working for peace and unity in this interfaith environment, using the MU Literacy and Financial Education Programme, to show their love to both women and men.

*As we light a candle, we give thanks for the Mothers' Union in the **Diocese of Khartoum**, in the Province of Sudan and South Sudan.
(Allow for a few moments of silence).*

Leader: Rejoicing at the presence of God here among us, let us pray in faith and trust.

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen

THE FIRST OBJECT

Leader: As members of the Mothers' Union, our first object is: "to uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of Marriage and to promote its wider understanding." So let us join together in a prayer of thanksgiving for family life. We thank God for giving us other people to be part of our lives.

All: We praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.

For parents and the love which brought us to birth.

All: We praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.

For mothers who have cherished and nurtured us.

All: We praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.

For fathers who have loved and supported us.

All: We praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.

For brothers and sisters with whom we have shared our home.

All: We praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.

For children entrusted to our care.

All: We praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.

For other relatives who have been with us in our hopes and our struggles.

All: We praise you, O Lord, and bring you thanks today.

For all who have spoken to us of the love of Jesus and have drawn us in to the family of the Church:

All: Help us to live as people who belong to one another and to you.

THE SECOND OBJECT

Leader: As a reminder of our commitment to encourage parents to bring up their children in the life and faith of the Church, we renew the promises made at our baptism, and which we have made for our children and godchildren:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father who made the world?

All: I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son who redeemed the world?

All: I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God?

All: I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All: This is our faith: we believe and trust in one God. Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Leader: Almighty God, whose Son equips the Church with a variety of gifts, grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love.

Make us ready to live his gospel and eager to do his will that we may share with all your Church in the joys of eternal life: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen