

**Mothers' Union Dioceses of Edinburgh, Colombo, Kurunagala,
Mpwapwa, Port Sudan and Isikwuato**

Intercessions January - April 2015

The Mothers' Union Theme for 2015: United in Prayer

This develops the 2014 theme – 'Sowing the Future together', by focussing on the centrality of prayer in the work of Mothers' Union across the world

Next year from 15th – 17th October, Edinburgh will be linked with: Terekeka, South Sudan; Nairobi, Kenya; Maiduguri, Osun North, both in Nigeria; and Calcutta, India.

Pray that this transition will go smoothly.

January May 2015 be a peaceful year worldwide.

1 st	The naming of Jesus	6 th	The Epiphany
11 th	The Baptism of the Lord	13 th	Kentigern (or Mungo), Bishop. c 603
25 th	Conversion of Paul, Apostle		

Midday Prayers for the week - United in prayer (from MU web site)

Mondays in January

The disciples were devoted to the teachings of the apostles, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. *Acts 2:42*

Almighty Lord, we thank you that we have been joined together in unity through the love of Christ.

We give thanks that as we unite together in prayer, our heavenly Father draws near.

Where our understanding is limited, God's is perfect, and our desire to pray echoes his desire to answer.

We give thanks for the privilege of praying in partnership with God.

Help us to appreciate the blessings of being united together in prayer.

Let us always be ready to intercede for each other for God's assistance and protection.

May God encourage us in heart and unite us in love. Amen

Tuesdays in January: Power of prayer

When a believing person prays, great things happen. *James 5:16*

Almighty Lord, we thank you that we have been joined together in unity through the love of Christ. We come into your presence trusting not in the strength of our prayers but in your power to answer.

We thank you for your grace in choosing to give us a channel of prayer; for the gift of your Spirit who prompts us to pray in the way that you desire.

What power is unleashed by the partnership of God and his people in mutual agreement and purpose! We thank you for your grace.

Almighty Lord, we bring our petitions and prayers trusting in your readiness to hear and your power to answer. Amen

Wednesdays in January: Persistence in prayer

Everyone who asks and keeps on asking receives; and he who seeks and keeps on seeking finds; and to him who knocks and keeps on knocking, the door shall be opened. *Luke 11:9-10 (Amplified Bible)*

Almighty Lord, we thank you that we have been joined together in unity through the love of Christ.

With simple trust we ask:

We keep on asking for the needs we have or for those who are too weak to pray.

With simple faith we seek:

We keep on seeking the answers we long for to find the way ahead.

With simple certainty we knock:

We keep on knocking on heaven's door to open the resources we need.

Bind us together in mutual love and support as we uphold one another in prayer. Amen

Thursdays in January: Blessing of prayer

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. *Hebrews 4:16*

Almighty Lord,

we thank you that we have been joined together in unity through the love of Christ.

With faith and hope we bring our prayers to God; we enter his presence with joy.

Let us be swift to approach God's throne. His ear is open to our prayers.

His mercy draws us close; his grace is all we need.

May we cherish these times: precious moments with God

to pour out our hearts and listen for his reply.

With joy and praise we bring our prayers to God; we enter his presence with faith. Amen

Fridays in January: Listening in prayer

The Lord came and stood and called as at other times. Samuel! Samuel! Then Samuel answered, Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. *1 Samuel 3:10*

Almighty Lord,

we thank you that we have been joined together in unity through the love of Christ.

Speak to us, Lord, as we bow down in prayer.

Still our clamouring voices and hush our insistent cries.

Quieten our spirits to hear your still small voice.

Open our ears to hear of your love; open our hearts to perceive your will.

Give us your grace to heed your words and follow where you lead.

Speak to us, Lord, for your servants are listening.

Almighty Lord,

we thank you that you speak to us as we are united in prayer. Amen

Saturdays in January: United in prayer

May God... give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5-6

Almighty Lord, we thank you that we have been joined together in unity through the love of Christ. We thank you for the joy of coming together into your presence; to petition and plead in unity and faith. **In unity and faith we bring our prayers to God.**

We thank you for the joy of finding our numbers are swelled by the company of the Holy Spirit, who shows us how to pray and adds his prayers to ours.

Through the unity of the Spirit we bring our prayers to God. Amen

February

2nd - The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)

18th - Ash Wednesday - Lent – returning to God - Think about God's gift of love to us. God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. *John 3:16*

During Lent how can we use our time and resources to help other people? Consider together what this might involve, eg the Carevan, food banks, being a good neighbour and giving thanks to our good neighbours. Have we said sorry for the things we have done wrong; made an effort to stop a bad habit; been more careful in how we treat others. Thank you for the season of Lent when we can take time to praise you for your gift of love; when we can help other people, and make ourselves ready for new life with Jesus. **Amen**

March

6th Women's World Day of Prayer - 15th Mothering Sunday

17th Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland, c 461 - 19th Joseph of Nazareth -

22nd Passion Sunday - The Beginning of Passiontide (*The Suffering Christ*)

25th The Annunciation of the Lord (Lady Day) - 29th Palm Sunday - 30th – 4th April Holy Week

April 2nd Maundy Thursday - 3rd Good Friday – Meditate on The Servant King
5th Easter Sunday - He is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

Jesus appeared first to his women followers at the time of his resurrection. *John 20:1-9*

We pray for your will to be done in developing women's ministry within the church.

25th Mark, Evangelist – *We have a gospel to proclaim, Jesus is Lord of all the earth.*

Prayers for MU: We pray for the work of the Mothers' Union throughout the world; especially in our linked dioceses and the dioceses to which we are about to be linked; for the Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey, for Jean Richardson, the Scottish Provincial President, for all the Office Bearers and for all MU Workers in their various countries; for the leaders and members in our branches, dioceses and provinces and the communities from which our members come. Pray for our sisters in Sri Lanka and their work among those in need. May they know the joy and peace of working in his service. May their loving actions show forth the love of Christ to the world.

Local Needs: We pray for matters close to our hearts in Edinburgh diocese.

Pray for: those we know who are sick in body, mind or spirit, facing operations/treatment. For those who work in hospitals and in other essential services. For the Ebola crisis.

Pray for: those who have been recently bereaved, the family of Joyce Black, *Joyce, a past MU Dioc Sec.*, the family of Elizabeth, Lady Clerk, for all who have anniversaries around this time of year, those suffering from a breakdown in relationships, for whom Christmas is a time of sadness, for those who rely on food banks to survive.

National Matters:

We pray for the governments around the world and especially for the government at Westminster on the run up to the General Election and for that of Scotland in this post referendum period. May those entrusted with this responsibility be blessed with Integrity, so that we may be godly and quietly governed.

When a believing person prays, great things happen."James 5:16

As Christians we know the importance of prayer - in our personal lives, as we support one another and as an essential foundation for our work as a charity.

But we sometimes need help to engage effectively in prayer. We value guidance in articulating our thoughts and forming our requests; we can benefit from ideas to find appropriate space for prayer and ways in which we can encourage each other.

It is good to be reminded of the truth of what prayer achieves and that God loves to hear our prayers and is ready to answer our requests, in his time and in his way.

Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness." *Martin Luther*

- Prayer connects us to God and God's power. Changes take place when we pray. Sometimes the issue is transformed, at other times we are the ones changed. Either way, God's power is at work.
- Prayer is a way of sharing our burden. Some problems are difficult to share with another human being. The issue may involve deep guilt or shame, making it difficult to confide in a friend. In such cases, prayer can help ease the burden.
- Prayer puts into words what troubles us. No difficulty can be resolved until it is identified and articulated.
- Prayer reduces feelings of helplessness. Rather than feeling as though life is out of control, when we pray, we take the first step in reclaiming our lives and putting order into chaos.
- Prayer is a powerful reminder that we are not alone. Life's troubles often leave us feeling isolated, lonely, and vulnerable. Prayer reminds us that we are not facing difficulty alone.
- Prayer generates courage. We become strengthened, more confident as a result of prayer.
- Prayer provides us with a sense of direction. Rather than merely being tossed about on life's sea, we receive insight, guidance, and direction from prayer.

Faithful in Prayer Bible Verses: (from the MU website)

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. *Romans 12:12*

Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness. *Martin Luther.*

As we seek to be faithful in prayer on behalf of Mothers' Union, let us take encouragement from God's word. Reflect on these scriptures and allow the Holy Spirit to increase faith and insight into the value of our prayers.

Pray With Faith

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. *Psalm 145:18*

If you remain in me and my words remain in you,
ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

John 15:7

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 14:13

Pray With Determination

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. *Colossians 4:2*

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them

that they should always pray and not give up. *Luke 18:1*

Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer. *Psalm 4:1*

Pray With Power

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. *James 5:16*

May the New Year, 2015, bring us hope for the future and peace in the many areas where there is unrest and struggle for power.

Final Blessing: We go into the world in the footsteps of Christ,
who guides and sustains us throughout our lives. Amen

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