



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

Intercessions January - April 2014

Theme: Sowing the Future Together – God is with us

January **May 2014 be a good year worldwide.**

1st The naming of Jesus
6th The Epiphany
12th The Baptism of the Lord
13th Kentigern (or Mungo), Bishop. c 603
25th Conversion of Paul, Apostle

Midday Prayers for Mondays in January - God is our shepherd (*from MU web site*)

The Lord is my shepherd I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. *Psalm 23:1-3*

Our good shepherd, who gives his life for his sheep,
we are your people; the flock in your care.

With God as our shepherd the way ahead holds no fear.
We approach our future with faith and trust.

He will hear our voice when we whisper our prayers.
He will meet our needs from the riches of his grace.

We will take our rest in the pastures of his love.
Our souls will be refreshed by the waters of his peace.

Our good shepherd, who gives his life for his sheep,
we thank you for your loving care; your constant presence with us.

February 2nd - The Presentation of the Lord (*Candlemas*)

March 5th 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 neighbor 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

7th Women's World Day of Prayer - 17th Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland, c 461
19th Joseph of Nazareth - 30th Mothering Sunday
25th The Annunciation of the Lord (Lady Day)

MAGNIFICAT

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,*
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant;*
from this day all generations will call me blessed. The Almighty has done great things for me*
and holy is his name. He has mercy on those who fear him*
in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm,*
he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones*
and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things,*
and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel,*
for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers,*
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning and shall be for ever. Amen

April

6th Passion Sunday - The Beginning of Passiontide (*The Suffering Christ*)

Meditate on the words of the hymn, *The Servant King* by Graham Kendrick *CCL Lic. no: 7976*
120 Songs of Fellowship Copyright © 1983 Kingsway's Thankyou Music. A Songs of Fellowship Worship Resource

1 From heaven you came, Helpless babe, Entered our world, Your glory veiled;
Not to be served But to serve, And give Your life That we might live. *Refrain:*

*This is our God, The Servant King, He calls us now To follow Him,
To bring our lives As a daily offering Of worship to The Servant King.*

2 There in the garden Of tears, My heavy load He chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow Was torn, 'Yet not My will But Yours,' He said. *Refrain:*

3 Come see His hands And His feet, The scars that speak Of sacrifice;
Hands that flung stars Into space To cruel nails Surrendered. *Refrain:*

4 So let us learn How to serve, And in our lives Enthroned Him;
Each other's needs To prefer, For it is Christ We're serving. *Refrain:*

13th April – Palm Sunday - We reflect on our freedom... During this Holy Week
I ask for the grace to believe in what I could be and do if I only allowed God, my loving Creator,
to continue to create me, guide me and shape me.

Lighting of candles... light a candle(s) in your home to symbolise the light of Christ.

17th Maundy Thursday **18th Good Friday** **20th Easter Sunday**

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 the development of women's ministry within the church.

April

28th Mark, Evangelist

Prayers for MU: We pray for the work of the Mothers' Union throughout the world; especially in our linked dioceses; 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. May God's Grace uphold our sisters in Sri Lanka and their work among those in need. May you support them in all they do, and 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.

We are not alone – a reflection by Fleur Dorrell

We are not alone when we pray to God.

Contrary to all our fears, we are not alone when we have no answers to our sorrow, our grief, our waiting;

when we are still hoping and dreaming; and believing that the resurrection came out of the darkest death.

As long as we hold on within an inch of our life and do not surrender to despair we are not alone.

All we are called to be is faithful in prayer,
all we are called to do is hold onto God.

God is our shepherd *from MU Midday Prayers for January*

The Lord is my shepherd I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. Psalm 23:1-3

Our good shepherd, who gives his life for his sheep,
we are your people; the flock in your care.

With God as our shepherd the way ahead holds no fear.
We approach our future with faith and trust.

He will hear our voice when we whisper our prayers.
He will meet our needs from the riches of his grace.

We will take our rest in the pastures of his love.
Our souls will be refreshed by the waters of his peace.

Our good shepherd, who gives his life for his sheep,
we thank you for your loving care; your constant presence with us.

God guides us *from MU Midday Prayers for January*

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Psalm 23:3

Our good shepherd, who gives his life for his sheep,
we are your people; the flock in your care.

Loving Lord, we pray for your direction when we struggle to find the way ahead.

Guide us through the maze of life's options;
the conflicting opinions, wavering loyalties.

Give us strength to shun the temptation of selfish distractions along the way.

Give us wisdom to not only shun the bad but to find the best amidst the good.

Guide us along your path of life to a future filled with purpose.

Our good shepherd, who gives his life for his sheep,
we thank you for your loving care; your constant presence with us.

God accompanies us from *MU Midday Prayers for January*

**Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

Our good shepherd, who gives his life for his sheep,
we are your people; the flock in your care.

Loving Lord who walks by our side, may we never fear the path ahead,
knowing that even in the valleys we are sustained by your constant love.

Loving Lord, we pray for those who are journeying through painful and difficult times.
Give them strength to bear their trials; upheld by your comforting presence.

Our good shepherd, who gives his life for his sheep,
we thank you for your loving care; your constant presence with us.

Sick and bereaved: We bring before you those we know who are sick, in body, mind
or spirit and pray for their healing. We pray for those who are bereaved and for
their families, May they all be aware of you comforting presence in their lives.

Local Needs: We pray for those who have been inundated by recent floods,
especially those who have lost their homes into the sea, those who have suffered as
a result of severe gales. We pray that you will help them to cope with their traumas.

National Matters:

We pray for the governments around the world and especially for the government
at Westminster and that of Scotland. May those entrusted with this responsibility be
blessed with Integrity, so that we may be godly and quietly governed.

Our future from *MU Midday Prayers for January*

**Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.** *Psalm 23:6*

Our good shepherd, who gives his life for his sheep,
we thank you for your loving care; your constant presence with us.

Loving Lord, Our future is held in your hands. You have prepared the way;
you lead us forward; you walk by our side.

We need not fear, for all your ways are good.

Through the calm and the storm your presence keeps us safe.

Surely goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our life
and we will dwell in the house of our Lord forever. Amen

Seasonal Prayers

A Time for Everything - "There is a time for everything, and a season for every
activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a
time to uproot" *Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

May the New Year, 2014, 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

Prepared by Jean Hindle