



The Magazine of the Diocese of Ballarat

No. 49 - May 2023

DIARY DATES 2023

Council meeting May 24th – 10.00am Hamilton
Wave of Prayer 21st – 25th July - each branch/deanery
to organise their own day
Mary Sumner Day – 9th August
16 Days of Activism – 25th Nov-10th Dec

MOTHERS' UNION MEMBERS WHO HAVE ENTERED ETERNAL LIFE

With no names to acknowledge we remember all our members who have
passed away over the years.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon
them, as they rest in peace.

THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Greetings,

Thank you all for your prayers and support as I begin my 3-year term as
your Diocesan President.

In November 2022 it was my pleasure to represent our Diocese at the
Australian Council meeting in Templestowe. It was a great opportunity for
me as well as a very quick learning curve.

As a Deanery, Ballarat recognised "16 days of Activism against Gender
Based Violence" with a service held at Holy Trinity Sebastopol, conducted
by The Very Revd. Michael Davies, followed by a luncheon in the Bowling
Club bistro. Our guest speaker Revd. Anne McKenna took her text for the
day from "The Woman's Psalm" by Elizabeth Kaeton.

A wonderful and enlightening Quiet Day was held at St. Mark's Abbey in Camperdown. The theme for the day being SILENCE, its Struggle, Source and Surprise. This was well attended, even through the rain.

What a joy it was to gather on March 25th at our Cathedral to celebrate the Annunciation of our Blessed Virgin Mary, "Lady Day". We welcomed many members and clergy from across the Diocese. Many thanks to the members of the Karen community from Horsham who were able to join with us.

The service was followed by lunch after which our guest speaker, Revd. Wendy Morcroft spoke to us of her spiritual journey. Thankyou for sharing your journey and experiences with us.

As a Diocesan executive we have purchased a number of scarves, in Mothers Union colours, to help with promotion in our Diocese. These are available through our Publication Department.

Hopefully I will be able to meet as many of you, as possible during this year.

The need to encourage and support family life is as important now as in 1892, when Mothers' Union was first established here in Australia. Even though we sometimes feel we're not getting far, we can trust in God.

We still have several positions vacant on our executive, especially a Vice President and Treasurer. Please prayerfully think of members who may be interested in accepting a position. They will receive a lot of support.

In conclusion I would like to thank Past President, Liz and her secretary Julie for all their help and smooth transition of executive roles. Also thankyou to Denise for accepting the role of secretary and Kate as minute secretary.

Blessings. Jill

FROM OUR CHAPLAIN FR. DAVID OULTON

With permission, am sharing this post from Fr. David's Facebook page.

The work of the table.

They come every so often and together we have sat at a table. We have swapped stories, shed tears and laughed raucously. The wine like the conversation has flowed, been consumed and enjoyed. The bread broken; the food passed around.

But there are other tables I go to in other places. In homes, in Churches and in institutions where a similar dynamic occurs.

There is dialogue, there is food and beverages.

Sometimes nothing much seems to happen and yet everything is happening. It's not just about the outward fare and the drinks. In the chatter and through the chatter, something shifts. We enter into a slightly different dimension. Sure, we look the same and sound the same, but after the time together we are always altered just ever so slightly.

We arise from the table transformed. Relationships are strengthened, new insights are grasped, turned over, reflected upon and integrated.

Odd, that a simple piece of wood with four legs can do all of that when people gather together around it. The table facilitates something much grander and more potent than itself. It is really just the implement, the focal point. The mechanics and the effectiveness of the relationships are really up to those who are gathered around.

I count myself privileged to work from a table.

Sometimes in the formal setting of the worship, but far more frequently at a simple kitchen table.

Both the altar and kitchen table are important. One is not somehow 'better' than the other. Both have a role to play and in fact, they complement each other in the work they do.

Fortunately, tables are not my exclusive prerogative. The 'table work' is for all to enjoy. Next time you are at table, ask yourself 'What is really going on here?'

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM - 1ST DECEMBER 2022

With many wearing a purple scarf the Ballarat Deanery Mothers Union held their Church service in Sebastopol with The Very Revd. Michael Davies being the celebrant, and Guest Preacher the Revd. Anne McKenna. Revd. Anne gave quite a powerful address on domestic violence, based on 3 points: Bad behaviour, Brokenness and Belief.

In conclusion she said: What Can we do? We use Mary, Mother of God, as our example!

Fr. Michael said the mission of AMUA on the 16 Days of Activism needs to be heard. Domestic Violence itself is a scourge, but Mothers Union can give hope, support and love.

All were given a small purple candle to be lit that night when saying prayers.

A retiring collection was given to the local "Berry Street" who offers family violence support services to younger women.



A Woman's Psalm

O God, I am a woman in a violent world

let me know your peace.

Let blind rage born of despair not find its target in me.

Let the value of my life

not be reduced to the jewellery I wear.

Let my family life not end that life in a gang may begin.

Let rape not violate my body nor anger ravage my soul.

Let fear not enter my heart but caution sharpen my mind.

Let the light of Christ so shine in me

that I may reflect your love.

Let the joy that the apostles knew infuse my spirit and alleviate my pain.

Let Love who suffered and died on the cross

find resurrection and new life in the world you love.

O God, I am a woman in a violent world

let me know your peace.

Refrain: Search me out, O God, and know my heart.

Elizabeth Kaeton, (from *Lifting Women's Voices*: Canterbury Press; 2009)

LADY DAY and PRESENTATIONS

President, Jill Gale has already reported members, visitors and clergy travelled from across Diocese to attend the annual Lady Day celebrations. A special part of the day is the annual presentations to members.

This year awards were made to Alison Cook of St. Peter's Ballarat with her 25-year badge and scroll.

Rita Burger, Celia Luke and Barbara Oliver all from Hamilton each received their 10-year certificate.

As Alison Cook was unable to attend on the day, Fr. Michael later made the presentations to her of a scroll and badge during a Mothers Union service at St. Peter's Church.



Alison Cook



Rev. Wendy Morcroft

LENTEN QUIET DAY -

A wonderful and enlightening Quiet Day was held in the beautiful surrounds of St. Mark's Abbey in Camperdown on the 25th of February. Each year the Ballarat Diocesan Mothers Union organises this Lenten day to be held on the Saturday after Ash Wednesday, where everyone is invited to come. This year the day was led by the Rev. Anne McKenna, who chose SILENCE as her theme for the day.

With appropriate displays she spoke over three sessions.

- STRUGGLE – Exploring what intrudes on our silence – the noise around us and the noise within us.
- SOURCE – Three ways we source silence – Stillness, Nature, God's Word – Be Still and know that I am God; take a walk in nature and observe Creation. Silence has its own language, the language of God and the language of love.
- SURPRISE – Silence is more than stillness – when we find silence, we find not emptiness but fullness; a place of joy and wonder, a universal connection between all people; the connection of universal love.

From all this came questions:

1. What are the obstacles to finding silence?
2. What are the doubts and fears you see in silence?
3. What is the silence you see in the beauty around you?
4. What is the truth you see in silence?

THE COMMUNION FOREST



This is to be discussed further at the Council meeting, for Mothers Union to consider what active role they could take, to be part of this.

As Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury says “the Communion Forest is a symbol and act of hope – something we can do together as God’s Church for God’s World as we journey on from the Lambeth Conference”.

- To plant is to hope
- To protect is to love
- To restore is to heal – to share in God’s reconciling work in all creation



photo taken on Quiet Day

PHOTO GALLERY

Jill's 1st time at AC, Denise's last as Australian Executive, 16 Days of Activism, Quiet Day and Lady Day



50TH EDITION OF TENT

In May 1999 the first of edition of our Diocesan magazine was published, which later became known as THE TENT. Our next issue later this year is planning to be an extra-large edition to celebrate our 50th release. We are excited about this and want to encourage members and branches to please send through articles to help make this a special print. It can be personal stories or those from your branch, or even from members who were part of groups which have now closed or joined with others, including our Caritas and ANNA groups. It is your publication too!

I have kept my copies of nearly every edition except numbers 13 and 15. If anyone has any old copies of these 2 especially, they would be appreciated to try and make a complete set. Thank you. Denise

SOCIAL MEDIA

A great way to learn and interact with other members is either joining or having a look at our Mothers' Union websites.

Anglican Mothers Union Australia www.muaustralia.org.au also provides resources and ideas.

Mothers' Union Australia is a public Facebook site with 1K followers

MU Australia – is a smaller closed Facebook site with 160 members from across Australia and overseas, including our current Worldwide President, Sheran Harper.

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO NEXT ISSUE OF TENT

Closing date for the next bumper issue before 30th September 2023

Please email to Denise Lay newsletter@muaustralia.org.au

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