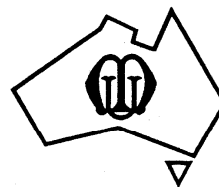


The **Litany on the Five Objects** has been taken from the MU Australia Service and Prayer Book, published 1994 and is used with permission.

Hymns or songs may be added to the service.

The Wave of Prayer may be omitted.



MU Australia
Part of the World Wide Mothers' Union

A Litany on the Five Objects

The Leader *says*

First let us turn to God and be quiet. To God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who is here, and who says to us:

The Reader says

“Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands’.
(Isaiah 49:15-16)

Pause

The Leader says

Eternal and loving Father, we thank you for your love, and for your hope and confidence in us; we thank you for calling us to be members of your family and your Church, and within them to be members of Mothers’ Union. We thank you for our friendship with each other and for our fellowship in Christ, our Lord, and for the work you have given us to do: ‘to be specially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life’.

Help us to be mindful of the Objects which you have set before us and show us how, with your guidance and help, we can bring them to good effect.

The Leader says

Father, we remind ourselves that it is our task: 'to uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage'. We reflect upon his words:

The Reader says

'From the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' (Mark 10:6-9)

Pause

The Leader says

Let us say together:

Holy Spirit of Jesus, we bring ourselves and all married people to you. Help us to know you, to love you, to enjoy you, to serve you. Rule in our homes. Keep us tender and thoughtful in our loving. Sustain us in our anxious and difficult times and protect and deliver us from all that weakens and harms our lives together.

Pause

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

The leader says

Father, we remember that it is the work of Mothers' Union: 'to encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church'. We reflect upon our Lord's love and concern for children.

The Leader says

Let us thank God for this time together with him and with one another; for the gift of prayer and the privilege and power of it; and let us, in confidence and faith, commend into his care and keeping ourselves and one another, and all with whom we have prayer and for whom we have prayed, saying together:

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 Reader says

‘Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. For all must carry their own loads.’ (Galatians 6:2,5)

Pause

The Leader says

Let us say together:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are of infinite compassion, lead us to those who are in trouble and adversity and touch our hearts with understanding and love so that we may help them. Keep us from all unhelpful criticism and from all unkind judgement, from hypocrisy, pride and hardness of heart, and show us how to be simple and practical and acceptable in our approach to one another.

Pause

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

MU Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Wave of Prayer

The Reader says

‘People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ And he took them in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them’ (Mark 10:13-16)

Pause

The Leader says

Let us say together:

Lord Jesus, we bring our children to you that you may touch and bless them. Help us to be sensitive to their needs. Give all parents such wisdom that our children may grow up rooted and grounded in love, stable and steadfast in faith, strong and straight in life. Guide us, and guide all others, in whose hands is the training of our children and young people that we may follow in your way for them; that we may be for them, not a hindrance, but a help and an encouragement.

Pause

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Leader says

Father we seek ‘to maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service’. We remind ourselves of the words of the Apostle Paul.

The Reader says

'I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.' (Philippians 1:3-6)

Pause

The Leader says

Let us say together

Holy Spirit of unity and power, we rejoice in our fellowship with one another as members of Mothers' Union in one church across the world. Teach us how to pray and how to serve you and encourage each other in our prayers. Give reality to our worship and lead us into the ways and opportunities of service which you have prepared for us.

Pause

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Leader says

O God, the Creator, the Preserver and Redeemer of all you have created, you have called us 'to promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children'. And our blessed Lord has shown us in his life, and taught us in his words, that to love God means also to love our neighbours as ourselves.

The Reader says

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.' (John 15: 12-14)

Pause

The Leader says

Let us say together:

Lord Jesus, give to each of us, and all our leaders in the church and Mothers' Union, an alert and attentive mind, that we may see what needs to be done to remove all hindrances to the strengthening of our family life and the well-being of our children. Show us, where it is needed, what action to take and give us the courage to take it. Remove from us ignorance and inertia, and where the opportunity lies, help us to seize it. And strengthen all the influences for good in our common life.

Pause

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Leader says

Jesus, Lord, Friend and Saviour, you have called us to share in your work of love and mercy in bringing help and hope to 'those whose family life has met adversity'.