



Monday, 14th February, 2022

Dear Friends,

It hasn't been the new start to the year that we had all been praying for. I know that many of our Mothers' Union diocesan members have been reluctant to join in the special diocesan days planned in 2021 and the Executive were really looking forward to new beginnings in 2022. Mothers' Union world wide's theme for this year is "Transformation - Now"! After the restrictions and limited fellowship COVID 19 placed upon us, we had hoped to emerge like a chrysalis, spread our wings and be transformed as a beautiful, colourful butterfly, reaching out into our church and community, sharing Christ's love in a new way. It is still our hope that MU in our diocese will be able to grow and change in order to be relevant in a changing world.

Two things need to be mentioned as we make plans for the year:

In January, we farewelled a dear friend and fellow MU member, Bevan Downing, who died after a long battle with his health and dialysis treatment. We extend our deepest sympathy to Anne (Our immediate past president) and her family. A wonderful service to celebrate Bevan's life was held at All Saints' Ainslie.

A hard decision, in consultation with Bishop Mark Short and the NSW State Conference committee, was made **to postpone the State Conference to be held at the ACC&C in April** because of the Omicron COVID outbreak. The Conference will be rescheduled for a date to be announced in the spring of 2022.

Please place the date for our Lady Day Communion Service and AGM in you diary. It will be held at Holy Cross Anglican Church Hackett at 10.00am on Wednesday, 23rd March, 2022. A light lunch, sandwiches, fruit and slice will be served at St Margaret's' Hall prior to the AGM and a donation for the MU project 2022 welcomed.



The Rev'd Joan Smith will preach on Transformation – Now & New Life.

Our members have shown such incredible resilience, responsiveness and adaptability throughout the global pandemic. As an organisation, the pandemic forced us to change the ways we work and support those who benefit from our services.

Now is the time to:

Transform ourselves, personally and spiritually, to live out our faith.

Transform the churches and communities we work with and of which we are a part, to reflect

Christ's kingdom.

Transform Mothers' Union to be relevant for 21st century life.

Can I encourage you to pray for all members here in the diocese as we transform our MU presence in the Diocese and continue to meet together, sharing our faith and enjoying fellowship with each other? Let us not grow weary as we are God's ambassadors, commissioned to pass on the baton of faith from generation to generation. Galatians 6:9 urges us "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

I do look forward to seeing many of you at Holy Cross next month and would value your comments and suggestions as we plan for the year and especially our NSW State Conference where you can join with members from other diocese to share your love of Jesus and of our wonderful worldwide organisation.

Yours in Christ,

Joan Eberlé

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