



# ANGLICAN MOTHERS UNION AUSTRALIA

8/02/2020

Dear MU Friends,

Greetings. Best wishes as we face a year of challenges and recovery from drought and bushfires over the summer holiday period. As I sit at my computer it is with thanksgivings to the Lord for the light shower of rain and the promise of more to come in the next few days.

MU's theme for this year is 'Building Hope and Confidence' as MU members, within our church and in our community demonstrating Christian care for families. This is very appropriate as we face many challenges; rebuilding lives, homes, churches and businesses. Let us ask for God's help and guidance to search our hearts and find new ways to reach out to those who have been so traumatised by the devastating summer events. Pray that our Diocese will find ways to practically support our brothers and sisters in need and to continue to do what we do so well. ie pray for our troubled world and for recovery within communities in our diocese and beyond. I attach a letter from our Australian President, Anne, outlining AMUA's offer of financial help to dioceses affected by the bushfires of recent weeks. As we read in 1 John 3:18 'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.'

Recently Bishop Mark met by videoconference with leaders from many Parishes in bushfire affected areas. Those who were able to be present shared the prayer points which you will find below in this email. Can I encourage you to use them in public and private intercessions. In general please pray:

- 1. That God will be merciful in preserving life*
- 2. for the conditions needed to extinguish the fires and heal the land, flora and fauna*
- 3. for those called to respond to human need in various ways and in unity - including churches, agencies such as Anglicare, schools, volunteers, the different services and organisations such as the fire brigade and hospitals*
- 4. For our witness to the Lord Jesus in a season of uncertainty and that people will know during difficulty the comfort of God's love through Jesus. That people will come to faith or grow in faith.*
- 5. for our nation to work together harmoniously on the longer-term issues impacting our climate, natural systems and communities*

6. for an abundance of acts of love, faith, hope, grace, peace, kindness, gentleness, forgiveness, self-control and patience throughout this difficult time

7. for all of our political leaders – Federal, State and Local and in all political parties – as they respond to the fires, drought and the environmental issues. Pray they have the strength to deal with the pressure of their role. That they lead justly with mercy, grace and humility. Pray for the safety of all politicians including our Prime Minister and the opposition leader and their families and all dear to them. Pray that all of our politicians feel supported during this stressful period, that they know God's love, wisdom and strength during this time.

8. for people grieving. For those dealing with anxiety. For people worried about the smoke. That all hurting can move gently through their emotions, for example - anger and bitterness, and that they receive much care and kindness from those around them. Help them to know God's hope and love during this difficult time.

The main purpose for my Newsletter is to inform you of our Diocesan Program for 2020. There will again be 4 diocesan gatherings:

1. **Lady Day and AGM will be held at Christ Church Anglican Church, Queanbeyan on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020**, commencing at 10.00am The Communion Service will be followed by a Sandwich and Slice Lunch and the AGM..



At this service we will present the Rev'd Mary Thorn with her Sixty Years of service and membership of Mothers' Union Badge.

Please mark this event in your diary and if you need transport don't hesitate to contact myself or Patricia Stoddart (Our Diocesan Secretary)

2. **Overseas and Northern Outreach Day will be held in June at Holy Cross Anglican Church, Hackett** - The speaker will be Rev'd Anne Ranse. A final date is yet to be confirmed. This will be followed by a warm soup luncheon.
3. **Mary Sumner Day at St Saviour's Cathedral on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August** – when the Goulburn Branch regularly meets and they will host this special event. Bathurst Diocese has been invited to join us in celebrating Mary Sumner Day.

#### 4. **Advent Service and Christmas Luncheon**

This special service and Christmas Lunch is yet to be finalised and the venue is being negotiated as we are trying to get about the Canberra area and meet with new people.

Canberra & Goulburn Diocese will host the next **NSW State Conference for AMUA at the Australian Centre for Culture and Christianity in Barton, ACT – from 1st – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022** – Yes, that is right 2022! More about this after the committee is formed and planning commences. Please keep the dates in your diary and encourage members of your parish to come along to the Open Forum on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2022.

A report on the **Hackett Branch 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday** Celebration in November last year has been submitted to the Anglican News with the wonderful news that Bishop Mark and Monica were officially admitted to the membership of Mothers' Union. Lunch in their home and a birthday cake to mark the occasion were enjoyed by over 30 members, some travelling from Junee and the Newcastle Diocese.

We thank God that Bishop Mark Short and his wife, Monica, have embraced our organisation and become Correspondence Members. MU is committed to supporting Monica with her program to offer support to our Rector's spouses within the diocese.

**Please pray for our branches that meet regularly each month:**

1. Hackett Branch meets on a Tuesday and Goulburn Branch meets on the Second Thursday of the month at 2.00pm. Their leaders are Dorothy Mackenzie (Hackett) and Rev'd Anne Wentzel (Goulburn) Give them wisdom and strength as they coordinate these meetings; may we grow in our faith, hope and confidence in our Lord Jesus through our fellowship and service to Mothers' Union.

2. **Pray for our Correspondence Members** just as I know that they are faithful in prayer for us, still strong supporters of MU, many for well over 50 years. So it was sad to learn of the death of Phyllis Peirce this week who would have received her 60 year badge in 2020. We give thanks to God for Phyllis and her life of service and pray for her family.

Can I encourage you to think about how we can reach out to those parishes that have experienced such difficulties over the last twelve months and if you have a great idea as to how we can help in a practical way, please let me know? I am a good organiser but need you inspired ideas to make our organisation relevant and a blessing within our communities! There is so much to pray for..... So we bring our prayers in hope and confidence for nothing is impossible with God.

**Praise to God for a Living Hope**

*<sup>3</sup> 'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead'*

*With love and prayers,  
Joan Eberlé*

[Diocesan President]

Note: Hackett Branch recycled cards raised \$500.00 for the MU Diocese of Kachin -Myanmar in 2019.



A great project! We look forward to hearing from President Ruth soon and the work of MU in Kachin.