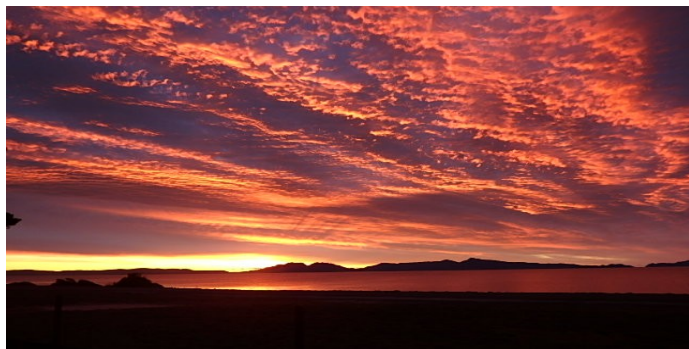


From the Mothers Union UK website :

Why Mothering Sunday is more relevant than ever: A brief history.

Social Togetherness is more important now than it ever was. Traditional festival days and related celebrative events in the calendar bring people together and strengthen communities. Mothering Sunday has come a long way from its origins but remains a means of fostering closeness. Back in the 16th century, on Mothering Sunday, people used to return to the church where they were baptised, or the local parish church. This was known as their 'mother church'. The essence of this practice was that people remained in touch with the community they had grown up in. The actual service took place on the fourth Sunday of Lent and symbolised the coming together of families. By the early 20th century the practice of returning to one's 'mother church' had become so neglected in the UK and Ireland that there were calls to revive it from social activists of the time. As time moved on, the make-up of communities entered a stage of transition. Mothering Sunday was adapted to fit the evolving nature of local people and places. The traditions associated with the day were changing too. The day itself became less focused on the religious roots and more about specific relations within families. In the UK now Mothers Day

.....
The beginning of a new day TasmaniaGod's palette of beauty.



EDITOR ... Ronda Gault rondagault@gmail.com

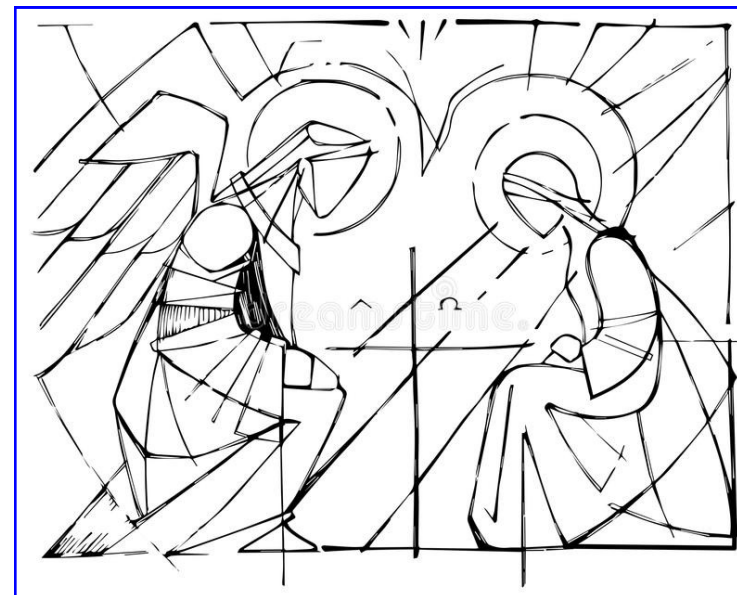


Edition 2 : March 2023

AMUA Bendigo

Lady Day

March 25th 2023



Our Theme is ...[Transformation Now!!](#)

FROM President Zan



Zan on her recent visit to Maryborough Branch's March Meeting with Sally, Julia, Margaret, Iris, Sandra, Esther, and, soon to be member, Lorraine..

* Lady Day - Recording Available

We are very blessed to have a local tech savvy Christian man who is gifting us with his time and equipment to record both the workshops and Lady Day service. If you would like either a USB copy of the recording, or to be emailed a secure link to access the recording on-line, please email Jenny Rainsford.

bjrains@bigpond.com

During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, Mother's Union Bendigo intentionally walked alongside our local Council. We were the ones offering refreshment and encouragement by attending their events and promoting them on our cathedral fence. It was not our role to reinvent the wheel, but to link together with other organisations working towards a common goal.

On page 4 is a graphic which outlines the Anglican Church of Australia's 10 commitments to combating the very high prevalence of domestic and family violence in our communities. This issue is bigger than family homes though, it is an **ingrained cultural attitude**. 1 in 2 Australian women have experienced sexual harassment in their lifetime. **That is not okay.** So what can we do about it here in Bendigo diocese? **One thing we can do is link together with other organisations like the national Anglican church.** We can read what they are recommending to us and think about small ways to do our part.

MY LENT

Some time ago I promised I'd clean out the spare room—not quite a New Year 's Resolution' but definitely a commitment to domestic wellbeing and harmony.

What a job to tacklethe accumulation of years, the assorted items so conveniently placed hastily behind the closed door with the expectation that 'I'd deal with it later'!

Now that I have assessed that motley collection I wonder why I have held on to it for so long: stuff !I don't need ; stuff that's outdated and useless; stuff that might've been useful for someone ages ago. ...So now it's simply a BIG throw out operation to bring back the room to guest room status.

Cleaned and refreshed ! I can be assured when family and friends visit the re is a welcoming room for them to stay in.



Thinking about this, I realised that I also need to clean out the cobwebs and detritus of my soul and the secret little room there, where old, dark, and shameful things I have been hiding or forgotten are.... I know my bad habits and imperfections (the sins I've hung onto) are the cause of the darkness in my soul but I rejoice, knowing that Lent is the season of preparation and reconciliation for the Resurrection of Easter.

This Lent I want to invite Jesus into a fresh, clean and prepared little room in my soul where we can dwell together in the light of His love and the wonder and blessing of His resurrection.

A penitent sinner....





President
Diane
Wells
with Chef
Keith
Blackman

PANCAKE CELEBRATION.....Nyah West Branch /Swan Hill

This year, the Nyah West Branch of M.U. marked Shrove Tuesday with a Pancake Tea ably cooked by a retired chef, who is the son of one of our long time members, Joan Blackman. Two savoury choices, a bolognaise or vegetarian selection, followed by a sweet pancake to enjoy, with jam, maple syrup, cream or ice cream or both plus fruit salad

There was a lucky door prize, the lucky winner shared the booty of chocolates with fellow diners, and our mental faculties were challenged by a couple of quizzes.

The small gathering of members, fellow parishioners, family and friends all went home feeling well entertained and well fed!

A Blessed Easter to you all from all Nyah West members. Evelyn Mortimer
Evelyn Mortimer

- Answers to Lady Day Quiz.**
1. Feast of the Annunciation.
 2. Gabriel and Mary
 3. The Angel Gabriel visited Mary and told her she would bear a son.
 4. 1155 Where it was New Year's Day, or 1549 where it is commemorated in the Prayer Book of Edward VI.
 5. God's promise of a redeemer for mankind was about to be fulfilled.
 6. A virgin having a child. It's one of the seven Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.
 7. The Angelus.

Of course this is not a uniquely Australian issue. It is global and therefore is a top priority for Mother's Union Internationally. Here is a link to a recently published article on their website: <https://www.mothersunion.org/news/what-mothers-union-are-doing-combat-domestic-abuse> It lists 5 ways we can work together to transform communities, the first of which is be aware of what is around in your own area. It asks this question about our churches and work-places: Is there a poster in the bathroom or in communal spaces on how to get help?

10 Commitments

Being '**linked together**' I am learning, is a key strength of Mother's Union. I have now had the privilege of seeing this in action both within local branches and nationally at the council meeting. It doesn't take much then, for me to understand the potential for transformational change that MU has internationally as well. When people and organisations work together towards a common goal real change can be enacted. The power of being linked together on both personal and organisational levels is that when the road to transformation becomes bumpy (and it will), we have pilgrims with us to offer refreshment or carry our bag for a section.

On page 4 you will find the 10 Commitments for preventing and responding to Domestic and Family Violence mentioned here.

MIDWINTER GATHERING THURSDAY JULY 20th

Maryborough ... Lunch Provided

Hosted by Christ the King Branch

It is hoped this day may be a part of the celebration of 120 years of Mothers Union in Bendigo Diocese...

Planning is still evolving but please keep the date clear and Executive are open to all suggestions as to how this day of celebration may be enhanced ...ALSO please consider any ideas for further celebrating .. Mothers Union in this Diocese for 120 years. Do you know anyone who might like to update our

10 COMMITMENTS FOR PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

1 Our Church acknowledges and laments the violence which has been suffered by some of our members and repents of the part we have played in allowing an environment where violence went unaddressed.

2 Our Church leaders commit to ensure conditions that support the prevention of violence, a church culture that promotes equality, and support for those who experience violence.

3 Our Church consistently teaches about equality, freedom from violence, respectful relationships and the honour/value of every person.

4 Our Church affirms that human relationships are to be based on respect and mutuality.

5 Our Church acknowledges the different experiences of all people and that these have played a part in whether they have been treated with respect and equality.

6 Our Church actions are directed by the gospel of love, peace and justice, and are informed and engaged with local, state and national government initiatives as appropriate.

7 Our church supports cultural change in our communities by communicating effectively to our members.

8 Our Church trains our leaders, pastoral staff and parish councils to understand and be equipped to respond in ways that prevent and address domestic and family violence.

9 Our leaders and pastoral staff hold themselves to account and are guided by the Anglican Church's Code of Conduct: *Faithfulness in Service*.

10 These commitments are regularly reviewed and improved.

Lady Day Quiz

Evelyn Mortimer

1. What is another name for 'Lady Day'?
2. Who are the main characters?
3. What happened on this day?
4. How far back does this custom go?
5. What is its importance?
6. What is the Joyful Mystery and where would you find it?
7. There is a prayer associated with this day, what is it?

Some trivia: **E M**

In England, Our Lady's Day as it was originally known was New Year's Day from 1155 until 1752 when the Gregorian calendar was adopted over the Julian calendar which was eleven days behind.

Until this change Our Lady's Day had been used as the start of the legal year and also the end of the fiscal and tax year. As a year-end and quarter-day that conveniently did not fall within or between the seasons for ploughing and harvesting,

Our Lady's Day was a traditional day on which year-long contracts between landowners and tenant farmers would begin and end in England and nearby lands.

Farmers' time of "entry" into new farms and onto new fields was often this day. As a result, farming families who were changing farms would travel from the old farm to the new one on Our Lady's Day.

From our friends in Kyabram

The study we did was based on Matthew 4 verses 1-11.

This reading is telling of the temptation of Jesus and leaves us some thinking room...

The devil tempted Jesus in these areas-

- * Are you really dependent on God (Matt 4 :3-4)
- * Do you really believe you are the son of God (Matt 4 5-7)
- * Will you worship him above yourself (Matt 4 :8-10)

This is an example of how to live in the world and his tempting can serve as an example for us. During Lent we have the opportunity to remember and consider our dependence on God, our identity on Him and to commit ourselves to worshipping Him in spirit and truth. Judy Binion

.....
And from Marj. Squires

*Not a lot happening in MU so far this year but we are going on our annual visit to **Teen Challenge** on April 12th where we take about 20 tins of homemade biscuits for staff and students to enjoy. We also take morning tea which we share with them.*

[Editors note: Lady Day may mean there are some rugs for Teen Challenge as well, if our members have been able to rally to the cause and bring/send rugs to the Lady Day service.]

Caritas also had Capt Jacky Targett from the local Salvation Army speak to us prior to Christmas when she spoke of her ministry to homeless women in Kyabram (mostly as a result of family violence). We decided to collect donations of non-perishable goods to assist her in this ministry and this has been supported by the church as a whole.

Thankyou Marj and Judyfor connecting us to Kyabram in this edition.

At the burning bush

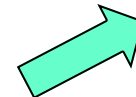
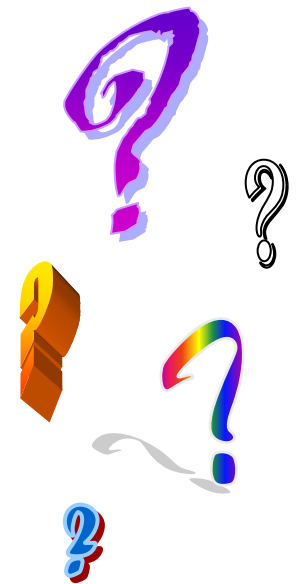
**But what if I
should hear that voice
practical,
earthy,
specific,
speaking to me?**

**What if God should say,
'I have heard,
I will save,
now you must hear
and go
and be the instrument
of my salvation.'**

**I want to stand
and see the glory of God,
to wonder,
worship,
and be still...
but what if God says 'Go'?**

Edmund Banyard

Submitted by Julia Nutting. ..Newstead



From COHUNA

On Shrove Tuesday each year one of our Mothers Union members - Marilyn Hornsby - AMB President - organises a Pancake Day. This consists of Morning Tea and an Op Shop Mannequin Parade for the public. Then one week later Marilyn arranges for pancakes to be delivered around the town. This year we raised just over \$2240.00 - half of which goes to the Mothers Union Missions and the other half to our local mission 'Chaplaincy..'

This is a huge effort on Marilyn's part having organised this annual event for the past 17 years and raising much needed funds for our missions., ...[and welcomed by all recipients of pancakes I am sure ... Ed.] We admire and congratulate Marilyn on her work for our church and the Mothers Union Missions.

MARILYN'S PANCAKE DAY for THE MISSIONS.

We have a special day each year to recognize Shrove Tuesday It's Marilyn's Mission Pancake Day, a day that makes us woozy. Arriving early morning, armed with frypans, slides and aprons, We set up in the meeting room and start cooking, mixture shaken. Two hours later, 300 pancakes made, we sit and rest and wait Until our guests start to arrive their pancakes to partake. There's Savoury ones with relish and there's ones with jam and cream, There's Gluten Free for anyone whose diet makes us scream. With cups of tea and coffee they're happy to have stayed All waiting for the main event - the Big Op Shop Parade. Our models come in one by one all showing op shop clothes, Our patrons wait with bated breath the prices to disclose. They try their clothes, they buy their clothes and merrily go their way, Whilst we clean up, exhausted, after another successful day.

One week later we cooked another 750 pancakes and delivered them throughout the town/

Mothers Union - COHUNA
Beverley Brown



Pictured... Cohuna's Marilyn with Bev Brown..

Have you accessed **Midday Prayers** ...on Facebook most days...or evenings. Yet? Available 11:00 pm onwards usually. If you do use Facebook, search for MU Midday Prayers and you should find the link. The presenters are varied and from various sites. FB has changed the way these sessions of prayer can be presented and so most 10 minute segments must be recorded.which makes it difficult for presenters to read the prayer requests which come through in the comments until after the session. Those who do present have become 'friends' as we learn about them all and Glenys Deborah Adam Cathy Jeanette Katherine RevAnn Bev and several more share this prayer time in their own individual manner, but almost always include the prayers for the Dioceses around the world in their 3 day cycle from our Prayer Diary. I enjoy leaving a *like sometimes for members from around the world and nearly always for any from Australia ...I occasionally pick up a *like from an Aussie Diocese with whom our branch have a link or I have met when the World Wide President Rosemary, was here in Australia. I find it a lovely way to end the day or begin the new day. RG