

Derry & Raphoe MU News



August 2020

Mary Sumner Day – 9th August Note from Diocesan President

Summer is fast flying by as we approach Mary Sumner Day 2020. Unfortunately, our afternoon in The Celtic Prayer Garden will not now take place, but we are grateful to Revd Canon Katie McAteer, our Diocesan Chaplain, who has put together a beautiful set of garden reflections for Mary Sumner Day and beyond. Copies will be arriving Branches for each member to savour and enjoy. Thank you, Canon Katie.

Mary Sumner's Foresight

Mary was a lady way ahead of her time. God had a plan for her as He has for each one of us. In 1876, Mary was about to become a grandmother, and the seeds long sown in Mary's past were about to bear abundant fruit with the formation of Mothers' Union.

The key principles that Mary Sumner developed through Mothers' Union included:

"That the prosperity of a nation springs from the family life in its homes"

"That family life is the greatest institution in the world for the formation of the character of children"

"That faith is the foundation of family life"

"That the tone of family life depends upon the married life of the parents – and ultimately, that example is stronger than precept"

Mary herself was a living example of what she preached. She was a woman of God, and each day was framed in prayer and the study of God's word. She observed the lives of others and the society in which she found herself. As she prayed, she placed equal weight on listening to the voice of God, and she used His voice to inform the actions she undertook in His name.

Her actions were many and varied, from teaching in Sunday School, training the church choir, visiting families, opening a new branch, to writing to members of Parliament, to corresponding with her MU sisters throughout the world, to speaking to large and small gatherings, to advocating on issues of key importance to families and children.

With each footstep she took she placed her trust in God, and as she listened, observed and acted according to His will she sowed the seeds of hope and confidence in communities around the world. Today we continue that work.

"Together, by the Grace of God... we can calm each other when we are afraid; strengthen one another when we are weak; and work together to raise our children to the glory of God. Unity is strength".

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

Loving Lord,

We give you thanks for the far-reaching vision of our founder, Mary Sumner.

We look back with gratitude and praise for her witness,

and for all that has been achieved thus far in the name of Mothers' Union worldwide.

As we look forward with faith for all that is to come

help us to build a future together which will enable our work to flourish;

through far-reaching vision and commitment to your will.

Amen

Online Services – Mary Sumner Day – Sunday 9th August

The following services will be taking place online and will be available on both our Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnion>) and You Tube Channels.

Mary Sumner Day Morning Prayer - 8:30am (BST)

Mary Sumner Evening Compline – 9:00pm (BST)

Service sheets for both events will be available on the Mothers' Union website.

Derry & Raphoe gets snapping – We've got Sole!

Derry and Raphoe Diocese
Shoe Photographic
Competition

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
The Dioceses of Derry & Raphoe

We've got
Sole!



Have you got a closet full of shoes? If so, now is the time to get them out and get snapping! They can be on or off the feet, old or new, child or adult, any colour, size or style. Get creative and submit your photograph taken by camera, ipad or iphone.



Categories are:

Quirkiest pair of shoes

Most loved shoes

(Your story of the reason why)

Most imaginative setting for a pair of shoes, on or off the feet
e.g. hanging on the clothes-line, with related caption.



Closing date for entries is 31st August.

Forward photo with caption or story to Doreen at sdoreen245@gmail.com; stating the name of the Mothers' Union photographer, Branch and the category under which it is being entered.

Results will be announced in the Autumn.

Happy holidays!

The Derry & Raphoe “THANK YOU” Project



The *Thank You Project* showing appreciation to essential frontline workers in our own communities continues over the summer months. Care workers, Health Centre Staff, Nursing Home staff, local shops, post men/women, and bin collectors have been surprised and delighted with their “Thank you” gift packs. Here are two photo montages received from Templemore MU.



For further bookmarks or gift bags, contact Doreen at sdoreen245@gmail.com

ALL-Ireland Mothers’ Union Poetry Competition

Theme : Covid Times



Eligibility This all- Ireland Poetry Competition is open to **current** Mothers’ Union members.

Entries must be your own original work.

Entries must not be previously published or have won a prize in any other competition.

You may submit more than one poem.

Entry implies acceptance of all the guidelines.

Closing Date 31st August 2020

Poems will be judged anonymously, so please submit your name, address and diocese on a separate sheet or file. Send entries to Jacqui Armstrong at 32 Clooney Park Gardens, Derry/Londonderry BT47 6NU or to jacquelin.armstrong.donegal@outlook.com

Length Poetry: 24 lines max. No minimum length.

Title, dedications, and lines between text / stanzas are not counted.

Judging A published poet will judge, and the judge’s decision is final.

Copyright Copyright of each entry remains with the author, but Mothers’ Union reserves unrestricted rights to publish the winning and commended poems.

Results & awards The results and awards will be announced and posted on our website www.mothersunion.ie in Autumn 2020.

August Midday Prayers



This month’s Building Hope and Confidence Midday Prayers theme is “**Hope and Confidence Worldwide**”. The daily themes include: *Hope and confidence worldwide, Sharing love and service, Sharing prayer and worship, Sharing faith for change and Sharing fellowship worldwide* .

Midday Prayers are live at 12pm on the Mothers Union Facebook page Monday to Saturday - <https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnion/> and also on the DAILY HOPE Call Line 0800 804 8044

Attachments accompanying this Newsletter

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Midday Prayers for August 2020

Thank you for your continued support for Mothers' Union. Further details of Mothers Union activities can be found at www.derry.mothersunion.ie; www.mothersunion.ie or at www.mothersunion.org

<https://www.facebook.com/Mothers-Union-Derry-Raphoe-840082302681390/>

Derry and Raphoe Mothers' Union 'Registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland **NIC100834**' (**Derry & Raphoe - XR 76024 & CHY 5161**)

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Registered Charity Number –**20007331** (Charity Regulatory Authority)