

Farewell to Phyllis Grothier



Our prayerful good wishes are with Mrs Phyllis Grothier, whose term as All-Ireland President of Mothers' Union comes to an end in December 2018.

Phyllis has guided Mothers' Union in Ireland for the past six years. Among other official duties she has also been a Worldwide Trustee and has chaired the Britain and Ireland Committee. Her term has been full of kindness, enthusiasm, wisdom and innovation, and we thank God for her friendship and leadership during her term of office.

We look forward to welcoming June Butler, Down & Dromore, as All-Ireland President in January 2019.

Souls of Our Shoes Exhibition

The **All-Ireland *Souls of Our Shoes Exhibition*** was mounted in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin for the duration of the World Meeting of Families 2018.

It was a moving and meaningful experience, visited by thousands of visitors and pilgrims, many of whom echoed that domestic abuse was endemic in their country. Some took photos, asked questions, and were excited to be taking this idea back to their own country.



If you would like the *Souls of Our Shoes Exhibition* to visit your parish please contact Jane in the MU Office at office@mothersunion.ie or telephone 01 873 5075.

2019 Theme: Listen, Observe Act – in step with God

Theme resources for 2019 are available for download at

<https://www.mothersunion.org/resources/2019-theme-listen-observe-act-step-with-god>

2018 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence



This international campaign takes place each year from **25 November** (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) until **10 December** (International Human Rights Day).

Throughout the campaign, Mothers' Union joins with many others, globally, to raise awareness of, and call for an end to, gender-based violence in *all* forms and in *all* societies.

Mothers' Union has produced a set of resources specifically for its members and friends, which you are welcome to use and to encourage others to use. These resources are found at <https://www.mothersunion.org/resources>

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence Campaign is an extension of the day-to-day grassroots work of Mothers' Union. We work alongside communities to help end gender-based violence and to support those affected by it, every day of the year.

During November 2018, events to highlight gender-based violence, including domestic abuse, will be taking place in each diocese. You would be most welcome to attend.

Details of Mothers' Union 16 Days Events in your diocese can be viewed at
<http://mothersunion.ie/ContentBuilder/DisplayPage.aspx?DataId=DA000004>

MULOA:

Mothers' Union Listening Observing and Acting



Mothers' Union has embarked on an exciting new global process. *MULOA: Mothers' Union Listening, Observing and Acting* is engaging and challenging, enabling members to consider our God given purpose and direction in a local and global context.

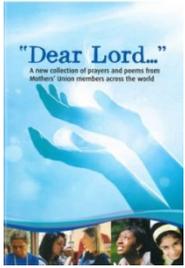
Through MULOA Mothers' Union is aiming to energise and inspire as we envisage ways of becoming more effective in making a difference.

Your voice is very valuable to us – if you would like to add your voice please contact your diocesan president and find out when and where MULOA is taking place in venues around your diocese.

<https://www.mothersunion.org/projects/muloa>

MU Resources

The Mothers' Union website has an array of prayer and worship resources. Of interest, at present, may be these resources:



Harvest Prayers and Reflections and *Prayer Resources for the Advent Season*, including a downloadable Advent Calendar for Children.

<https://www.mothersunion.org/resources/church-and-clergy-resources>

A range of cards, prayer books and other resources are also available for purchase at www.mueshop.org

Pastoral Care Day: *Listening To the Needs*



In September Mothers' Union hosted an introduction to best practice in undertaking pastoral care in our branches/ dioceses in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute with Revd Canon Dr. Daniel Nuzum and Revd Bruce Pierce.

Six aspects were considered during the day:

1. Living with Loss
2. Guidelines on best practice during a pastoral visit
3. Basic tips for listening well
4. Pastoral Care in Perinatal Bereavement
5. Pastoral Care and Dementia
6. Safeguarding

Participants were very enthused by the day and found it helpful, thought provoking, enjoyable and informative. We are a caring Christian organisation and days like this, bring us forward on our ministry journey towards nurturing and supporting family life around our dioceses. Each diocese will now discuss future developments in this area. Meanwhile members encouraged to always work in consultation with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer and to refer to safeguarding guidelines at

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/safeguarding>

Mums in May 2018: DR Congo Project



Mothers' Union in Ireland hold a triennial fundraiser across the country – Mums in May. 2018 marked the third such event with members in branches all over Ireland raising funds for our work both at home and overseas.

The overseas project selected for Mums in May 2018 is the support of our members in DR Congo as they campaign against gender-based violence. In one instance, MU in DR Congo campaigned successfully for prisoners to be housed separately. Men, women and children had been held in one compound leaving the women and children open to abuse. Working with other agencies, MU members secured separate housing for the women and children. Funding from MU in Ireland will enable further campaigning and practical work to continue and develop.

(Located in central Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo spreads over a territory the size of Western Europe and borders 10 countries. Since gaining its independence in 1960, the country has been marred with trouble, unrest and corruption culminating in a civil war. Tensions remain high in many areas and civil unrest is still rife in the north-eastern area of the country. Against this challenging backdrop, Mothers' Union members are incredibly active within their local communities providing a lifeline for many families through both practical and pastoral support. There are more than 30,000 members of Mothers' Union in DRC acting as beacons of hope in communities facing immense pressures and difficulties.)



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