



### MU Prayer Diary Monthly Prayer - December

God of Glory, awaken our souls; open our hearts,  
as we make ready to celebrate anew the coming  
of Love incarnate, our promised Messiah.  
Lead us to the new-born Christ that we may  
gaze in worship and give our lives to him. Amen.

### A Great Gift Idea

By choosing from the new **MU Gifts of Support** cards you are making a donation which could help our projects and programmes support women, families, and communities to bring about lasting change. With 6 to choose from, they make a perfect gift for Christmas. See [www.mueshop.org](http://www.mueshop.org) for details.



### The War in Ukraine

Loving God, we pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices. We pray for the world that in this time of continuing crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need. May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world. Amen.



### Services for December via ZOOM

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> - Advent Service @ 8.30pm**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> - 16 Days of Activism Against GBV @ 8.30pm**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> - Closing Service for the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV @ 8.30pm**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> - Advent Service @ 8pm**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> - 300 Days of war in Ukraine @ 8pm**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> - Longest Night @ 8pm**



**All are welcome to attend!**

**\*\*Please note all services are not on Tuesdays, and times vary too\*\***

### The Big Give



This year's **Christmas Appeal** is raising money for our Mothers' Union **Literacy and Trauma Healing** programme in **South Sudan**.

Sadly, South Sudan has seen years of conflict and violence which have devastated communities and forced millions of people to leave their homes. Over half of the refugees are children and are desperately in need of peace and a better future.

The Big Give takes place from **November 29<sup>th</sup>** until 12pm on **December 6<sup>th</sup>**. All monies donated will be **DOUBLED** by The Big Give, at no extra cost, thereby doubling the impact of the MU's work in South Sudan in conflict related trauma.

## Global Day of Action – Exhibition Launch



### ‘Walk a Mile in My Shoes’



Thank you to all who donated shoes for our new ‘Walk a Mile in My Shoes’ exhibition, which was launched at the Global Day of Action service, in All Saint’s, Carnew, on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of November.

This exhibition is available to branches and/or parishes who would like to use it to highlight the scourge, that is gender-based violence, within all our communities. Please contact me if you would like to host an exhibition.

### Midlands Support

Thank you to all who supported our ‘Selection Box’ appeal for the **Midlands Prison visitor’s centre**, they are very much appreciated by both the staff and the children who will receive them next week, when Santa comes to visit Portlaoise.

### Peter McVerry Trust

Mothers’ Union in our diocese has agreed to partner with the Peter McVerry Trust to supply baby products for people living in their hubs, including: bottles, bottle warmers, blankets, nappies, etc.

If any branches or individual members would like to get involved with this project, please contact myself or Valerie Power (Unit Co-ordinator for Action + Outreach) for more details.



### Knitting

If anyone would like to knit Trauma Teddies for the Midlands Prison or the hospitals in our region, please let me know, so that I can order the **CE approved wool** in bulk.



Also hats, scarves, gloves and jumpers are needed by the Seafarers Mission, and as always prem baby items for the hospitals. New patterns are now available on the website for baby cribs and angle pockets.



### Happy Christmas

Loving Lord, as the star lit up the sky  
and showed the Wise Men the way to Jesus,  
may the true light of the world,  
Jesus Christ our Saviour, light up our hearts,  
and let his love give us renewed hope,  
happiness and strength,  
for the year ahead. Amen.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas  
and every blessing and good wish for 2023.

Lesley xx