

HAPPY NEW YEAR

COVID-19 and the Mothers' Union

Unfortunately, COVID-19 continues to make headline news around the world, as numbers rise and fall daily due to the new strain, and the long-awaited vaccinations are at last distributed.

But what does all this mean for the Mothers' Union? Well as in 2020 the important work we do both at home and overseas continues to the best of everyone's ability, despite the difficulties caused by the ever-present pandemic.

Of course, most branches were unable to fundraise last year, but perhaps your branch can come up with some imaginative ways to stay connected and at the same time raise some much-needed funds for our 'reimagined' AFIA, SBUB, Overseas Development Projects, Centenary Fund, etc. Perhaps a fireside quiz or virtual afternoon tea might be something to consider? Please also encourage your members to continue their knitting and crafting for hospitals and nursing homes, as this is a vital, valuable and very much appreciated part of our local outreach.

Treasurers Training via ZOOM

Joan Blake and myself will hold a ZOOM meeting on Friday the 29th of January at 7pm for all Branch Treasurers. The aim is to explain the new form and to discuss any other financial issues you may have. If the Treasurer is unable to attend please try to ensure that someone from your branch attends in their place.

As the ZOOM invitation will be issued via email please advise me as soon as possible who will be attending and what their email address is.



For the last year the technology that is ZOOM has proved invaluable to many of us for staying in contact with our families and friends around the world. It has also been invaluable to the work of the Mothers' Union as we have continued to come together, virtually at least, for All Ireland Trustees, Council and Unit meetings, Communities of Interest and B&I meetings, which otherwise would have been impossible to attend.

This has also worked very well at diocesan level for our own Trustees and Council meetings, as well as the AFIA and SBUB committee. Some branches have even taken the opportunity to not only see each other, but to have a virtual Christmas get-together, and to share a few hours of chat and fellowship.

If your branch would like to avail of the MU diocesan account, which allows for unlimited time, please contact me to arrange to host a meeting, AGM, training or service. (085 8890029/cfodpmothersunion@yahoo.com)

2021 Subscriptions & Diocesan Membership

For the year **2021** the sub will be at the **reduced rate** of **€30** per member and it is now due for payment. However, I appreciate that collecting it may be difficult due to us not being able to meet, so please ask your members to post you a cheque or to pay by electronic fund transfer through their bank.

Likewise, branches may prefer to transfer payment directly into the diocesan account, but please remember to put your branch name into the narrative space – IBAN: IE49 AIBK 9336 4315 4830 63

If you know of anyone who would like to become a diocesan member, forms are available by contacting me.

All Ireland Mothers' Union Zoom Breakfast

'Rebuilding Hope & Confidence Living with COVID-19'

Saturday 6th February 2021: 10am-12.30pm

Please book your place by the 29th of January by
emailing: allirelandym@gmail.com

Notify Us Please

Please let us know if any members are celebrating significant birthdays, anniversaries, etc so that we can arrange to send them cards.

Also please inform us if a member passes away, so that we can offer our sympathy and remove their name from any mailing/text list, thereby avoiding any upset to their family in the future.

Mums in May 2021

1. Design a Mascot or Logo for June Butler's walk: '21 in 21'

- Knit or sew a Mascot no more than 10inches/25cms in height.
- Design a Logo using cross stitch, embroidery, patchwork or needlepoint, no more than 4 inches/10 cms square.
- Entries should be packed in a clear plastic bag and reach Margaret Jacob, Diocesan Fundraising & Communication Unit Coordinator, by Friday 19th March 2021.
- The best five entries in each category will be forwarded for judging at All-Ireland level.
- Please attach the following information ~ Name, Diocese and Contact details

See the website for full details: www.cfomothersunion.org

2. 'Count Your Blessings' Calendar

Travel through the month of May with this calendar of blessings designed by Margaret Jacob and while you do so put a few cents/Euros into a jar each day, to be sent at the end of the month to the Mum's in May fund.

MUe Shop

The MUe shop in Mary Sumner House is currently closed due to restructuring and COVID restrictions, but Phyllis Foot still has some stock available to sell. If you would like to buy anything from her or to **pre-order** your Easter cards please contact Phyllis at 087 6318711.

Christmas Card Competition Results

Traditional Cards

Winner: Jackie Eastwood, Limerick + Killaloe
Highly Commended: Mary Carter, Tuam, Killala + Achonry and Margaret Wilson, Armagh

Religious Cards

Winner: Emily Kells, Clougher
Highly Commended: Angela Kerr, Down + Dromore and Hazel Gumley, Kilmore, Elphin + Ardagh

Children's Cards

Winner: Ethel Lonney, Cashel, Ferns & Ossory
Highly Commended: Marjorie Bailey, Cashel, Ferns + Ossory and Jackie Gardener, Limerick + Killaloe

*******Well done to both Ethel and Marjorie*******