

May Newsletter



MU Prayer Diary Monthly Prayer - May

We draw near to the God of peace with thanks for our reconciliation, through the work of the cross. We offer ourselves as peacemakers in a world that cries out to live in peace and safety.
Amen.

On-line Services via ZOOM

Thank you to all those who have joined me over the last six months for the on-line services. They have been another great way to keep in touch and to come together to pray.

I have been asked by several regular attendees if they could continue, and so **weekly services** will commence on **Tuesday the 10th at 8pm**. The Zoom link will be sent out via email in the coming days.



The War in Ukraine

As the war in Ukraine rages on, MU members continue to pause and pray together every evening at 7pm, and we continue to support those in need however we can.



Lord Jesus Christ, you are the true King of Peace. In you alone is found freedom. We ask that you free our world from conflict, praying especially for Ukraine; bring unity to troubled nations, and let your glorious peace reign in every heart. Dispel all darkness and evil, protect the dignity of every human life, and replace all hatred with your love. Give wisdom to world leaders, free them from selfish ambition and eliminate all violence and war. We ask this in your name. Amen.

2022 Annual Gathering – Belfast

This year's **Annual Gathering** takes place over the weekend of the **23rd** and **24th** of **September** in **Belfast**.



Friday 23rd: Two Services of Celebration in St. Anne's Cathedral at 4.30pm and 7pm – the preacher will be Rt Revd Emma Ineson, the Central Mothers' Union Chaplain (*Admission by ticket only*)

Saturday 24th: Annual Gathering meeting in the Waterfront Hall 10.15am-3.45pm (*Ticket price £15*)
Evening Concert 7.30-8.45pm (*Ticket price £15 or combination price for both events of £25*)

Full details can be found on www.mothersunion.ie and **early booking is encouraged**.
(If seats are booked in a group everyone will be seated together)

The services are being organised and managed by the Province of All Ireland and any enquires about them should be sent by email to annualgathering.belfast@gmail.com.

Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea

As the Patron of Mothers' Union Worldwide, Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II celebrates her Platinum Jubilee this summer, we will mark the occasion with an **Afternoon Tea** party. This will also be a fundraiser for both the **School Book and Uniform Bursary (SBUB)** and the **Burundi Literacy Programme**.



The **Afternoon Tea** costs €20 per person, and is on **Friday the 3rd of June** in **Rathwood Home and Garden**, with the tea being served at **3pm**.

*Please note the **change of venue**, which is due to the number of bookings already made. If you would like to book please do so by **Friday the 20th of May**.*

Please also notify me of any special dietary requirements, eg: gluten free, etc.

Contact me on 085 8890029 or cfodmothersunion@yahoo.com to reserve your place.

16 DAYS 365 Working Group

The working group have met twice and have already started to think about how we might grow our advocacy around Domestic Abuse and Gender-Based Violence. We now have daily posts on our Facebook page – **Mothers' Union CFO**, and on our Twitter account – **MU_CFO**.

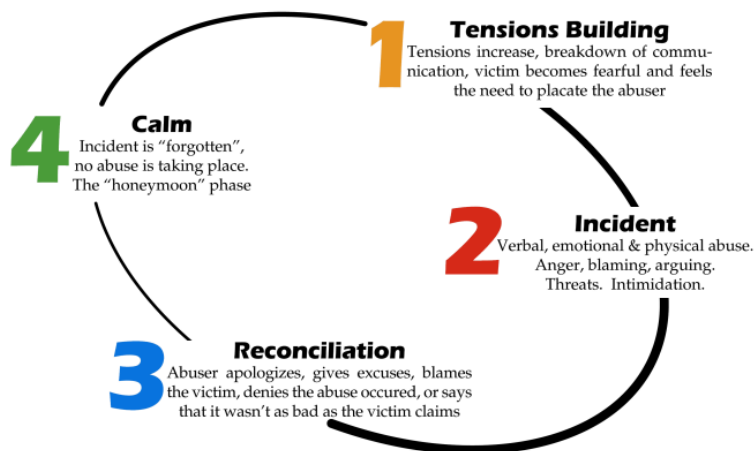
We also relaunched the **'Thursday in Black'** campaign at Spring Council, and each Thursday, for the next few months our Facebook page will feature a Trustee in black, sharing with us why they support the campaign and stand in solidarity with others around the world to end rape and violence. In the coming months I will be asking branch members to get involved too.

The theme for the **16 DAYS of Activism** this year will again be **#nomore1in3**, and the **Global Day of Action** will be on **Saturday the 26th of November**.

Some of us have taken part in training, which we hope will help us to help others within our communities and parishes, who may be suffering at the hands of an abuser.

If abuse is disclosed: **Recognise – Respond – Refer – Record**

Cycle of Abuse



Abuse takes many forms – **Coercive Control** is just one of them.

Coercive Control: a persistent pattern of controlling, coercive and threatening behaviour including all or some forms of domestic abuse (emotional, physical, financial, sexual including threats) by a boyfriend/girlfriend, partner, husband/wife or ex-partner.

This abuse has to stop!

Ploughing Championships

The **National Ploughing Championships** will take place in **Ratheniska, Co. Laois** on the **20th, 21st and 22nd of September 2022**.

We will be asking members to volunteer in the **Baby Changing Tent** over the **3 days**. Anyone who volunteers will need to be **Garda Vetted** and to do **Safeguarding Trust training**.