



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory

www.cfomothersunion.org



May Newsletter

From the Diocesan President

God has really blessed us this week with warm, sunny weather and I'm sure many of you like me, took the opportunity to venture out into the garden to battle with the weeds and do some planting. The swallows are back, after their long flight from Africa heralding the start of summer.

As I write this, I am looking forward to our Festival and Commissioning service tonight in St. Canice's Cathedral. I am so looking forward to meeting many of you from within the Diocese and welcoming those from other parts of the country. Thank you to all those who have worked so hard to allow this to happen.

At the end of this month from Ascension Thursday 29th May until Pentecost on Sun 8th June we in Mothers Union join the worldwide ecumenical prayer movement of 'Thy Kingdom Come'. It is hoped that everyone who takes part will – Deepen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ, Pray for five friends or family to come to faith and invite one person to come to a Mothers union event where they can find faith, fellowship and fun. Prayer doesn't have to be formal or complicated. It is a conversation with God, He hears every prayer and welcomes us just as we are. Follow the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come in your prayer diary.

Linda



Spring Council



The Spring Council was held in the Woodford Dolmen Hotel on Friday 11th April and it was very well attended with nearly every branch in the Diocese represented. The morning began with a holy Communion service conducted by our Chaplain, Revd. Ger James and it was a very fitting way to begin our days business.

It was a wonderful day of sharing all that is happening in Mothers' Union in our Diocese, All-Ireland and Mothers' Union throughout the world as well as much laughter, fun and fellowship. We were delighted that Revd. Janet Finlay was able to attend and tell us all about the Visitor's Centre in The Midland's Prison, which is supported by Mothers' Union in the Diocese.

Presentations were made to Valerie Power, outgoing Trustee, and also to William Bayley and Naomi Besanson, both of whom unfortunately were unable to attend.



MU June Leadership Conference

Instead of the MU Annual Gathering this year, MU is holding a conference for MU leaders in B&I to focus on membership growth and our upcoming 150th year celebrations. Taking a break from an annual gathering this year for members, means that next year's one will be welcomed, and hopefully busy! All dioceses were invited to send one or two representatives to attend. It takes place at Liverpool Hope University, where the joyous Reimagining MU Conference in 2022 was held. The WWP, Kathleen Snow is joining us as she focuses her first year on B&I, nurturing, growing, and securing the movement for the future as part of the triennium theme "Join Us, Join In!" Look out for updates and outputs from this conference over the next couple of months, including resources and support for 150th activities.

Our Diocesan President, Linda Ward, will be attending as well as our other two All-Ireland Trustees from the Diocese, Brigid Barrett and Margaret Jacob

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC): Join the Global Prayer Movement

Thy Kingdom Come is back for 2025, running from 29 May to 8 June. Christians across the globe are invited to pray for five people, friends, family members or colleagues, to come to faith and know the love of Jesus Christ and invite at least one of them into faith and fellowship.

There are lots of creative resources on the website to help you take part; from interactive prayer stations and origami doves for the RISE UP! campaign, to guided prayer walks in your local community. Whether you are gathering with your branch, your diocese, or joining individually, there is something for everyone to engage and join this prayer movement. Use this link to access the resources on the Mothers' Union website:

www.mothersunion.org

The Festival Service



A large congregation of Mothers' Union members, family and friends gathered in St. Canice's Cathedral on Thursday 1st March for our Festival Service and commissioning of our new Diocesan President, Linda Ward, and the newly appointed members of the Trustee Board. We are very grateful to our Diocesan Chaplain, Revd. Ger James and the Dean of St. Canice's Cathedral, the Very Revd. Stephen Farrell for all of the work they put into the organisation and preparations for the service. The special preacher was Revd. Canon Trevor Sargent and the Bishop, the Right Revd. Adrian Wilkinson, commissioned Linda and the new Trustees. It was lovely to have our All Ireland President, Kay Clarke, and her husband, Robert, at the service as well as five previous Diocesan Presidents ~ Irene Murray, Hazel Sherlock, Phyllis Grothier, Revd. Margaret Sykes and Lesley Bayley. Our thanks to Kilkenny Branch for all of their work in preparing for refreshments after the service

Dates for your Diary

- **Sunday 26th May ~ Songs of Praise** in St. Colman's Church, Templeshanbo (Y21 XR76). The collection will be divided between Parish Funds & Mothers' Union in the Diocese to support our projects
- **3rd & 4th October ~ 2025 Getaway.** Venue: The Four Season Hotel & Leisure Centre, Monaghan. The booking form is available on the home page of the website

NB ~ A Gentle Reminder...



Please remember to send **Cecily Jones**, Unit Coordinator for Finance & Central Services details of your meetings for insurance purposes.

mufcscfo@gmail.com