
THANK YOU

The Mary Sumner House Urgent Appeal has so far raised a total of **£837,468** due to the generous donations from dioceses, branches and individual members throughout Britain and Ireland. Thank you for your support in these difficult times. The money raised continues to be used for projects worldwide as our usual fundraising efforts, like so many other charities, have been seriously hampered this year.



FRONTLINE WORKERS

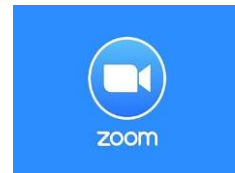
Help Mothers' Union to say a heartfelt "thank you" to families of key workers who have continued to go above and beyond their duty to help others during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MSH are gifting activity hampers, experience days or short breaks (taking place in 2021) for families of key workers in Britain and Ireland to help rebuild connections and togetherness.

Further details and application forms are available on both the All Ireland and diocesan websites: www.mothersunion.ie and www.cfomothersunion.org.

AUTUMN COUNCIL via ZOOM

Under current government guidelines we cannot meet for Autumn Council in the usual way, so Diocesan Trustees have taken the decision to meet via **ZOOM**. Many of us have been having regular meetings this way since the advent of COVID-19 and it has proved to be a very positive experience. If you are not familiar with the technology then please contact me for further help with setting it up. The meeting will take place on **Wednesday the 18th of November at 7pm**.



AFIA and SBUB



This year we were delighted to help 3 families through the **AFIA** grant scheme and 11 through our new **School Book and Uniform Bursary**. Please remember these schemes aid people in our own community and diocese. As a branch please support them if you can and help us to help more families in the future.

For further details and application forms please contact: cfoafia@gmail.com and cfosbub@gmail.com.

INDOOR MEMBERS PRAYER FOR OCTOBER

Father, we thank you that you care for us and have made us members of your family, walk with us through this month and in the months to come. We pray for all who are still struggling to cope with life, asking that they may know the strength of your love. We remember those who are working tirelessly to enable us all to continue in love and fellowship as members of the Mothers' Union, particularly those who work behind the scenes. Forgive us when we forget that we can only truly stand in your strength and not our own. We praise you Father and bless your Holy name. Amen.



WOMEN'S MINI MARATHON – JOAN BLAKE



Joan Blake, of Ballycanew/Leskinfere/Monomolin branch, is taking part in a mini marathon during October, and is fundraising for the Mothers' Union School Book and Uniform Bursary. If you would like to help her efforts please contact Joan at ballaghboy6@gmail.com to pledge your financial support.

ALL IRELAND POETRY COMPETITION

Congratulation to the joint winners Olive Thorpe from New Ross and Valerie Reilly from Belfast Cathedral branch.

BLUE HANDS by Olive Thorpe New Ross /Fethard-on-Sea

She stood beside the bed – blue from head to toe;
Her wide, brown eyes peeping out from the blue
Swimming in glistening tears that dropped silently on
blue gloved hands, holding feeble hands of love.
She knew it would be the last time her hands were held;
She knew it would be the last time to hold these hands;
Where did all the time go to – why was she always so busy?
Why were we always so busy? always trying to catch up
Catch up on what?
Never did a hand feel so good and never did it feel so bad;
She closed her eyes, a small smile appeared on her wrinkled face
Brown eyes wept quietly, while the blue hand
gently touched the face of love one last time.

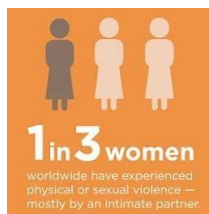
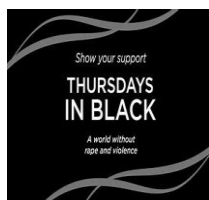


And two more members from our diocese received Commendations:

What a Shock 2020 by Georgina Byrne Gorey/Hollyfort

Covid Times - A Limerick by Joan Blake Ballycanew/Leskinfere/Monomolin

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM



- Please continue to support and promote **Thursdays in Black**.
- **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence** runs from the **25th of November** (The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) until the **10th of December** (Human Rights Day).
- The theme for this year's 16 Days is **'No more 1 in 3'** referring to the number of women affected by domestic abuse.
- On-line **Morning Prayer** on first day (25th Nov) and **Evening Prayer** on final day (10th Dec).
- On-line **mid-day prayers** for the 16 days with **16 guest speakers** from **around the world**.
- We will be updating both our **website** (www.cfomothersunion.org) and **Facebook** page (Mothers' Union CFO).
- **Mothers' Union Global Day** is on **Saturday the 5th of December**.
- Unfortunately, as we are not allowed to meet at present we cannot hold our usual prayer vigils this year, but we will be sending out a **16 Day Prayer Diary** to every member, and encouraging clergy to include **liturgy and intercessions** focusing on gender based violence as part of the Sunday services on **Sunday 6th December**.
- We are asked to continue to support our local **women's refuges** and it is hoped to facilitate this at Sunday services.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MOTHERS' UNION

- To encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children.
- To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.
- To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.
- To help those whose family life has met with adversity.
- To promote and support married life.



The Mothers' Union – helping those around the world and around the corner.