



## Summer Newsletter



### Mums In May – '21 in 21' Walks

June Butler will complete two of her three 7km walks in our diocese in July.

#### July 8<sup>th</sup> – Kilkenny

Starting at 11am from the new Orchard carpark and finishing at St. Canice's Cathedral.

#### July 12<sup>th</sup> – Tintern Abbey

Starting at 11am from the carpark and finishing at the Abbey ruins.

It would be great to have members join June for all or part of her walks. You can sponsor June on the day or give to the Mums in May fund at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/MumsinMay21](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/MumsinMay21)

We plan to conclude both walks with a time of chat over a picnic lunch (*please bring your own refreshment*).

### Hymn/Prayer Competition

Congratulation to **Phyllis Grothier** (Tullow Branch and Diocesan Training Officer) on winning the recent All-Ireland Competition to write a prayer or a hymn. This is Phyllis' winning entry:

*Loving Lord, I bring my prayer to you through faith in your love and mercy.*

*Father forgive and help me to do better: for the times when I cause hurt either through my words or actions; when I do not recognise you in the face of my neighbour, when I see another human being as different or of less value.*

*Teach me to show love and mercy.*

*Father forgive and help me to do better: for the times when I see need and do not respond, hear hurtful words and do not call them out, am deaf to the cries of the hungry, hurt and abused.*

*Teach me to show love and mercy.*

*Father forgive and help me to do better: for the times when I treat your creation as a personal possession rather than a fragile resource to be nurtured and valued.*

*Teach me to show love and mercy.*

*Teach me to remember always that, while faith, hope and love abide, the greatest of these is love. Inspire me with confidence to live this truth in my daily life both in word and action, knowing that all I am or can be is based on the strong foundation of God's saving love. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

### Mums' Marvellous Meals

The new MU cookbook '**Mums' Marvellous Meals**' will arrive in the diocese in early July and will be available for sale at both of June's walks in Kilkenny and Tintern Abbey. The book is full of recipes provided by MU members throughout Ireland and sells for just €5, with all monies raised from the sale going to the 'Mums in May' fund.



Whilst we plan to have them distributed around the diocese before branches reopen in the autumn, if you cannot wait to get your hands on it until then please contact me to arrange to have it posted out (cost of postage will be €3 extra).

## Special Council – June 30<sup>th</sup> – Reopening Mothers' Union

The following are the thoughts and concerns of those who took part in the Special Council meeting:

### Session 1:

- What are the challenges you see in meeting in person again?
- What are your concerns about 'real' meetings?
- What thoughts and ideas do you have about addressing these challenges and concerns?

Lots of things to do – follow all new rules, keep social distance, gather contact details, do risk assessment, possible difficulty in finding a suitable venue, what about shared lifts, need to talk to members and keep them informed of what is happening, perhaps meet in smaller groups. While everyone will be glad to be back we need to remember peoples safety, everyone will need to bring their own refreshments. Remain positive. Inform insurance.

### Session 2:

- How might we encourage members back to the Mothers' Union?
- What might meetings together look like?
- Is this a time to think about a new approach – and if so, how might we encourage this?

Arrange outdoor meeting or social event to reconnect with each other, have meetings in the morning or afternoon, must keep up personal contact with members, hold a prayer walk or mark a members' significant birthday. Hard to know what MU will be like, important to follow all guidelines and to offer a safe space, share fellowship, work on projects, may not be possible to have speakers, offer variety of meetings and make them shorter and more enjoyable, use the diocesan magazine or the monthly newsletter to advertise what branches are doing.

### Some guidelines:

- All government, HSE and Church of Ireland guidelines must be fully adhered to.
- We must ensure contract tracing, social distancing, mask and sanitising rules are all met.
- That the insurance company is aware of when and where meetings are being held.
- And that all those attending a meeting or event feel safe and secure in their environment.

### Mary Sumner Day

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter it is 145 years since Mary Sumner founded the Mothers' Union, and this year also marks the centenary of her death. As it may still be difficult to meet together in person, due to the ongoing uncertainty around the easing of restrictions in the coming weeks, we will hold a **Zoom** get together on **Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of August at 11am**. This will be in the form of a chat over a cuppa followed by a virtual worldwide prayer walk focusing on the work, projects and programmes of the Mothers' Union.

### Annabella Hayes

This year also marks the centenary of the death of the founder of Mothers' Union in Ireland, Annabella Hayes. A Zoom meeting will be held on Saturday the 14th of August, with guest speakers from the heritage sector, and on Saturday the 21st June Butler will complete a 7km walk from Raheny Church, where Annabella's husband was rector for 45 years, to the gravesite in Sutton, where a service of blessing will take place.

### Premature Baby Knits

Thank you to all those who continue to knit baby hats, teddies, blankets, fiddle muffs, etc. Wexford hospital have asked if people would please knit some cardigans and booties for premature babies, as they have lots of hats at the moment, but a shortage of everything else.



These and all other patterns can be found on our website [www.cfomothersunion.org](http://www.cfomothersunion.org)